

1. Policy intent

The purpose of this policy is to establish the framework for developing and managing an art collection for the Tableland Regional Gallery.

2. Scope

This policy is intended to guide the acquisition and management of a high quality visual arts collection for the Tableland Regional Gallery (the Gallery) that reflects the history, diversity and uniqueness of the region and its rich arts heritage and culture, for the long term cultural, social and economic benefit of the Tablelands community.

3. Background/supporting information

This policy has been developed to underpin Tablelands Regional Council's (TRC) commitment to the arts and to provide a long term vision for developing an art collection for the Tableland Regional Gallery.

Tablelands Regional Council manages three public art galleries all based in Atherton - the Tableland Regional Gallery, the Old Post Office Gallery, and the Foyer Gallery. The Tableland Regional Gallery was established by Tablelands Regional Council in 2008.

Advice on the operation of the Gallery is provided by the Tableland Regional Gallery Advisory Committee.

TRC operates a deductible gift fund for the benefit of the Gallery.

3.1 Strategic alignment

- TRC Corporate Plan 2021-26
- Tablelands Community Plan 2030+
- TRC Cultural Plan 2018-21
- Tableland Regional Gallery Strategy 2021-25

4. Policy statement

4.1 Collection policy purpose

4.1.1 The purpose of developing an art collection for the Gallery is to:

- Support the objectives of the Tableland Regional Gallery
- Provide an educational resource for the community now and into the future
- Support the arts community of the Tablelands through acquisition and exhibition
- Encourage an interest in the arts
- Contribute to a regional identity and sense of place for the Tablelands
- Strengthen the Tablelands as an important arts region

- Provide a long term investment for TRC in the arts.

4.2 Collection criteria

4.2.1 Collection themes

The collection will focus on the following key theme, reflective of the Tablelands heritage and exceptional biodiversity and the natural and cultural history of the region:

- Natural history of the Atherton Tablelands and Far North Queensland, with particular focus on the Wet Tropics World Heritage area, including fauna, flora and landscapes.

In addition the Gallery may also collect artworks that fit within the following themes:

- Cultural history of the Atherton Tablelands and Far North Queensland relating to pre and post European settlement of the region
- Aboriginal art representative of local indigenous groups or with a Far North Queensland subject
- Works of emerging or established artists with a connection to the Atherton Tablelands or Far North Queensland.

4.2.2 Type of works

The collection may include historical and contemporary artworks in a range of genres and styles including painting, photography, sculpture and other 3D artwork.

4.3 Documenting the collection

All items accepted into the collection will be documented in an appropriate accessioning database. This information will include all relevant information pertaining to the artworks including provenance, artist, condition, photographs and valuation.

4.4 Collection maintenance, storage and conservation

- 4.4.1 Currently the Gallery does not have adequate storage or display space to house a collection. A limited number of items may be displayed on site or in the specially designed display cabinet. Items from the collection may also be displayed in other Council buildings which provide effective storage conditions and maximise appreciation of the artworks.
- 4.4.2 The collection will be managed by the staff and volunteers of the Gallery. Professional conservation assessment of works in the collection will be undertaken as deemed necessary.
- 4.4.3 Access to the collection and collection records may be provided to researchers and those with a special interest by arrangement through Gallery staff. The collection may also be made available as a resource for educational groups and volunteers.

5. Acquisition

5.1 Methods of acquisition

- 5.1.1 The Gallery will accept items by gift, donation, bequest or purchase.

- 5.1.2 The Gallery will only collect items relevant to its Collection Themes as outlined in Section 4 and assessed against criteria noted in Section 5.2 of this policy.
- 5.1.3 Recommendations regarding the acquisition of items for the collection will be made by the Tableland Regional Gallery Advisory Committee. Items recommended for acquisition and valued at more than \$5000 must be authorised by the General Manager Community and Corporate Services or their delegate.
- 5.1.4 The Gallery will not accept conditional gifts.
- 5.1.5 The Gallery will not accept permanent loans of artworks into its Collection.
- 5.1.6 Council's Insurance and Asset Support Officer will be advised of the acquisition of any artwork valued at in excess of \$5,000.

5.2 Acquisition criteria

- 5.2.1 Relevance to the Gallery's collection criteria
- 5.2.2 Significance in the regional context
- 5.2.3 Established provenance, ownership and documentation
- 5.2.4 Rarity and representativeness
- 5.2.5 Condition and conservation requirements including cost of maintenance and conservation treatment
- 5.2.6 Capacity including storage and display requirements
- 5.2.7 Exhibition potential
- 5.2.8 Value for money

5.2.2 Purchases

From time to time, the Gallery may have opportunities to purchase suitable artworks for its collection. Funds may be raised through donations to the Gallery's Gift Fund, targeted fundraising campaigns, grants bequests and benefactors, or through financial assistance from Council.

5.2.3 Competition

Council may choose to establish an acquisitive art prize based on a relevant theme for the Gallery collection and to set aside funds each year for this purpose.

6. Disposal

Decision on the de-accessioning of artworks from the collection and permanently removing them will be made by the Tableland Regional Gallery Advisory Committee and process followed according to TRC's disposal of assets.

6.1 Disposal criteria

- 6.1 The artist or subject matter no longer complies with the current collection policy
- 6.2 Conservation and storage costs are beyond the means of the Gallery

- 6.3 The work is damaged beyond repair
- 6.4 Knowledge of the authenticity of the work has changed
- 6.5 There is a disputed claim of ownership and a substantiated request for its return to its original owner.

6.2 Method of disposal

Any decision to dispose of items will follow accepted industry standards and comply with the *Local Government Act 2009*, *Local Government Regulation 2012* and TRC's Asset Disposal Policy. Preference for the method of disposal is given to the following order:

- 6.2.1 Return the artwork to the donor or their family
- 6.2.2 Exchange the artwork with another gallery for something more suitable
- 6.2.3 Transfer the item to another organisation with similar objectives
- 6.2.4 Use as an educational tool
- 6.2.5 Sell to raise funds for the Tableland Regional Gallery's purposes
- 6.2.6 Destroy if the artwork is damaged beyond repair.

7. Loans

- 7.1 Requests for loans will be considered on a case by case basis by Gallery staff.
- 7.2 Any costs associated with a loan from the collection including transport and insurance must be met by the borrowing organisation
- 7.3 The Gallery will not enter permanent or indefinite loans.

8. Review

It is the responsibility of the Manager Community Services to monitor the adequacy of this policy and recommend appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every three years or as required by Council.

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended/repealed by resolution of Council.

GARY RINEHART
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER