

Diverse, Vibrant & Welcoming: Arts & Culture Policy



Photo by Santoshi Guruju

Yarra Greens Policies
September, 2020

Yarra has a strong and continually evolving cultural and creative identity.

We are committed to ensuring that diverse artists, arts organisations and art forms survive and thrive in Yarra, and that the arts are accessible to everyone, every day.

We commit to:

A creative city

- Support the unique cultures and heritage of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Yarra through opportunities to create, present and celebrate existing and new work.
- Support a wide range of art and cultural practice including visual arts, performance, theatre, dance, radio, music, sound and podcasts, craft, traditional and community arts, public and street art, new media and digital arts.
- Continue to promote and support the Collingwood Arts Precinct as a centre of emerging, contemporary and independent arts.
- Nurture, celebrate and support key creative hubs across the City of Yarra including the Abbotsford Convent, Rupert Street, Gertrude Street, as well as new hubs as they emerge.
- Expand and promote the Room to Create program to ensure that artists and creative industries have access to affordable spaces, remain located in Yarra and continue to thrive.

- Support the repurposing and restoring of existing Council properties for occupation and use by the creative industries and arts sector, where and as appropriate.
- Underpin the longevity of the arts as a practice by supporting artists at emerging, mid-career and established phases of their career.
- Celebrate and promote Yarra's artist-run initiatives.
- Support Yarra's libraries to continually adapt to changing population needs and provide high-quality engagement with the community.
- Nurture live music and live music venues. Recognise and protect the City of Yarra's existing live music venues through planning scheme provisions.
- Work with the State government to support a vibrant and economically viable local live music scene in Yarra through the removal of barriers which affect a venues' ability to host live music.
- Promote and support Yarra's vibrant street art scene and its contribution to urban culture.
- Evolve Yarra's public art programs that maximise access to exciting and innovative art in the public realm, so that art and culture can be enjoyed as an everyday experience.

A diverse culture

- Encourage the acquisition of works by living, culturally and gender diverse artists to the City of Yarra's collection, in particular works by Indigenous artists.
- Promote and support youth arts.
- Encourage queer arts practice by resourcing LGBTIQ+ arts projects.
- Increase access to, participation in and attendance at arts spaces and events, particularly for marginalised groups and those living with disability in consultation with Arts Access Victoria.
- Support major events that celebrate the diverse cultures and audiences of Yarra, such as Leaps and Bounds Festival, Smith Street Dreaming, Blakwiz, Gertrude Projection Festival, Peel Street Festival, Seniors Festival and Victoria St Lunar Festival.



A well-funded arts sector

- Continue to ensure that arts funding is accessible to a range of artists and arts organisations of all practices, cultures and backgrounds.
- Advocate to increase the number and size of creative grants available in recognition of the influx of artists and arts organisations in Yarra, the increasing costs of developing and producing work, and the need to support larger scale projects to support Yarra's developing reputation as a creative city.
- Ensure that arts funding targets creative development as well as final presentation of works.
- Support safe, non-exploitative working conditions and fair pay in the arts industries.
- Require that Yarra grant recipients and Council supported arts projects adhere to the NAVA Code of Practice, MEAA rates or other artform-specific industry approved rates as a minimum standard.
- Support Yarra's arts organisations to practice and operate in an economically and environmentally sustainable way.
- Ensure that arts programming is free from political interference and censorship.
- Ensure that grant application processes are simple to access, independently evaluated and free from political interference.



Photo by Mercedes Mehling

To find out how you can get involved in with your local greens community, or to read our other policies, please visit:

[🖱️ greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra](https://greens.org.au/vic/lga/yarra)

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Advocacy for the arts

- Advocate for the crucial role of artists and small to medium arts organisations in the Australian arts landscape. Speak out against Federal and State funding cuts to the small-to-medium sector in particular.
- Work with the State and Federal Government to ensure that exciting, new and challenging work is developed and presented in the City of Yarra.