

Culture: The Life of Our City

Draft Discussion Paper to inform a Cultural Policy for the City of Adelaide 2025-2036

DRAFT

Acknowledgement of Country

City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land, water and seas. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

DRAFT

Contents

Culture: The Life of Our City.....	1
Acknowledgement of Country.....	2
A Cultural Policy for Adelaide.....	4
Defining Culture	5
How Culture Contributes to the Life of a City	5
Who We Are	7
What Our Community Is Saying About Culture	8
Our Adelaide / Tarntanya	10
City of Adelaide’s Role in Cultural Life	12
Cultural Policy Themes and Priorities	18
Engagement Strategy	19
General Consultation Questions.....	19
Questions on the Draft Policy Themes and Priorities	19

DRAFT

A Cultural Policy for Adelaide

Cultural activity in Adelaide occurs with the acknowledgement that the Kaurna people are the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains and that their cultural heritage and beliefs continue to form a foundational part of the life of the city. Adelaide's cultural identity is built on generations of people, from all over the world, who have made Adelaide / Tarntanya their home.

Culture and creativity are fundamental to this place and its people. We are the beneficiaries of cultural and community leaders who have come before us, and together we have an opportunity to build on that legacy, to shape the future, of who we are.

Culture and creativity are critical to Adelaide's future growth and success, and the City of Adelaide is a custodian of this future.

Adelaide's cultural, arts and creative practitioners and community make vital contributions to the fabric of our society. They strengthen the vibrancy and the economic growth of our city, through their passion, talent, expertise, resilience, connectivity and adaptability. The sustainable development of our city depends on the neighbourhoods, networks, jobs, employment, and opportunities they create.

Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 includes a commitment to develop a Cultural Policy that promotes and strengthens the City's unique cultural identity and opportunities. A Cultural Policy will provide the framework for Council's future decisions in relation to culture.

This discussion paper is designed to stimulate critical thinking and seek the thoughts and views of residents, community and cultural organisations and groups, creative practitioners, organisations and businesses. It encourages consideration of some priorities to further enrich community life through the creation and expression of culture and creativity in the City of Adelaide. We encourage all readers to engage with the topic and share with us your considered opinions and unique perspectives.

Once developed, the City of Adelaide's Cultural Policy will be aligned with the pillars of Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028:

- *OUR COMMUNITY - Vibrant, connected and inclusive*
- *OUR ENVIRONMENT - Resilient, protected and sustainable*
- *OUR ECONOMY – Growing, innovative and responsive*
- *OUR PLACES - Interesting, purposeful and safe*
- *OUR CORPORATION – high performing, customer-centric and bold*

A Cultural Policy for Adelaide might include:

- An integrated vision for culture and creativity in the City of Adelaide with clear priorities
- A clear articulation of the City of Adelaide's unique culture
- A comprehensive strategic plan to deliver on Council's vision in partnership with cultural, creative and community stakeholders
- A proposed governance model to ensure that the policy is responsive to major developments and community needs.

The development of a Cultural Policy must have the community it serves at its core. Culture, just like the city, is about people, therefore the Cultural Policy will be developed through stages of consultation and planning. It will enable a long-term vision for culture as a key

factor underpinning Adelaide's future prosperity, sustainability and wellbeing, enabling a vibrant, connected and inclusive community.

Defining Culture

Culture is an integral part of our universal and indivisible human rights. In its breadth and depth, it enriches our lives and expands our horizons, fosters creative expression and innovation, and celebrates who we are. Culture, in its broadest sense incorporates social meaning, values and aspirations of the community through empowerment, intercultural appreciation and understanding, enrichment and joy.

Culture is our way of living together, our beliefs and value systems, traditions, the spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of our society, and our art, literature, languages and creativity. Culture also means the arts, cultural, creative and heritage industries, institutions, facilities, organisations and individuals who protect, produce, and present culture. It is expressed through food, festivals and events, song, music, visual arts, craft and design, performing arts, film and video, radio and television, gaming and digital arts, architecture and publishing, languages, literature, live and experimental art, our built environment and more.

In Adelaide, culture is created, protected and experienced in many places and spaces, through galleries, museums, archives, libraries, heritage places and collections, in cafés, markets, pubs and churches, in our City Squares, Adelaide Park Lands, precincts and neighbourhoods. For the purposes of its Cultural Policy, it is proposed that the City of Adelaide's definition of culture includes:

- Adelaide's cultural, arts, creative and heritage sectors
- The knowledge and cultural practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- The expressions of identity, shared experience and aspirations of our diverse, multicultural communities, that have shaped our society from the period of colonisation of South Australia, through a long history of migration, to the present day
- Historic and current cultural practices and events that reflect contemporary Adelaide and its broad and diverse communities.

How Culture Contributes to the Life of a City

- *Identity and Character*

A city's unique identity is shaped by culture, which is an integral and inseparable part of our lives. The traditions, memorial days, festivals, languages, foods, expressions, artworks and historical landmarks of the community contribute to a sense of place and belonging for city residents and visitors.

- *Community, Multiculturalism and Diversity*

Cultural activities bring people together, fostering a sense of community, connection and tolerance. Public spaces, museums, theatres, and cultural festivals are often places where diverse groups interact, share experiences and build social bonds.

- *Quality of Life*

Access to cultural venues and facilities such as theatres, museums, galleries, and live performances enhances the quality of life for residents. It provides opportunities for leisure, learning, social connection and personal growth.

- *Place Making and Social Infrastructure*

Cultural initiatives and investments in cultural infrastructure often breathe new life into neighbourhoods and precincts, enhancing strong community identity and making them more attractive to residents and visitors alike.

- *Attracting Talent*

Cities known for their vibrant cultural life often attract creative and talented individuals, which can drive innovation and contribute to the city's reputation, cultural participation and economic growth.













- *Economic Impact*

Cultural industries, including tourism, arts, entertainment, and heritage sites, are significant contributors to a city's economy. They create jobs, attract investment, and boost local businesses.

DRAFT

Who We Are

Our Community

			
390,000 Daily visitors	27,901 residents	projected 50,000 residents by 2036	
			
47% aged between 18 and 34	20% aged 60 and over	1.4% of the population identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	
 45% born overseas	 12% born in China - our largest population group 5% born in the UK 3% born in India - our fastest growing population group		
			
36% speak a language other than English at home	26% of CoA residents study at TAFE or University	50%+ of the population have no religion	50%renting

Adelaide is diverse, young and growing, with 27,901 people currently calling our city home, and an aspiration to grow this to 50,000 residents by 2036. Our daily population of workers, visitors and tourists is 390,000.

Currently, the City of Adelaide has two distinct demographic areas with North Adelaide and the southeast corner of Adelaide polarised in age structure with the young and old. In Central Adelaide twenty somethings are double the proportion of that demographic in Greater Adelaide.

Statistics suggests the City of Adelaide acts as a demographic hub, importing people from overseas and distributing people overseas, interstate and to the inner suburbs of metropolitan Adelaide. Between 2016 and 2021, 73.9% of the City of Adelaide's population turned over with one in four migrating from overseas and 4 in 10 migrating from elsewhere in Australia.

People migrating to Adelaide bring with them personal possessions and intangible cultural heritage which connects them to their countries of birth within the context of their new home in Australia, socially and culturally.

This presents an opportunity for those people travelling through Adelaide to become cultural ambassadors for our city, and if their experience of the cultural life of the city is positive, are likely to consider returning to and settling in Adelaide.

Of all South Australia local governments, the City of Adelaide has the highest percentage of population born overseas (45%). Multiculturalism, interculturalism and diversity support our open, cohesive and equitable city, where cultural, linguistic and religious diversity is understood and valued.

Adelaide is a place that embraces the communities that have shaped our city and the new communities that are living here today. Here, culture and creativity are nurtured in a culturally rich and diverse community. Adelaide's cultural uniqueness lies in its complexities and constraints which often present as contrasting factors:

- Adelaide is ancient and new
- Adelaide is innovative and traditional
- Adelaide is diverse and distinctive.

What Our Community Is Saying About Culture

In the City of Adelaide, the importance of culture is strongly emphasised by our residents, who see it as a key element in creating a vibrant and engaging city. The Resident Survey 2022 results revealed that:

- A significant majority of residents (84%) believe that arts, culture, and events bring energy and interest to the city.
- Live music is valued by 76% of residents as an essential part of city life, underscoring the cultural activities' role in enhancing the overall liveliness of the city.
- Residents also consider culture crucial for making the city a welcoming place. 73% agree that the city is welcoming to people from diverse cultural backgrounds, highlighting the role of cultural diversity in fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

Moreover, culture is not only important for community wellbeing, it is also vital to the city's identity. Many residents express a desire to preserve the city's cultural vibrancy for future generations, with 18% emphasising the importance of activities, events, and entertainment as critical elements they want to see maintained. This suggests that cultural activities are not only enjoyed by the current population, they are also seen as integral to the city's future prosperity.

The 2023 City User Profile highlights that both residents and visitors value Council's arts, culture, and events services with residents providing an 88% rating and visitors a 92% rating. Despite Council meeting the expectations of city users, the perceptions of the City of Adelaide as a welcoming and dynamic city with rich and diverse experiences remain modest. Although the overall mean rating is 7.5, only 57% of respondents gave a high-level agreement which is consistent with 2022, however slightly below 2021. Our residents view the city most positively, with a mean rating of 7.7 and 61% giving high ratings, while workers are less enthusiastic, with a mean of 7.3 and only 50% rating it highly.

Between 2017-2023, the City of Adelaide tracked the benefits of cultural participation using the national Cultural Outcomes framework. As reported in the [Dynamic City: Arts and Culture Dashboard](#) residents and visitors highly value their participation in cultural activities, recognising that cultural participation plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life, and wellbeing by:

- Stimulating creativity, spark imagination, curiosity and original ideas
- Experiencing pleasure, challenge, captivation, feelings of being moved, awe, joy or wonder
- Gaining new knowledge through critical reflection, creative thinking and intellectual stimulation
- Appreciate the diversity of cultural expression including from peoples from diverse cultural backgrounds, life experiences and interests.
- Build a sense of belonging to one's cultural history, heritage and experience of cultural identity and values that is shared with others.

Cultural Outcome scores have rated 9 out of 10 annually since surveying commenced in 2018.

DRAFT

Our Adelaide / Tarntanya

Adelaide is the Capital City of South Australia and the cultural heart of our State.

Located on the Traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains, Adelaide / Tarntanya is centrally positioned between the hills and sea, with the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari winding through it. For over 60,000 years, Tarntanya has been a place of celebration and song, land management, trade and knowledge sharing.

Adelaide is the world's only city surrounded by Park Lands, thanks to the vision of Colonel William Light, for a city that enriches its people's quality of life. His vision has been described as genius of place and plan, from a theory dating back to Roman Times, *Genius Loci*, in which the spirit of place combines with the built urban form in order for people to live authentically and in balance with nature.

Adelaide's cultural vision, history of social reform, and its thriving arts sector and festivals are regarded as some of South Australia's strengths. The state enjoys an impressive reputation for creative achievement and vibrant artistic activities.

Consistently ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world and named the world's most beautiful city in 2024 by *Architectural Digest*, Adelaide is a safe, open and democratic society, and an official Refugee Welcoming Zone.

Our renown as a creative city is sustained by a diversity of cultural venues and collections, civic events, live music pubs, bars and dining experiences that enliven city laneways. Our world class architecture and public art adds vibrancy to the city and reflects local histories.

Our places, including our National Heritage Listed Adelaide Park Lands and Squares, in our National Park City, provide gathering places for people to celebrate festive events and to practice and exchange cultural traditions.

The Adelaide Town Hall has been the city's premier venue for concerts, civic receptions and public gatherings since 1866. The Adelaide Central Market has been a lively site of exchange for diverse cultures and culinary traditions since the late 1800s when North Terrace became the home of the heritage listed Mortlock Wing and Adelaide's first public sculpture, *Veneri di Canova* (Pugi Brothers, 1892). Today, North Terrace, or the 'Cultural Boulevard' houses Adelaide's most prominent cultural institutions and collections, including the Art Gallery of South Australia, the South Australian Museum, the State Library of South Australia, the Migration Museum, and the Adelaide Botanic Gardens that have been growing since 1857, featuring some of Australia's finest plant collections. It is also home to Adelaide University and Lot 14 – an innovation district which will soon support over 6,000 workers and researchers.

The Adelaide Festival Centre, Australia's first multi-purpose arts centre, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023, and remains an icon of Adelaide's contemporary culture. The JamFactory, singular in its support and promotion of innovative and outstanding craft and design through its studios, galleries and shops, also celebrated its 'golden' anniversary last year. In 2024, the Helpmann Academy celebrates 30 years of supporting creative practitioners at the start of their careers. The only organisation of its kind in Australia, it is a unique collaborative partnership that unifies the skills and resources of South Australia's universities.

Adelaide is home to the second largest Fringe Festival in the world and is one of just a few cities worldwide to host WOMAD festival sharing music, arts, dance and ideas from around the world. Rundle Mall and its open-air public art gallery continue to enhance the city's shopping experience. Across Adelaide's nightlife hub on Hindley Street, the Lion Arts Centre is the West End's creative heart housing several music and multi-arts organisations.

In North Adelaide, Carclew, Australia's largest multi-artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people can be found, as well as the David Roche Foundation House Museum - one of the greatest decorative arts collections in a private institution in Australia.

Adelaide's designation as Australia's only UNESCO Creative City of Music since 2015 is testament to the city's proud live music heritage and cultural leadership on the global stage, which are celebrated through the renaming of city laneways to honour some of Adelaide's most iconic musicians and bands.

DRAFT

City of Adelaide's Role in Cultural Life

Current State

The City of Adelaide is responsible to its local community, plays a leadership role as a Capital City in supporting the cultural epicentre for South Australia, and as a designated UNESCO Creative City commits to placing culture and creativity at the heart of its planning for sustainable development.

The City of Adelaide fosters Adelaide's cultural life by creating an interesting and lively place where people want to live, work and visit, and by facilitating opportunities for the community to participate and practice cultural and creative activity. This is achieved through policy setting, strategic planning, strategic partnerships, advocacy, provision of cultural and community facilities, placemaking, production of and support for major events and festivals, programming, capacity building, public art, heritage preservation, collections, promotion, storytelling, and grants.

The City of Adelaide complements the State Government's efforts in supporting arts, culture, and economic development of our Capital City. The State Government provides significant and substantial funding for arts and cultural initiatives across South Australia that includes organisational funding, and the City of Adelaide focuses on localised projects within its LGA boundary that enhance cultural activities, community engagement, placemaking and community capacity building within the city. City of Adelaide's subsidiary, the Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA), contributes by driving economic growth and tourism through event and festival sponsorships, partnerships and marketing the city. Together, these entities operate in different yet complementary roles—ensuring both statewide reach and targeted local impact for culture, arts, economic vitality and community wellbeing.

In recent years, the Council's investment in culture has been led and delivered through the Cultural Strategy 2017-2023, supported by a Public Art Action Plan (2019-22) and a Live Music Action Plan (2017-2020), Stretch Reconciliation Action Plans, the Heritage Strategy 2021-2026, and the Adelaide Economic Development Agency's Strategic Plans (since Jan 2021).

Many other areas of the organisation support people to participate in the city's cultural life by delivering services, incentivising and leveraging investment, and facilitating cultural, heritage and creative initiatives and supporting activities that support the development and maintenance of culture and cultural practice.

The spread of this activity means that the total volume and value of Council's investment in culture is not straightforward to quantify. To date, City of Adelaide has invested broadly across the cultural sector.

Significant Commemorative Days and Celebrations

The City of Adelaide plays a role in curating the entire city for cultural activation, hosting a year-round calendar of events and activities that delight, inspire and engage local, national and international audiences.

Council supports event organisers to hold welcoming, accessible and safe events that leave people of all backgrounds with positive lasting memories of our city. The City of Adelaide

works collaboratively with event organisers and the South Australian Tourism Commission to facilitate a year-round calendar of events and activations for Adelaide.

National commemorative days and celebrations that Council observes, funds and facilitates include:

Australia Day

The city is the centre of Australia Day activities for South Australians on 26 January each year. The first citizenship ceremony of the year is held at Adelaide Town Hall on Australia Day. Council, in partnership with the Australia Day Council, hosts and supports a program of events that acknowledges our cultural diversity and multiple histories. This includes the Mourning in the Morning smoking ceremony and Respecting Country Parade.

Anzac Day

Observed annually on 25 April, Anzac Day, comprising the Anzac Day Commemorative March and Anzac Day Service of Remembrance with a Dawn Service, commemorates the anniversary of the Dardanelles Campaign Landing in 1915. The Returned & Services League of South Australia is responsible for the delivery of Anzac Day activities in the City of Adelaide, in partnership with the City of Adelaide and the South Australian Government.

Lunar New Year

Festivities across the city herald the beginning of the Lunar New Year in the rich traditions and spirit of this celebration. A vibrant street party in Chinatown, organised by Chinatown Adelaide South Australia Inc., includes cultural performances, food, and entertainment and attracts an estimated over 30,000 visitors to the precinct.

National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant

Since 1933, the Southern Hemisphere's largest public Christmas parade, has marked the official welcoming of Father Christmas to Australia and the start of our festive season and community tradition. City of Adelaide's broader Christmas Festival is representative and inclusive of Adelaide's multicultural community, with a diverse offering that is meaningful for a wide demographic.

NAIDOC Week

National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the rich and diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their contributions in various fields. In 2024, Adelaide hosted the National NAIDOC Week.

New Year's Eve

In 2023, Adelaide's New Year's Eve celebration returned to Elder Park / Tarntanya Wama for the first time after a four-year hiatus, drawing over 80,000 people of all ages to the Riverbank precinct to celebrate and watch fireworks in a safe and inclusive environment.

Remembrance Day

On 11 November the Adelaide Remembrance Day service is held at the South Australian National War Memorial on North Terrace. Veterans, families, serving Australian Defence

Force personnel and members of the public gather to commemorate the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts.

Collections

Civic, Archives and Oral History Collections

Adelaide's heritage is preserved through the City of Adelaide collection, which encompasses the Civic Collection, Oral History Collection, and City Archives. The Civic Collection, featuring over 2800 items gathered since 1853, includes significant relics such as those related to Queen Adelaide and Colonel Light, along with public statues, memorials, silverware, historic photographs, and maps. The Oral History Collection, including 140 interviews conducted between 1978 and 2014, captures the personal memories and experiences of former Lord Mayors, Councillors, long-serving employees, and community leaders. The Contemporary Art Collection of 60+ artworks by 40 artists who are South Australian or associated with the City of Adelaide through work or study, reflects the dynamic evolution of artistic practice in Adelaide. Additionally, the City Archives holds records dating back to 1840, documents Adelaide's municipal governance through files, maps, plans, and photographs. Together, these collections ensure that Adelaide's cultural heritage and history are preserved and accessible to future generations.

Public Art Collection

Adelaide's public art collection is valued at over \$40 million and features nearly 150 sculptures, installations, and monuments that enrich public spaces and reflect the diverse stories and identities of its people. Our public art collection is a vital part of the city's cultural landscape, fosters community connection and celebrates Kaurua and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and the contributions of various cultural groups. The public art collection plays a crucial role in positioning Adelaide as a vibrant cultural destination, attracting tourists and contributing to the local economy.

Cultural and Social Infrastructure

Park Lands

The national heritage listed Adelaide Park Lands are a vital part of the city's cultural infrastructure, offering a unique network of interconnected public spaces and natural areas that encircle the city. These spaces play a significant role in Adelaide's cultural life, hosting over 600 events annually, including major festivals like the WOMAD hosted in Botanic Park / Tainmuntilla for over 30 years, and the Adelaide Fringe. The Park Lands are classified into various event sites, with premium locations such as Rundle Park / Kadiltpina and Elder Park / Tarntanya heavily utilised for large-scale cultural activities, including the Adelaide Fringe, which sold over 1 million tickets in 2023, contributing approximately \$50.1 million in new money to the state's economy. This commitment to cultural vibrancy has established Adelaide as a global leader in festivals, with the 2022 Tourism Sentiment Index ranking it the 4th best city worldwide for such events.

Adelaide Central Market

Since 1869, the Adelaide Central Market has been Adelaide's premier destination for world leading food and produce, celebrating cultural diversity year-round, and connecting community. It is one of the largest undercover fresh produce markets in the Southern Hemisphere, and a key space for cultural immersion and exchange in the city, regularly

hosting live music, food demonstrations and cultural celebrations. The Market precinct attracts more than 8.5 million visitors each year.

Adelaide Community Centres

The City of Adelaide's three Community Centres support our communities to thrive by creating welcoming and inclusive spaces and engaging and enriching experiences that build community capacity and celebrate diverse cultures and community spirit. During 2023/24 our Centres welcomed 42,231 people and hosted 1,418 centre-led programs that engaged nearly 8,200 participants, including health and fitness sessions, language classes, gardening and cooking workshops, exhibitions, social clubs and more.

Adelaide Town Hall

Since 1866 the Adelaide Town Hall has been the civic and cultural heart of the city. It is where community gathers and history is made, from Council meetings, Civic Events, Citizenship Ceremonies, to royal visits, weddings, high school graduations, and corporate launches.

In 2023/24, Adelaide Town Hall hosted 98 concerts, 75 conferences, and attracted over 7,700 attendees to its free lunchtime community performances. The Adelaide Town Hall is proud to partner with major music organisations, including Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Music Viva, Adelaide Festival and Australian Chamber Orchestra, to present inspiring and uplifting performances.

Libraries

The City of Adelaide's three libraries are essential to the cultural and social wellbeing of its 25,507 residents and our daily visitors. Libraries are recognised by UNESCO as vital for education, culture, and inclusion, these facilities generate significant community benefits. A 2018-19 study found that public libraries in South Australia contributed \$252 million in benefits, with a net welfare impact of \$162 million.

The City of Adelaide Libraries are celebrated for supporting diverse and multicultural communities through extensive resources, programs, and partnerships that foster literacy, creativity, and cultural understanding. In 2023/24, the libraries saw nearly 340,000 visitors, a 11.5% increase from the previous year, and a 4% rise in active memberships. Our libraries are places of creative production, curation and display. They promote cultural diversity and reconciliation, through events like Multicultural Storytime and exhibitions for Refugee Week and maintain a strong commitment to Aboriginal culture through engaging programs and collections.

Cultural Experiences

The City of Adelaide [Dynamic City: Arts and Culture Dashboard](#) monitored and reported on the collective achievements and the important contributions of Adelaide's cultural sector to the life of the city between 2017 and 2023. The dashboard included Council led, facilitated and financially supported activity, alongside information drawn from published external sources. A snapshot of Council's cultural programs and participation outcomes is included below.



Participation In Adelaide’s Cultural Experiences 2017-2023 Trends

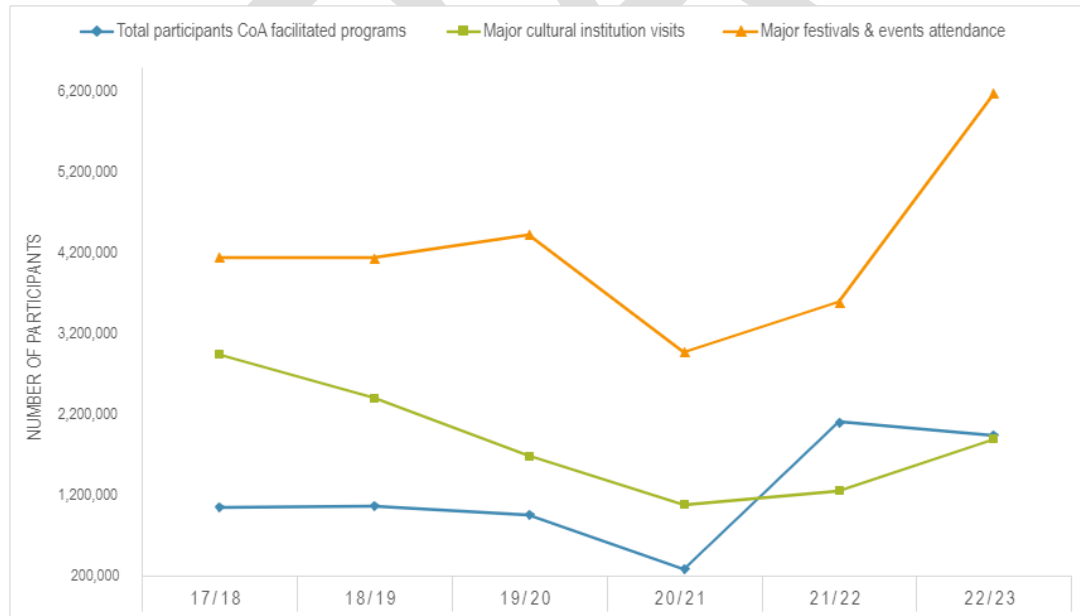


Figure 1. Participation in Adelaide’s cultural experiences 2017-2023 trends, as reported in the City of Adelaide Dynamic City: Arts and Culture Dashboard.

Future State

The development of Council's Cultural Policy will clarify culture's place and priority in our planning processes. It will reflect that cultural participation and creativity are central to our community's social and economic life. It will ensure that responsibility for the Cultural Policy is shared across the organisation and embedded across operational decision making. As a result, Council's resources will effectively focused to maximise benefit for all.

To achieve this, the City of Adelaide will need to take a long-term perspective and a sustainable, partnered, approach to cultural development. This means that its roles in the future may include:

Lead

Lead the integration of creativity and culture in all aspects of the city's sustainable development to ensure Adelaide is a diverse, inclusive, resilient and joyful society.

Advocate

Use our influence as a creative capital to advocate for the role of culture in enriching the life of the city, our community and our economy, leveraging opportunities, and uplifting others.

Safeguard

Protect our tangible and intangible cultural heritage through enabling policy and regulation, and by investing in our cultural infrastructure and assets including our city collections.

Engage

Empower people to engage in democratic, local decision making and action supporting social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing.

Enable

Enable all people to contribute to and participate in the cultural life of the city by funding and facilitating inclusive programs at our venues and in our Adelaide Park Lands.

Facilitate

Facilitate street closures, safety, traffic and busking to support community events, festivals, activations and other forms of cultural expression across the city's public spaces and Adelaide Park Lands.

Partner

Partner with government, non-government organisations, the private sector and the community to leverage expertise, attract new resources and sustain the city's cultural development into the future.

Champion

Celebrate what makes Adelaide distinctive and promote its abundant and creative cultures to enhance our city's appeal and profile.

Cultural Policy Themes and Priorities

Reflecting on Adelaide's strengths, research insights, local strategic tensions, and global trends relevant to capital cities, some key themes are presented to encourage conversation about future cultural priorities for the city.

People are at the Centre of our City and its Culture

Nurture the ability for the community to connect with culture and express their creativity. Improve our city's appeal, liveability and global profile, through accessible and high-quality cultural experiences, including public art, events and festivals that reflect Adelaide's unique heritage and stories.

Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples's Continuous Culture

Honour and strengthen awareness of Kaurna culture and connection to Country as central to Adelaide's identity and future.

Celebrating Multiculturalism and Respecting Diversity and Traditions

Observe, fund and facilitate Adelaide's cultural traditions including national commemorative days, festive events and other social practices. Provide inclusive and respectful opportunities for people of all cultures, backgrounds, ages and abilities to participate in the cultural life of the city.

Adelaide is Australia's Cultural and Creative Capital

Provide a city-wide approach to embed music, culture and heritage preservation in policy, place and community. Amplify Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation and our leadership as Australia's creative and cultural capital.

The City's Culture is Connected to our Built and Natural Heritage

Respect, protect and strengthen our world class architecture, cultural assets, collections, and environment. Ensure our cultural identity is easily accessible by the community through engaging and discoverable interpretation and digital resources.

Creativity and Culture Drives our City's Future

Advance the role of culture in enriching the life of the city, our people and the environment. Raise our profile as a creative and cultural capital for the development of the city into the future and the wellbeing of local communities.

Engagement Strategy

The city's Cultural Policy will be developed in conversation and in partnership with our community so that it reflects, serves, supports and belongs to the people of Adelaide. A range of prompts are provided, and you can elect to comment on any, all or add your own reflections and suggestions. Feedback received through engagement on this discussion paper will inform the development of Council's Cultural Policy.

We intend to invite, listen to and deeply consider all ideas, proposals and feedback offered, respecting the generosity with which they are shared.

The draft Cultural Policy of the City of Adelaide will be refined and improved through this process. A summary of this feedback will be presented to Council to ensure that the voices and views of our community are heard.

General Consultation Questions

- What is the best thing about living in Adelaide?
- What strengths and values do you observe in Adelaide's diverse cultural communities?
- When you describe Adelaide to friends who live interstate or overseas, is there an image, story, song, or artwork that you think of first that best captures this place?
- If you could change something about Adelaide what would it be?
- Can you describe what kind of place you hope Adelaide will be in 10 years' time?
- What are the most pressing obstacles to achieving this vision?
- In defining culture, what have we missed, or you would like to see enhanced?
- How would you like to continue to be engaged in community-led policy development?

Questions on the Draft Policy Themes and Priorities

People are at the Centre of our City and its Culture

- How can we enhance our city's appeal and global profile by offering high-quality cultural experiences that reflect the city's unique identity, and heritage?
- What strategies can we use to activate key areas and underutilised spaces in the City of Adelaide with cultural activities to boost visitation, community engagement and our local economy?
- How can we ensure our affordable and accessible cultural spaces, like our Town Hall, community centres and libraries, better support creative communities?

Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples's Continuous Culture

- How can we champion Kaurna culture in our shared future in a meaningful way?
- What steps can we take to ensure that Kaurna and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices influence, and are represented in the city's cultural decisions?
- What initiatives and projects can we collaborate on with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to increase visibility of Kaurna culture in the public realm?

Celebrating Multiculturalism and Respecting Diversity and Traditions

- How can we observe and support community events that respect traditions, celebrate multiculturalism and encourage cultural sharing?
- What can we do to ensure everyone can take part in the city's cultural life?

- How can we amplify more community voices and create better connections with and between diverse communities?
- How can we attract more people to improve community bonds and embrace our cultural diversity, and global connections?

Adelaide is Australia's Cultural and Creative Capital

- How can we strengthen our reputation as Australia's creative and cultural capital as a UNESCO Creative City and City of Live Music status?
- What steps can we take to ensure music, culture, and heritage are deeply integrated into city policies, our everyday experiences and the community life of the city?
- How can we better support creative and culture professionals and venues to boost employment and create sustainable careers in the arts?

The City's Culture is Connected to our Built and Natural Heritage

- How can we best protect and showcase our city's built architecture, cultural assets, and natural environment?
- What can we do to ensure that the City of Adelaide's cultural identity is more accessible and engaging for our community?
- How can we improve our public spaces to better support cultural activities and community connections?

Creativity and Culture Drives our City's Future

- How can culture improve the City of Adelaide experience, our quality of life and environment?
- What new and different types of partnerships can help sustain and improve the City of Adelaide's cultural growth in the future?
- How can we better promote the City of Adelaide's cultural strengths to boost participation and enhance its reputation as a cultural capital?