

City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan



Prepared by Stephanie Kelly
October 2014

Drawn from the work of Marla Guppy
& Amanda Buckland completed in 2007
for the City of Canada Bay

Image: Chinese Dragon Dancer
at Rhodes Moon Festival.

City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan

Contents

Background

Page 04

Cultural Development Definition

Page 05

Demand for Cultural Development

Page 06

Benefits of Cultural Development

Page 07

Policy Context

Page 08

1 Our Place & Our People

Page 10

1.2 Snapshot of The City Of Canada Bay

Page 11

1.3 Place

Page 13

1.4 People

Page 15

2 Directions for the Culture Development of The City of Canada Bay

Page 17

2.1 Partnerships, Policy & Protocols

Page 18

2.2 Cultural Infrastructure

Page 20

2.3 Creative Industries

Page 23

2.4 Place Making in Town Centres & The Urban Environment

Page 25

2.5 Local Environments & The Foreshore

Page 28

2.6 Cultural Heritage

Page 31

2.7 Community Cultures

Page 34

Background

The City of Canada Bay is a vibrant and interesting City in the heart of the inner west of Sydney. The 38 kilometres of Parramatta River defines the City and with much of it accessible it is a place of increasing significance in the Sydney conurbation. Eat streets such as Major's Bay Road, heritage sites such as Yaralla, traditional centres like Five Dock and the emerging centre at Rhodes are defining the City as an attractive urban destination. A new generation of workers in creative and knowledge-based industries are relocating in the City and creating new demand, services and attractions.

The City of Canada Bay is one of the fastest growing local government areas in NSW with our population is expected to rise to 96,510 by 2031. The City is adjacent to Wentworth Point, and Sydney Olympic Park which are also expanding rapidly with an additional 40,000 residents connected to our key centres. These new communities around our core create new cultural experiences for our community. The capacity of the City to establish productive partnerships and links to the variety of cultural facilities and attractions is important to create ongoing and sustainable cultural experiences.

The City of Canada Bay has developed a focus on place management which defines our approach to cultural development. The aim is to turn spaces into places, giving people reason to stop and become involved. These places reflect an appreciation of cultural and environmental diversity and a sense of belonging.

The purpose is to create stronger and more strategic relationships with people around identifiable activity hubs whether they are suburbs like Rhodes, centres like Five Dock, parks like Cabarita Park or facilities like the Concord Library. The focus on place management for cultural development addresses the 'history and heritage, stories, people, landscape, streetscape, and culture of the place. It is about discovering what makes a place distinctive, authentic, and memorable. It is about the experience they have as individuals and communities. Cultural markers, public art and interpretive features can inform residents, visitors and future generations about the significance and meaning of special places, people and stories.

The City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan enables Council to develop a robust approach to cultural development through the development of appropriate infrastructure, support of creative industries and ensuring that the links between cultural identity and community wellbeing are energetic.

Cultural Development Definition



Culture is the expression of the values, actions, social behaviours and environments that give people a common identity. It is a way of life – the way a community lives, works and enjoys leisure and recreation. It is the sum of all the customs, food, sport, shopping, fashions and architecture that are recognisable symbols of cultural identity. Connected to this are the elements of their experience – how people respond to their places, the way they use the natural and built environment, their expectations of the town centres and public spaces, their relationship to nature along the foreshore and in parks and the value they place on heritage and modernity.

Image: The Brays Bay Reserve Ship Building Memorial by Nola Farman.

Demand for Cultural Development

Increased prosperity, leisure time and higher levels of education are driving the demand for cultural participation. Arts Council research (2010) shows the arts are strongly supported by the community. It reveals that nine out of ten people participate in the arts and one in three internet searches are for the arts. In this context it is important for Council to plan ahead for cultural facilities and activities to meet increasing demand and to capitalise on this growing economy.

The notion of cultural sustainability is also becoming more important in local government, meaning that the economic, social and environmental outcomes of a strong local culture are 'renewable'. For example investment in beautifying streets and widening footpaths has contributed to a strong local economy that is attracting new, market driven creative industries or place making initiatives to welcome new residents has evolved into a range of community led social and cultural activities.

Images: Reclamation
Canada Bay by Popperbox.
Photo by Symple Creative.



Benefits of Cultural Development

The effective and integrated management of the Cultural Plan has long-term benefits for the City in achieving quadruple bottom line outputs.



Economic

- Developing creative industries
- Increasing local employment and creative skills development
- Creating specialised and multipurpose cultural infrastructure
- Growing tourism and marketing opportunities

Social

- Identifying partnerships to build community capacity
- Stimulating vibrant and distinctive community cultures
- Increasing community participation and engagement

Governance

- Increasing community participation and engagement
- Forming partnerships to help manage and maintain public places and shared resourcing of activities and places
- Fundraising and sponsorship of activities

Environmental

- Promoting best practice place making and public art
- Identifying cultural heritage and special places
- Improving lifestyle and local environments

Image: Author Fred Watson sharing insight on the Universe at 2014 Sustainability Awards.

Policy Context

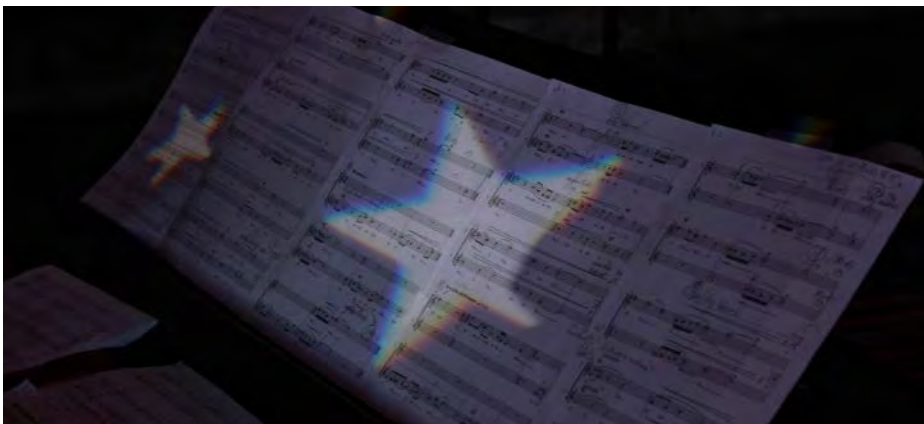
All levels of government in Australia have policies and programs that acknowledge the importance of the arts and culture in developing engaged and vibrant communities, improving the urban environment and enhancing quality of life.

The Federal Cultural Policy exists to celebrate Australia's strong, diverse and inclusive culture. It describes the essential role arts and culture play in the life of every Australian and how creativity is central to Australia's economic and social success.

The State Government is creating the NSW Arts and Cultural Policy, as a key NSW Government commitment under Goal 27 of NSW 2021: A Plan to Make NSW Number One. The Policy will set a vision and 10-year strategy for NSW Government engagement with the arts and cultural sector in NSW, to maintain and enhance the important social and economic contribution this sector makes to our State.

Local Government has a lead role in local cultural planning and development, because;

- it already has skills, experience and knowledge of local communities;
- delivers a range of cultural services - libraries, museums and projects alongside regulatory, and
- holds development powers to implement its policies and plans.



Images left to right:

By the Water score composition by local composer Katia Beaugeais.

Cabarita Park tree lighting at the Reclamation festival.

Policy Context

Developing this Plan

This plan draws upon a number of targeted consultations around arts and cultural practise in the City. Key work was completed through the following consultation, policies and strategies:

- FuturesPlan20
- Community Facilities Resourcing Strategy
- Child and Family Needs Study
- The Library Strategic Plan – Bringing People and Knowledge Together
- Drummoyne Village Action Plan
- Our Place North Strathfield Place Plan
- Rhodes Peninsula Place Plan
- Riverside Cultural Scoping Study
- Rhodes Public Art Plan
- Five Dock Town Centre Strategy and Urban Design Study



Images: Concord Carnival 2014.

Our Place & Our People

Image: Uncle Max performing a Smoking Ceremony at Rhodes.

1



1.1 Snapshot of the City of Canada Bay

- City Area 19.8 km²
- 17 Suburbs
- Population 79,905 (2011 Census)
- Population projection 3% p.a. increase to 2031
- Community in NSW
- Local Workforce 27,375
- Local Workforce projection for 2021 is 35,546
- Number of Businesses 8,446
- Gross Regional Product (GRP) \$4,154.7m in 2011 – 4th highest in Sydney Central Region
- Average GRP per capita (local workers) \$151,779
- 124 cultural facilities in the LGA
- 38 kilometres of foreshore
- 47,000 library members
- Over 65,000 participants in local cultural events



Image: The Serpent at Iron Cove Drummoyne, by Jason Wing.

1.1 Snapshot of the City of Canada Bay
continued



1.2 Place

The indigenous inhabitants of the area were the Wangal clan who lived in an area called Wanne stretching from Birchgrove almost to Parramatta. The river was a rich food source and fishing was an important communal activity. There are 7 midden sites In Canada Bay, rock engravings can still be seen at Ryde and Gladesville and hand stencils at Birchgrove, Chiswick and Abbotsford. The first recorded contact was with the First Fleet in 1788 at Breakfast Point and subsequent contact and conflict resulted in the loss of traditional territory and food sources.

Since the 1790's the area was settled as a halfway point between Sydney and Parramatta. It was defined by transport links - the Parramatta River to the north, a bush track cut by convicts in 1791 to the south, which became Parramatta Road and the east/west boundaries of Victoria Road and Great North Road. Early industries developed around overnight accommodation for convicts at the Longbottom stockade and private inns servicing the coaching industry between the settlements. In the early 1840's 58 French speaking Canadian exiles were jailed here, hence the names of France Bay, Exile Bay and Canada Bay.

Access to transport links and river frontage facilitated the development of rural industries such as tanneries, timber and grain mills along the foreshores. Population of the area increased as workers moved close to large industry sites such as the Australian Gas Light Company works (1886), Arnott's Biscuits (1907), Phoenix Ironworks (1915), Berger paints (1917), B.A.L.M later Dulux paint factory (1921), Timbrol/Union Carbide (1928), Bushells (1950) and Nestles. Now, twenty years later, most of the large manufacturing industries have moved out of the area and have been replaced by retail, commercial and residential development.



Image: Spirit of Adventure by Alan Blue at Five Dock Skate Park Mosaic.

1.2 Place continued

Amalgamations of large private estates at Yaralla, Rivendell, Rhodes and Abbotsford helped ensure that large tracts of open space were preserved during periods of industrial and residential growth. In the 1880's Correy's Gardens beside Cabarita Park became a popular recreational site for ferry passengers who played, walked, picnicked and danced in the landscaped pleasure gardens. The City of Canada Bay now has over 130 parks and reserves, which total 15.3% of the area, and many kilometres of accessible public foreshore. The area has magnificent parklands, extensive sports fields, three golf courses and foreshore areas which are a significant asset to the community. The recent relocation of large industries from the area has resulted in a clean foreshore environment and increased public amenity. The ferry wharves are important recreational and functional links to the Greater Sydney Region.

The City continues to change rapidly as new developments on large tracts of previously industrial land attract new residents into affluent private communities. The divide between older and new communities is a cultural issue. The separation of existing and recently arrived residents is often marked, adding to the lack of collective identity that has been a challenge of amalgamation to form the City of Canada Bay in 2001.



Image: I remember by
Joanne Saad in Fred Kelly
Place, Five Dock.

1.3 People

Our population is approaching 85,000 and growing at a rate of 3% a year and is one of the fastest local government areas in NSW and it is forecasted to reach 96,510 by 2031.



Local employment is trending upwards and the City boasts a diverse and vibrant economy with a strong economic outlook. The City of Canada Bay community has the highest percentile rank within Sydney's inner west region for access to economic resources. This index considers home ownership, household income and expenditure and unemployment levels. Over 27,000 people work in the LGA and local employment diversity and opportunity is expected to grow significantly over the next 10 and 20 years.

Only 286 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders still live in the City (0.4% of the population, which is less than the 1.2% NSW percentage). Migrant communities were also attracted to employment opportunities in the area, with 35% of the current population speaking another language in addition to English. Italian, Cantonese, Mandarin, Greek, Arabic, and Korean are the six major languages spoken. There is a significant Italian population and a steady increase in residents who have relocated from South East Asia. 35% of the total population were born overseas with 28% of the population from non-English speaking countries.

This is an area that attracts young families with this group forming the fastest growing section of the population. The number of families with children increased by 16.9% in the census period 2011. Young adults are also attracted to the area with increases in the young workforce and those in tertiary education.

Image: Rhodes Multicultural Association at Chinese New Year 2014.

1.3 People continued

In 2013 Rhodes Peninsula's population is around 8,000, double the number in 2006, and it is predicted to rise to 15,000 when complete. The community is characterised by a large well educated working population with a relatively high incomes. The emerging population is young, mobile and ethnically diverse with 63% of residents born overseas. The most commonly spoken languages other than English are Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese and Hindi. Part of a new wave of global migration with progressive aspirations and ideas, their mobility and intercultural connectivity is possible through technology and travel.



Image: Concord Carnival 2014.

“the silos, mills, gasholders, factories, warehouses, smoke stacks and chemical plants continue to dominate much of Concord’s land and river scape” (the Concord Heritage Study ,1986).

Directions for the Culture Development of the City of Canada Bay

Image: Chinese traditional dancers at the Rhodes Moon Festival 2014.

2



2.1 Partnerships, Policy & Protocols

Definition: Cultural Planning

Cultural planning is a strategic planning process which recognises that our culture is an integral part of the social and economic life of our communities. Cultural planning undertakes an analysis of social and cultural activities and resources, identifies issues and opportunities and makes links to economic and employment activity to develop strategies for implementation.



Image: Children's ride at the Bay Day event in Rhodes.

2.1 Partnerships, Policy & Protocols continued

Current Scenario

The City of Canada Bay practises integrated planning and cultural development part of this holistic approach. It is about developing a places sustainability, identity and vibrancy of place. Partnerships between communities and public and private sectors are vital to bringing cultural initiatives to the City. Coordination and resourcing from partners develops more sustainable outcomes benefiting the community. The place management approach in local cultural development is aimed at co-ordinating and integrating approaches to deliver better targeted services, increased efficiency and reduced costs.

Directions

Integrating cultural development, sharing cultural resources and developing models for collaborative practise, can attract significant investment and partnerships. In particular the following areas need consideration:

- A** Establish creative partnerships with government and regional institutions to enable innovative regional cultural projects
- B** Develop appropriate structures within Council to implement the Cultural Plan and Public Art Strategy
- C** Integrate cultural planning into the broader planning framework in relation to major urban projects and place initiatives
- D** Develop partnerships of cultural projects as part of place initiatives
- E** Establish creative partnerships with government and regional institutions to enable innovative regional cultural projects

Opportunities

There are a number of significant opportunities for improved partnerships emerging.

- 1** Implementation of place programs in Five Dock, Chiswick, Concord West and Cabarita will deliver cultural partnerships, plans and projects
- 2** Utalise the Principles of Co-operation with the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council to improve celebration of our Aboriginal culture and heritage
- 3** Continued partnerships with developers around the Rhodes community will deliver opportunities for public art, cultural practise and events. Links with other development areas around Homebush Bay have commenced and deliver a diverse program
- 4** The new Concord West community precinct and work with the Department of Education is a trailblazer in delivering shared facilities that offer opportunities for cultural development based on strong partnership planning
- 5** Regional opportunities will emerge through the proposed urban renewal of the Parramatta Road Corridor by NSW Urban Growth
- 6** Partnerships with universities such as UTS and place activation and Sydney University and Future Cities Program are also opportunities for further development of process
- 7** Develop a partnership with the Department of Education's Sydney Region to enable joint school and cultural activities including festivals, public art and community arts projects
- 8** Develop a partnership with the Sydney Writers Centre and regional library networks to enable and develop literary projects
- 9** Develop a partnership with NSW Department of Health Local Area Health Service to enable joint culture, health and lifestyle projects and to explore the opportunities on the Dame Eadith Walker Estates – Yaralla and Rivendell sites
- 10** Include a 'percentage for art' allocation within Council's major capital infrastructure projects

2.2 Cultural Infrastructure

Definition: Cultural Infrastructure

Culture infrastructure refers to the venues, sites and mechanisms that enable cultural activity to take place. These include cultural facilities such as art galleries, performance spaces, libraries, community cultural centres, outdoor event venues and studios. Infrastructure also includes cultural staffing and servicing capability both within and external to Council.



Image: Chinese Dragon Dancers at the opening event of Dainty Dumplings.

2.2 Cultural Infrastructure continued

Current Scenario

Council owns 35 community facilities, many of them single purpose. There are a further 89 community facilities located in the Local Government Area that are owned and managed by a number of private, Government and non-Government agencies. Cultural activities also occur in commercial cultural infrastructure including service clubs, which are able to offer meeting and performance space and in major primary cultural facilities that are less than 25 minutes' drive away in Sydney or Parramatta. These facilities accommodate a range of cultural activities. Older facilities include those with a broader community function and offer meeting places for amateur music groups, yoga and dance classes, through a casual and weekly fee for hire program. In addition, an increasing number of creative professionals are establishing their businesses in the area.

In the last decade Council has developed a number of cultural facilities including Five Dock and Concord Libraries, Drummoyne Oval Community Facility, Kokoda Education Centre and the Lapidary Centre. It has also provided accommodation for City of Canada Bay Museum, Woodworkers Guild, and Harry's Shed at Concord (men's shed).

It is in the later stages of planning the Rhodes Community Precinct 'The Connection' and the Conservatory at Cabarita.

The increase in informal cultural activity; the informal galleries, markets, café culture, wireless services around the centres as a result of improved street-life in areas like Rhodes and Five Dock provide a template for future development of activity hubs that support community interaction.

The community often express an interest in the facilities available for cultural activities. The Cultural Infrastructure report and the Community Facilities Resourcing Strategy are important strategies in defining directions for these activities. The development of new purpose built space for arts and culture was also seen as a future direction and will be realised in 2016 through the development of 'The Connection' at Rhodes and the Conservatory at Cabarita Park. Good marketing and promotion of cultural venues along with information about and access to community spaces are critical.



Image: Kokoda Track Memorial.

2.2 Cultural Infrastructure continued

Directions

- A** Recognise and respond to the diverse needs for cultural space in the City of Canada Bay taking into account local and regional existing provision and needs
- B** Improve the capacity of local libraries to respond to emerging technologies and offer a wider range of program and services
- C** Recognise the central role that staffing plays in effective cultural infrastructure development and management include cultural facilities development as part of place planning process
- D** Partner a range of providers to ensure the community has access to appropriate affordable cultural facilities
- E** Provide cultural programs in existing facilities
- F** Seek strategic partnerships for cultural facilities

Opportunities

- 1** Provide purpose built infrastructure in key sites: Rhodes Community Precinct and Cabarita Park Conservatory
- 2** Develop community activity hubs to centralise cultural interaction in Rhodes, Concord, Five Dock and Drummoyne
- 3** Maintain Section 94 Development Contribution Plan allocate funds to identified cultural infrastructure outcomes
- 4** Strategic partnerships for the development of private and not for profit cultural facilities across the City (Embroiders Guild, Club Five Dock etc)
- 5** Develop capacity of libraries as community cultural hubs
- 6** Invest in new technology and staff training in libraries i.e. tablets, 3d printing, collaborative creative space.
- 7** Ensure all new community facilities have wet/dry workshop space appropriate for visual arts and craft workshops and classes, with Rhodes Community Precinct a priority
- 8** Develop digital display areas for visual arts, with Rhodes Community Precinct as a priority
- 9** Continue to support for the community galleries in libraries for exhibitions

- 10** Develop outdoor performance space as part of Rhodes Community Precinct
- 11** Develop outdoor space surrounding Five Dock library and Concord Library for literary events and readings

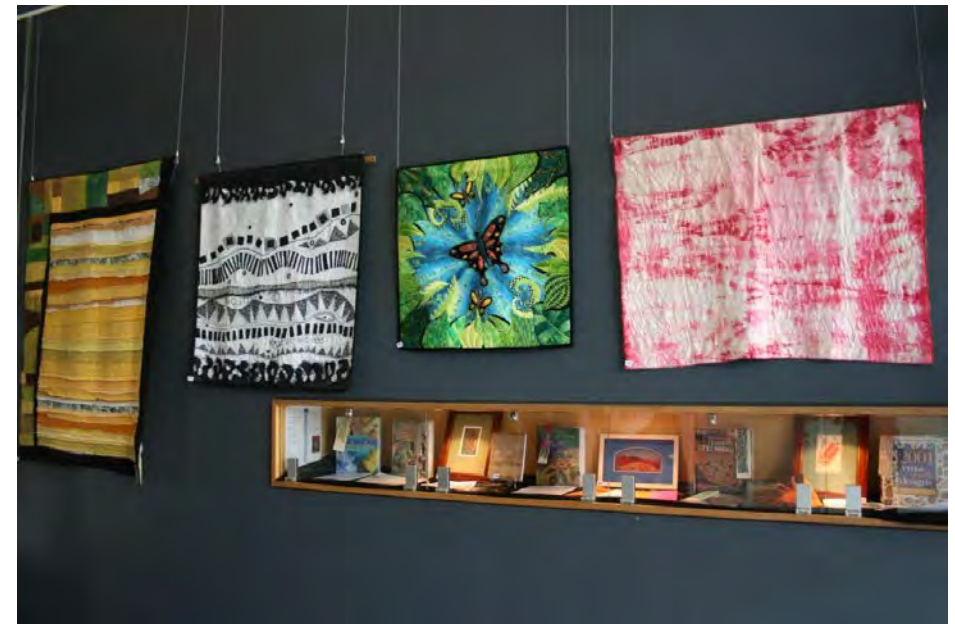


Image: The NSW Embroiderers Guild Exhibition at Concord Library.

2.3 Creative Industries

Definition: Creative industries

Creative industries include that part of the economy that is involved in the design, production or servicing of creative or knowledge based products. Definitions of creative industries tend to be inclusive and refer to the arts, design, architecture, fashion, publishing, advertising, events management, tourism, education and other linked areas.



Image: Story Time at Livvi's Cafe in Timbrell Park, Five Dock.

2.3 Creative Industries continued

Current Scenario

In the City of Canada Bay the Rhodes Business Precinct is the key locality for global creative industries with multinational firms like Unisys, Hewlett Packard etc. The City's close proximity to both the centre of Sydney, Sydney Olympic Park and the Inner West along with its 'main road exposure' are an attractor to a range of nationally significant companies which design and market product manufactured elsewhere (Nestle, Frucor, Light Matters etc). In a similar way the extensive waterfront is associated with a multidimensional 'Harbour experience' tourist industry including water tours such as Functions Afloat, waterfront clubs and restaurants, film locations for 'the Wiggles' to 'Packed to the Rafters' as well as more traditional boating industries.

A growth area in the City has been in media and new technology workers working from home. Here the proliferation of niche markets and work specialisations enabled by new technology is resulting in the capacity of creative industry workers to work within the global or metro market from a small or home based office.

The considerable lifestyle benefits of living in the City appear to be making the area attractive to 'footloose' creative workers. At a local level creative industries include artists and designers, craftspeople, music teachers, local creative retail such as independent bookshops, photography stores, video retailers and other creative ventures. Smaller studio clusters and workshops are included here, as are locally based tourism ventures. Support for local artists, musicians, painters and craftspeople are desirable. Communities continue to seek local opportunities to enjoy cultural experiences and performances in small galleries and bars in tour town centres such as Five Dock.

Two metro level educational service providers, McDonald College and Wesley College focus on the arts while a number of private dance schools have a regional focus including Dorathy Cowie and Judy McCabe School of Dance.

The growth of creative industries in the area will be enabled Council's ability to continue to enhance the attractiveness of the area as a place to live and work coupled with the capacity to meet the locational needs of different industries.

Directions

- A** Recognising the locational needs of creative industries in local town centres, regional and global business environments and working to meet these needs as part of place programs. (For example addressing building size, affordability, clustering and accessibility)
- B** Recognising residential areas as new work environments for home-based creative workers and aim to increase connectivity and resources in existing town centres for local workers and working with developers to ensure better provision of work/live housing in new developments
- C** Expanding both studio/workshop space and exhibition space for local artists and designers
- D** Develop the capacity of City of Canada Bay to become a key metropolitan stakeholder in water-based/river edge tourism

Opportunities

- 1** Consider creative industry opportunities as part of place planning and making in Five Dock, Rhodes, Chiswick, Concord and Drummoyne
- 2** Work with developers to ensure better provision of work/live housing in new developments
- 3** Provide online support for creative and home-based business
- 4** Participate in the regional foreshore and Parramatta River tourism promotions co-ordinated by Destination NSW and any similar programs
- 5** Support libraries to provide a valuable local avenue to market for artist (author talks, exhibitions and fairs)
- 6** Develop an annual Civic Arts Prize/ commission in partnership with the Drummoyne Art Society provide a new art opportunity
- 7** Influence the outcomes of the Parramatta Road Renewal program to deliver opportunities for creative industries

24 Place Making in Town Centres & The Urban Environment

Definition: Place Making

Place as a concept can be described as hubs/nodes where people live, work, shop, and play. Places are characterised by a range of users, economic and social activity which offer a range of services which meet the needs of both the residents and visitors. Places have a sense of identity, their boundaries are characterised by the point at which people's sense of that identity is weakest. The urban environment is the most immediate cultural environment we experience. The neighbourhood and the town centre have a critical role in supporting everyday cultural identity as well as accommodating work and retail experiences. As our housing densities increase the quality of the urban environment is becoming more important to our sense of ourselves, our interactions with others and our cultural well-being. The belief that a 'good neighbourhood' is able to meet the needs of locals, workers and visitors is becoming more prevalent.



Image: Neighbourhood Voices Mural at North Strathfield by Olev Muska.

24 Place Making in Town Centres & The Urban Environment

continued

Current Scenario

The City of Canada Bay has become an important residential growth area in inner Sydney with 14 distinctive centres. The residential growth has rejuvenated areas along the foreshore and around key town centres such as Drummoyne, North Strathfield, Mortlake and the Rhodes Peninsula. Outcomes include new retail, local employment, revived town centres, creative industries, improved foreshore access and new facilities as well as an improved housing choice.

The role of the town centre in providing a distinctive cultural identity to suburbs is increasingly important. Desirable elements identified by our community include good local shopping, walkability, access to fresh food, opportunities to connect with people and places to relax and enjoy urban living. New work patterns mean the ability to shop for meals or enjoy entertaining after work is valued. The local centre is an important destination for everyone from families to people working from home, for seniors and young people alike.

The Place program seeks to enhance civic pride and community identity through practical improvements to the environment, community engagement, public art and cultural programs. Cultural interventions play an ongoing role in both urban development and town centre renewal. In addition to meeting basic needs centres should offer attractive streetscape, accessibility, integrated public art, celebrate local heritage and provide quality 'people spaces'.



Image: Street performer.

24 Place Making in Town Centres & The Urban Environment

continued

Directions

- A** Recognise the role that town centres play in fostering community cultural identity and planning to maximise this function in the City of Canada Bay
- B** Support the link between economic, social and cultural well being in place management outcomes
- C** Support the emerging role of creative industries in town centre renewal
- D** Ensure early opportunities for considering and planning for desirable cultural outcomes in new development and urban renewal projects
- E** Ensuring that public art and design are integrated into both new development and town centre improvement work
- F** Support the role of community programs, events, festival and gathering as part of town centre animation
- G** Ensure that town centre heritage is articulated in the built environment and community spaces

Opportunities

- 1** Feature the entry to centres with signage, banners and gateway art works celebrating identity
- 2** Link the cultural plan in all place-based and master planning work and in particular include cultural objectives and clear directions for public art and cultural facilities
- 3** Maintain support for place based cultural events the development of cultural pop up programs in town centres
- 4** Establish a thematic framework for art and design in each town centre to provide a portfolio of images, text and photos for use in urban design and public art projects
- 5** Expand the cultural heritage walks in centres
- 6** Deliver the City of Canada Bay Public Art Plan and the Rhodes Peninsula Public Art Plan



Image: Italian cultural dancers.

2.5 Local Environments & The Foreshore

Definition: Foreshore

Open spaces become distinctive because their purpose is specific and, the landscape is attractive or there are cultural destinations and this distinctiveness supports identity and interaction, which in turn strengthens the cultural fabric of the community. Parks, sports fields, playgrounds, walking trails tracks, foreshores and wharves are places where people gather in formal and casual settings to exercise, eat, celebrate and simply relax.



Image: The Observatory at Cabarita Park developed by Heidi Axelsen and Hugo Moline.

2.5 Local Environments & The Foreshore

continued

Current Scenario

The City of Canada Bay has a spectacular 38kms of winding river frontage, inlets, bays and headlands and 130 parks. The waterfront has an increasingly cultural focus with riverside parks, businesses, walk/bike tracks, wharves and jetties providing an important recreational focus for both new and older communities. On the water the River cat, water tours, boat, rowing, regattas, marinas, fishing and water sports are a lively part of the life of city. Public and private access to the waterways includes Sydney Olympic Park, Cabarita, Abbotsford, Chiswick and Drummoyne wharves. Yaralla and Rivendell are significant recreational and heritage sites, attracting visitors through open days, picnics and Opera in the Park.

In 2012 Council developed the Riverside Scoping study to set the direction for re-interpreting the river foreshore as it stretches from Iron Cove to Homebush Bay. The scoping study broadly identifies sites and stories associated with the southern foreshores of Parramatta River that have social, cultural, economic and environmental heritage significance to the area.

It redresses the gap within the storylines of the shoreline, recording its importance in Indigenous and new settler history, the development of greater Sydney and the future sustainability of the many communities who live and engage with the river's edge. It provides opportunities, locations and suggestions for cultural exploration along the foreshore.

The foreshores have long been the locations for large-scale public events such as inter school regattas, corporate picnics and festivals. Improving facilities in parks and the foreshore will encourage more cultural connections. Engaging with local schools, environment groups, church and cultural organisations can develop active participation, community capacity and local ownership in the community. Restoration projects with Bush Care groups and local schools should also be widely promoted to extend environmental education throughout the community.

The City also relies upon related plans, the Recreation Study and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Management Plan, to assist in the future planning, conservation and development of the City's natural environment.



Image: Performers in the Park.

2.5 Local Environments & The Foreshore

continued

Directions

- A** Develop a staged cultural program to enhance key natural environments and the foreshore areas
- B** Use the Parramatta River to create strong cultural linkages between key sites between the City and Parramatta
- C** Ensure cultural input in the early stages of planning and design of public places to promote distinctiveness and authenticity
- D** Involve local communities in public art, place making and urban design projects to create more vibrant and meaningful environments
- E** Expand the capacity of outdoor venues to accommodate a range of cultural events
- F** Work with the Aboriginal community on interpreting and managing key sites
- G** Develop cultural projects to interpret environmental issues and educate the community
- H** Support Council's goals for environmental sustainability through arts and cultural initiative by fostering appreciation, knowledge and responsibility for our environment through the use of artistic and cultural practices.



Image: Tribal Warrior performing for NAIDOC Week.

Opportunities

- 1** Continue to develop the series of artworks at key sites along the foreshore
- 2** Work with Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Arts NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Bay Run Partners (Leichhardt and Ashfield Councils who we have a joint working relationship established with an MOU) alongside Parramatta and other 'River' Councils to develop a regional focus to the river
- 3** Package and promote cultural experiences in collaboration with river tour boats and transport providers and visitors to the City
- 4** Catalogue, preserve and highlight trees through lighting, and interpretive public art
- 5** Integrate recommendations and features from the Riverside Scoping Study into developing master plans for parks and reserves and engage cultural planners and /or artists in the early stages of planning and design of public places to enable integrated artwork and cultural interpretation through the place program
- 6** Continue to create specific character in local parks i.e. identify parks best suited for off leash areas, environmental education programs, tree lighting, small arts markets
- 7** Develop pop ups, food vans, kiosks and cafes in parks to encourage people to gather and expanded social networks
- 8** Commission indigenous arts and cultural interpretation at key sites as identified in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study
- 9** Engage local schools and communities in regeneration projects, community gardens and landscape projects
- 10** Liaise with libraries, schools, and environment projects officers to develop integrated environmental education projects focussed on specific local places such as the mangrove swamps

2.6 Cultural Heritage

Define: Cultural Heritage

Understanding and preserving the past provides a context to a community and helps to shape its future. The distinctive identity of a place is expressed through its buildings, streetscapes and natural environments, experienced through authentic community activities and remembered through local images and stories.



Image: Korean Drumming Group at the Rhodes Moon Festival 2014.

2.6 Cultural Heritage continued

Context

The City has significant Aboriginal cultural heritage which has been identified in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study 2006. Council seeks to protect and enhance these culturally significant sites, and is deepening relationships with the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council. It is also working with Aboriginal artists and the community to commission interpretive artworks, environmental and cultural initiatives.

The City of Canada Bay's location halfway between Parramatta and Sydney has driven its continued growth. The transport industry both by road and river, Longbottom Stockade prison complex and related accommodation industries contributed to the rapid development of the area. The river frontage sustained many industries which in turn attracted workers homes and villages. This complex and layered cultural heritage can be a catalyst for meaningful interpretation and unique creative solutions for the area. As residential development occurs on old industrial sites, Council can encourage interpretive artworks, landscape features and negotiate agreements for public art inclusions with developers.

The local studies centre at Five Dock, Friends of Yaralla and the City of Canada Bay Heritage societies hold significant historical information and assets, which continue to be catalogued, valued, interpreted, preserved and promoted to both established and emerging communities. The digitisation of the records, memories, images and artefacts is increasingly important and a growing body of accessible information through which the community accesses the local and personal heritage.

Yaralla and Rivendell are significant sites, already attracting visitors through open days, picnics, Opera in the Park and the Rivendell Recitals series. These historic Estates are a rare feature in the urban landscape and offer a rich resource for historical research, cultural activities and creative interpretation.



Image: Live mural painting
by Irene Feleo.

2.6 Cultural Heritage continued

Directions

In general, a more strategic approach to promote heritage sites, facilities, services and programs would invigorate the cultural identity of the City of Canada Bay.

- A** Work with the Aboriginal community on sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage such as Rodd Point, Sisters Bay and Rocky Point in relation to management and creation of interpretive artworks exploring Aboriginal culture and developing understanding and community awareness
- B** Celebrate the City of Canada Bay as a place with a diverse industrial, social and cultural history which needs to be recorded and reflected in the physical environment
- C** Build an awareness of the past through creative heritage projects to develop community awareness and public activity regarding local heritage

- D** Identify and address gaps in oral histories and gathering information from older residents before this knowledge is lost
- E** Manage and interpreting cultural material from historical estates and key industrial sites to provide a rich resource for contemporary arts projects and public art features.
- F** Protect and enhance sites such as Yaralla through interpretive artworks, cultural events and creative projects to generate greater community awareness, increase public activity and secure its future as a community asset
- G** Develop contemporary expressions of past stories, people and places and public sites for the collection and display of local heritage material

Opportunities

- ▶** Seek opportunities and partners to implement Riverside Scoping Study programs
- ▶** Coordinate a series of cultural events along the foreshores including chalk drawings, air painters, music stops and spoken word soapboxes
- ▶** Work with Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Arts NSW, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Leichhardt Council, Ashfield Council, Parramatta Council and other 'River' Councils to develop a regional focus to the foreshore cultural projects
- ▶** Partnering with the NSW Department of Health and Community Advisory Committee Yaralla, opportunities for healthy lifestyles through creative programs, cultural events, artists' residencies and educational tours
- ▶** Package and promote cultural experiences in collaboration with river tour boats and transport providers
- ▶** Develop heritage markers in the natural and urban environment with interpretive features, walking trails, public art and cultural identifiers that reflect the past
- ▶** Develop contemporary expressions of past stories, people and places through place programs at Five Dock, Rhodes and Chiswick
- ▶** Consider waterfront sites such as ferry wharves, foreshore walks and marinas to enhance historical and functional links to the city for commuters, day trippers and tourists alike
- ▶** Participate in history and heritage week to improve community understanding and awareness of our past

2.7 Community Cultures

Definition: Community Cultures

Community cultures express who we are, how we live and what is unique about our way of life. Building cultural capacity improves the quality of life and sense of belonging for individuals and wider community. Strong communities have sustainable connections, trust, cooperation and common purposes, which can be nurtured through opportunities to tell stories, to build creative skills, and to be active participants in the development of local culture.



Image: Terra Kitchen Italian cooking demonstration at Terra Gusto in Five Dock.

2.7 Community Cultures continued

Current Scenario

The large proportion of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities already residing and continuing to move into the City of Canada Bay are an invaluable source of cultural diversity and global networks.

Our population has increased with more residents living in higher density communities such as Breakfast Point and Rhodes. The potential exists for new communities to remain isolated and older areas may feel that new suburbs have no continuity with the existing culture. Participation in local activities contributes to a more engaged, skilled, and vibrant community and this is a priority for the wider place program. Creative projects take place through small grants programs, youth arts programs, and annual events such as Seniors' Week.

The Library plays an important role in providing arts and cultural services, facilities and activities for young and old alike. The recent focus on promotion and creating more flexible spaces for activities is increasing participation.

The services they offer include outreach programs, children's activities, creative practises education, author talks, art exhibitions, home lending, online services and CALD resources.

Library staff require ongoing training and resourcing to continue to provide responsive programs and latest technology services to the community. The City's commitment to increase access through 'The Connection' at Rhodes Community Precinct and the conservatory at Cabarita Park is a significant investment increasing opportunities for our Community.

In our globally connected world, people have fewer opportunities to celebrate local identity, to maintain support networks and establish diverse relationships. Arts and cultural projects can play a significant role in breaking down social barriers, building new communities and assist in community cohesion. Engaging with early migrant communities from the Mediterranean and more recent arrivals from South East Asia encourages community awareness and celebrates cultural diversity.

The City celebrates the diversity of local cultures through community festivals and events such as Ferragosto, Concord Carnival and Chinese New Year Celebrations. The community have recommended that these events remain authentic and culturally distinctive, but include more local arts and cultural products. Young people are a growing demographic in the City of Canada Bay with many engaged in the creative arts. The 16 local schools offer numerous creative initiatives such as Eisteddfods, hip hop, break dancing and debating clubs.

The inner west is home to different Aboriginal language groups with contemporary cultural practices and many artists contributing to the cultural life of the city. The signing of the Principles of Co-operation with the Local Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council, development of cultural protocols, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and Management Plan are important initiatives for the City in terms of maintenance, restoration and interpretation of key cultural sites.



Image: Folk singer performance at Terra Gusto in Five Dock.

2.7 Community Cultures continued

Directions

- A** Extend cultural programming to facilitate community relationships and enhance the quality of life for residents across and in both new and established areas
- B** Expand the capacity of libraries to deliver a range of cultural information and programs
- C** Build community awareness and participation for cultural activities
- D** Recognise opportunities to celebrate multicultural activity and ensuring inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in initiatives
- E** Assist intercultural and intergenerational community led projects and address the specific needs for young people to develop new skills

Opportunities

- 1** Initiate a 'neighbourhood stories' programs between old and new residents, and migrant stories etc as part of place programs and local studies programs
- 2** Plan an annual program of public talks and debates about topical and cultural issues, talks, workshops at libraries
- 3** Offer an annual program and range of resources for children and literacy development programs
- 4** Increase staff and financial resources for library outreach programs
- 5** Market the libraries program to residents across media and audience types
- 6** Publicise and promote Library access programs and available Culturally and Linguistically Diverse resources including books, journals, magazines and reading groups
- 7** Extend creative intergenerational programs with schools and the Men's Shed etc.
- 8** Coordinate and curate local arts exhibitions at libraries and City of Canada Bay Museum
- 9** Continue to involve community, cultural and educational groups into Council events to showcase more performers, artisans and cultural groups
- 10** Continue to translate community information into main languages and promote Council's interpreter services throughout the community
- 11** Promote and expand sites and facilities for creative training
- 12** Provide cultural awards as part of the Sustainability Awards program and Cultural Citizen of the Year recognition to recognise and reward significant cultural contributions of residents
- 13** Participate in regional planning and development networks for cultural development



Image: Street performers in Five Dock.

City of Canada Bay Cultural Plan

