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Draft Cultural Policy

Community Consultation Stage 2

May 2025

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Background

The purpose of the City of Adelaide's Cultural Policy is to promote and support the city's unique cultural identity and opportunities to strengthen Adelaide's role as a global cultural capital through to 2036.

The Cultural Policy informs a unified and collaborative approach across the City of Adelaide and its subsidiaries in valuing, protecting, championing, and promoting the city's unique character, identity, history, creativity, cultural life and communities. It guides strategic investment in infrastructure, funding programs, partnerships, resources, events, initiatives and activities.

A discussion paper, [Culture: The Life of Our City](#), was developed in 2024 to encourage conversation and feedback from a broad cross-section of the community.

Stage 1 Community Consultation:

Highlights of the **Stage 1 community consultation** activities held between November 2024 and March 2025 include:

- 200 total attendees across the [Live Music Forum](#) and [Culture: The Life of the City Forum](#)
- 226 people listened to at community drop-in sessions at City of Adelaide venues including Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide Central Markets, ART POD, libraries and community centres.
- 11 submissions and community meetings documented.
- 5 advisory groups and subsidiaries engaged.
- 675 community survey responses received online.

Through this engagement the community identified the following strengths that define Adelaide's unique character and liveability which informed the development of the draft Policy.

- Cultural experiences for everyone.
- Festivals and celebrations.
- Outdoor experiences.
- Nightlife and live music venues.
- Built heritage and memorials.
- Diversity of traditions and expressions.
- Public art, sculptures, and murals.
- Community connections and belonging.
- Nature connected experiences.
- Pedestrian friendly and city layout.

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- Central Market and food culture.
- First Nations culture visibility in the life of the city.
- Street level culture (food trucks, resident and neighbourhood activities, precinct events)

Stage 2 Community Consultation and Responses

Stage 2 of community consultation on the Draft Cultural Policy opened on 9 April and closed on the 30 April 2025.

During the 21 days consultation period:

- **25** Our Adelaide community survey responses were received online and **9** email submissions
- **582** Our Adelaide visits. 66 of these visits (11%) from social media platforms like Facebook and LinkedIn.
- **241** draft Cultural Policy downloads via Our Adelaide.

The key themes arising from the Stage 2 of community consultation confirm that the Draft Cultural Policy is broadly endorsed for its principles and priorities and that the community recognises this policy as an important foundation for the organisation and the city's cultural life over the next decade.

Despite the strong support for its principles including cultural inclusion, there is an underlying tension between different community perspectives and a perceived cultural prioritisation, emphasising the importance of clearly articulating the city's equity responsibilities in respect to cultural rights as part of the Cultural Policy. Community feedback also highlighted a need to more explicitly reference the impact of the digital world in our city's future and Council's role in this space.

The consultation also highlighted that the community expects:

- More concrete actions and resourcing commitments.
- Stronger partnerships, particularly with education, hospitality, and festival organisations for the delivery and evaluation of the policy.
- Transparent funding models to support the long-term success of the city's cultural life.
- Increased and sustained practical measures to support a thriving live music eco-system and enable the viability of venues and artists.

Amendments to the draft Cultural Policy:

- Clarification that the Cultural Policy Principles hold equal value and are applied without any hierarchical ranking or order of importance, acknowledging that the city's cultural life is complex, dynamic and interconnected.
- Additional glossary references to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and disability to reinforce clarity and inclusivity of terminology

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used. The definition of Cultural Infrastructure has been revised to highlight festivals as spaces that support art, culture, and community engagement.

- Revision to the role *Partner* under the Policy Principle *Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected* to broaden Council's role advocating for transport improvements beyond public transport to enhance access to culture and support sector workers. Under this principle, an additional reference to Council's role enabling equitable access to digital tools and platforms, and ensuring that digital innovation supports cultural diversity, equity and inclusion, has been included.
- The principle *Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress* has been revised to better highlight that festivals are a central part of Adelaide's intangible cultural heritage.
- Inclusion of an explicit reference to public art under the Policy Principle *Creating Space for Cultural Expression* to more clearly highlight its central role in the vibrancy, liveability and global profile of the city. The revised version of this principle also highlights Council's intent to streamline planning, licensing and public space use processes to support integration of creativity and culture into all aspects of city life, infrastructure and initiatives.
- Universities have been included as collaborators in the evaluation of the Cultural Policy alongside capital city councils, the Australian Local Government Association, and State and Federal Governments.
- Additional glossary definitions and revisions were made to improve inclusivity and clarity, including the addition of a definition for disability and an expanded definition of cultural infrastructure.
- Strengthened commitments across principles to inclusive practice, including the explicit inclusion of public art and activation of underutilised spaces, improved digital and transport access, and expanded language around cultural diversity.
- Universities have been included as collaborators in the evaluation of the Cultural Policy alongside capital city councils, the Australian Local Government Association, and State and Federal Governments.
- The review cycle of the Cultural Policy has been revised from five to four years to enhance responsiveness to changing conditions and community needs.
- A new governance and evaluation section has been included to guide policy implementation, resource allocation and progress tracking, with

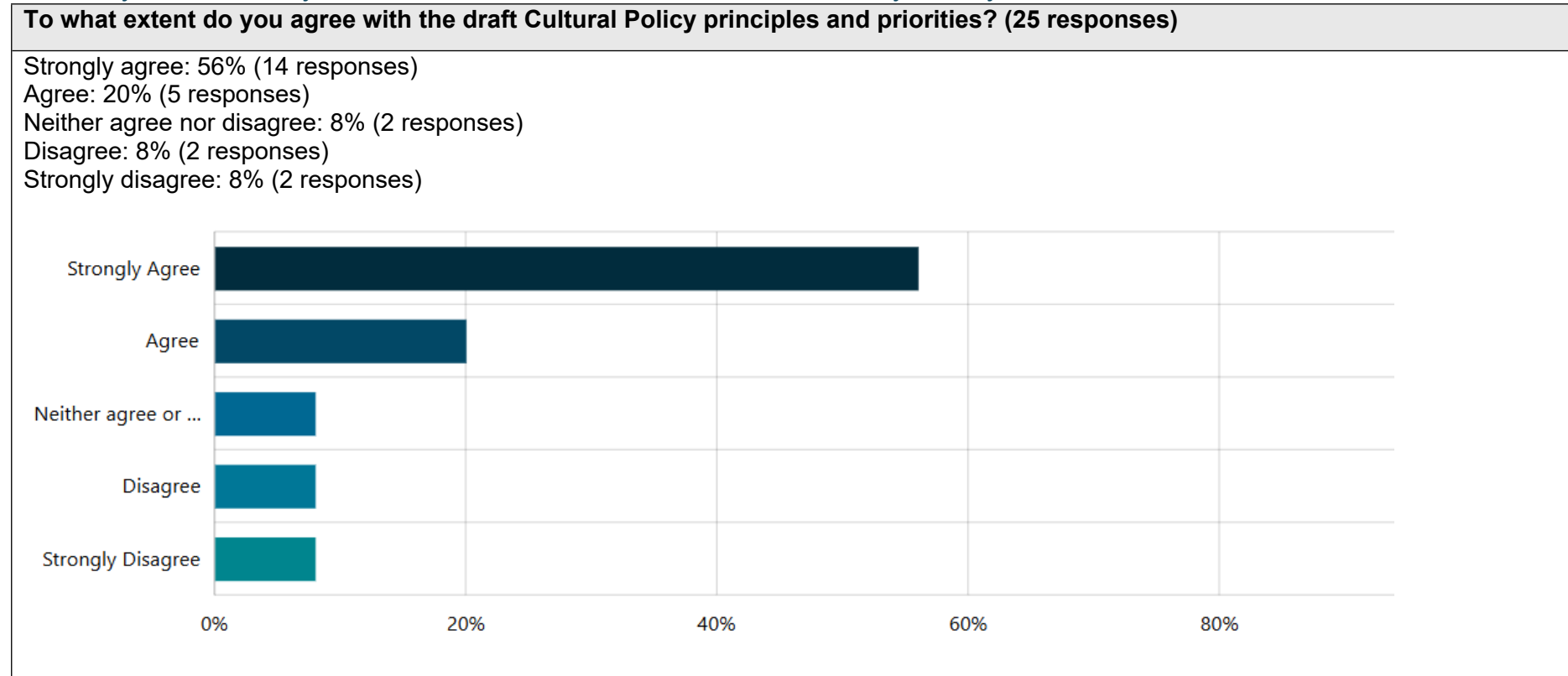
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alignment to national cultural benchmarks and good practice.

- The Application section has been revised to clarify that implementation will be embedded across entirety of Council operations, work plans, budgets, and subsidiaries, with an emphasis on measurable actions and appropriate resourcing.

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Summary of community consultation feedback from online community survey



Please help us understand your response by providing a comment (19 responses)			
Stakeholder	Submission	Key Theme	Response
Our Adelaide Response	Thoroughly agree with the draft and supportive of the cultural policy	Cultural Policy	Noted.
Our Adelaide Response	It's all amazing. I feel the problem is not these priorities,	Policy Application	Noted.

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	which most people would agree on, but actually actioning them.		The Cultural Policy establishes a shared responsibility across the organisation to prioritise culture in future planning, investment, partnerships, and resource allocation.
Our Adelaide Response	Establishment of a cultural-policy will allow for a proper sustainable investment into creative practices. It should be considered in everything we do! How will we see immediate action as a result?		As outlined in the policy application section, the Cultural Policy 2025-2036 will be reflected in and enabled by strategies, operations, budgets and work plans across the organisation, including subsidiaries of Council.
Our Adelaide Response	Without stating how you plan to do this there is no accountability. I have no faith in you, I have witnessed the death of our music industry, you haven't helped and you will lose our UNESCO status.		This cohesive and considered approach represents an efficient, effective and economical use of public resources through annual business plan and budget process. This also ensures alignment with Council's processes and systems.
Our Adelaide Response	These are all sound principles and hard to disagree with. However it's not clear what gives it teeth. How will council use this to promote culture? Does it align with other council processes?		
Our Adelaide Response	e.g.Known pub lists Women's Gin Day on ACC What's On site My reply email from ACC, as why NAIDOC and Opening Ceremony at AD.Football Grounds wasn't advertised just said "NAIDOC have their own website."	Policy Principles: Creating Space for Cultural Expression And Reconciliation and Truth-Telling	Noted. The "Creating Space for Cultural Expression" Policy Principle outlines Council's role to promote, celebrate and elevate Adelaide's cultural life to enhance access to cultural experiences and opportunities and attract new audiences and investment. The "Reconciliation and Truth-Telling" Policy Principle also outlines Council's role in showcasing, celebrating and amplifying Kurna and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and connection to Country to protect and respect self-determination and cultural heritage.
Our Adelaide Response	Needs to be First Nations First, move Principal: Reconciliation and Truth Telling, make it the first Principal. Only one priority under Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected, missed opportunity.	Policy Principle: Reconciliation and Truth-Telling.	Revised. The below statement has been included under the Policy Principles, Priorities and Role of the policy to clarify intention: "The Cultural Policy Principles hold equal value and are applied without any hierarchical ranking or order of

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			importance acknowledging that the city's cultural life is complex, dynamic and interconnected."
Our Adelaide Response	City life is vibrant, however, its not inclusive to all the culture especially muslim culture. We would highly appreciate if city will include special occasion celebrations like Ramadan and Eid.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Noted. The "Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected" Policy Principle includes a priority to "Ensure that access to Adelaide's culture is easy and affordable for everyone." It highlights a focus on culturally and linguistically diverse communities among other target groups who experience barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in the city's cultural life on an equal basis with others.
Our Adelaide Response	Kaurna culture should not be elevated/prioritised above any other culture. You aim to 'ensure that access to Adelaide's culture is easy and affordable for everyone, then list everyone except men.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Revised. The "Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected" Policy Principle outlines City of Adelaide's commitment to honouring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, in its article 27, affirms the right of everyone to participate in the cultural life of their community. This policy priority honours this is aimed at ensuring that everyone in the city has the right to participate in, enjoy, and contribute to the city's cultural life. A glossary reference to the <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> has been included to reinforce clarity and inclusivity of terminology used in the policy.
Our Adelaide Response	Sick of inclusive wording. You're playing to a minority group. And the majority of us creatives that live here have our voices crushed as we don't believe in ur culture. Our creativity is not welcomed.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Noted. The Policy outlines City of Adelaide's commitment to preserving its cultural and natural heritage and embracing revitalisation and progress. The Policy principle "Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress" is reflected in the following priorities: • Protect and revitalise the city's cultural heritage including world-class architecture, iconic cultural venues, and collections, and preserving the Adelaide Park Lands, open spaces and natural environment.

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			• Ensure people, culture and creativity are at the centre of planning, design and development decisions in the city. • Celebrate our local character, food, culture, customs, social practices and traditions, places and spaces.
Our Adelaide Response	Important to ensure the city remains accessible by those Adelaideans who do not live in the post codes. This means vehicular access with sufficient car parking in and around the hospitality hot spots.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Revised. The Policy Principle “Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected” highlights Council’s role integrating accessibility, inclusivity, and equity into cultural planning. A revision to the role “Partner” has been incorporated to broaden Council’s role advocating for transport improvements beyond public transport to enhance access to culture and support sector workers.
Our Adelaide Response	Art culture is important ... an excellent way to gather with friends and family, meet new people and gets you out of the house.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Noted. The “Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected” Policy Principle highlights culture’s role in fostering social connection, wellbeing, and a sense of belonging, enriching the everyday life of our city, and Council’s role in recognising that people are at the heart of our city and its culture.
Our Adelaide Response	Clear and comprehensive set of principles to guide the work. I would have like to see something about the impact of the digital world and consideration of generative AI on our culture in the future.	Policy Principle: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected	Revised. The Policy Principle “Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected” has been revised to more explicitly outline Council’s role in enabling equitable access to digital tools and platforms and ensuring that digital innovation supports cultural diversity, equity and inclusion. In addition, the cultural infrastructure definition in the Cultural Policy’s Glossary, refers to the digital spaces that support art, culture and community engagement including the digital platforms that expand cultural access.
Our Adelaide Response	new Adelaide University has creative industries as one of five key research priorities. it is located in City of Adelaide.	Policy Principle: Amplifying our Creative Capital	Noted: The Policy Principle “Amplifying our Creative Capital” highlights Council’s role driving Adelaide’s growth as a cultural tourism destination and creative capital. It

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	Make it a priority in the policy to partner with them.		specifically highlights the role of strategic planning and leveraging relationships with universities to invest in creative sector growth.
Our Adelaide Response	Adelaide is building an excellent reputation as a cultural tourism hub plus increasingly people want to live in the CBD. The above priorities are essential for these developments to continue.	Policy Principle: Amplifying our Creative Capital	Noted. The Policy Principle “Amplifying our Creative Capital” centres cultural tourism as central to Adelaide’s growth as a destination and a creative capital and Council’s role in maximising this through strategic planning and leveraging relationships with universities, businesses, and organisations to invest in creative sector growth.
Our Adelaide Response	I would like a commitment to contemporary and future facing outputs from creatives in the city, especially in public art, rather than art playing a secondary role of explaining historical narratives.	Policy Principle: Creating Space for Cultural Expression	Revised. The Policy Principle “Creating Space for Cultural Expression” outlined Council’s commitment to enhancing the city’s vibrancy, liveability and global profile, through accessible, high-quality, and diverse cultural infrastructure, experiences, and activations, designed to foster connection, creativity and cultural expression. This has been revised to include an explicit reference to public art and ensure that it continues to play a central role in the vibrancy, liveability and global profile of the city.
Our Adelaide Response	Adelaide is known nationally and internationally as a hot bed of creativity. I like the Creating Space for Cultural Expression. It's important to have the BIG and the small.	Policy Principle: Creating Space for Cultural Expression	Noted. The Policy Principle “Creating Space for Cultural Expression” highlights Council’s role facilitating, supporting, and delivering diverse and safe cultural experiences year-round and balancing small and large-scale cultural and community events across a diversity of spaces and the Park Lands.
Our Adelaide Response	We need a contemporary approach with modern infrastructure that connects the dots for the community. The community needs to be stimulated and confident	Policy Principle: Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress	Noted. The Policy Principle “Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress” outlines Council’s commitment to embracing revitalisation and progress while preserving its cultural and natural heritage.

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Online Community Survey – Respondent Information

How do you participate in the city life? (25 responses)																			
City visitor: 48% (12 responses) Work in the city: 40% (10 responses) City of Adelaide resident: 32% (8 responses) City of Adelaide ratepayer: 16% (4 responses) City of Adelaide based cultural organisation: 16% (4 responses) Art studio/creative space in the city: 12% (3 responses) Student in the city: 8% (2 responses) City of Adelaide based business: 8% (2 responses)	Noted																		
<table><thead><tr><th>Participation Category</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>City visitor</td><td>48%</td></tr><tr><td>Work in the city</td><td>40%</td></tr><tr><td>City of Adelaide resident</td><td>32%</td></tr><tr><td>City of Adelaide ratepayer</td><td>16%</td></tr><tr><td>City of Adelaide based cultural organisation</td><td>16%</td></tr><tr><td>Art studio/creative space in the city</td><td>12%</td></tr><tr><td>Student in the city</td><td>8%</td></tr><tr><td>City of Adelaide based business</td><td>8%</td></tr></tbody></table>		Participation Category	Percentage	City visitor	48%	Work in the city	40%	City of Adelaide resident	32%	City of Adelaide ratepayer	16%	City of Adelaide based cultural organisation	16%	Art studio/creative space in the city	12%	Student in the city	8%	City of Adelaide based business	8%
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City of Adelaide based business	8%																		
Are you a resident in Adelaide (5000) or North Adelaide (5006)? (8 responses - 32% of survey respondents)																			
Adelaide (5000): 62.5% (5 responses)	Noted																		

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North Adelaide (5006) 37.5% (3 responses)	
Are you a ratepayer in Adelaide (5000) or North Adelaide (5006)? (4 responses – 16% of survey respondents)	
Adelaide (5000): 75% (3 responses)	Noted
North Adelaide (5006) 25% (1 response)	

Summary of community consultation – 11 Written Submissions

Summary of Submission	Response
Renew Adelaide Head of Partnerships and Operations, Timothea Moylan	
- I work in the city and am a frequent city visitor. - I strongly agree with the principles and priorities laid out in the Draft Cultural Policy. - Overall, I wholeheartedly support the direction this policy is taking and can see that extensive work has been done to understand community sentiments and needs. However – I don't feel anything new or action-focused is really being expressed. How will these priorities will be achieved? I realise that this is a draft document intended to inform future strategy, but I think some insight into the intended <i>how</i> of it all would make this feel more meaningful. - It's fantastic to see that "Creating Space for Cultural Expression" is one of the principles – this is absolutely vital, as Adelaide currently struggles with a lack of independently run creative community spaces. I think the vision of Adelaide as "Australia's cultural and creative capital" is a pretty lofty one unless this is addressed. - There are two key parts to this – access to space, and access to funding. I feel that COA funding for arts projects used to be fairly robust, but has been limited in recent years and tends to be events-focused. This is great in the short-term, but doesn't support the longer-term success of our City's creative ventures. To ensure we see more grassroots creative activity on our streets, it'd be wonderful to see funding programs that directly support the establishment and continued success of new, independent, artist-run spaces à la Summertown Studio, Closer Record Store, Ern Malley or (once upon a time) Format or Reading Room. This	Noted. The Cultural Policy establishes a shared responsibility across the organisation to prioritise culture in future planning, investment, partnerships, and resource allocation. As outlined in the policy application section, the Cultural Policy 2025-2036 will be reflected in and enabled by strategies, operations, budgets and work plans across the organisation, including subsidiaries of Council. This cohesive and considered approach represents an efficient, effective and economical use of public resources through annual business plan and budget process. The Policy Principle "Creating Space for Cultural Expression" stresses that a priority for Council over the next decade will be to expand the city's cultural infrastructure, including under-utilised spaces, to enhance Adelaide's appeal, foster community and create a sense of belonging. It also highlights Council's role in facilitating, supporting, and delivering diverse and safe cultural experiences year-round in partnership with government, the private

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could be achieved in collaboration with organisations like Renew Adelaide, which can assist with access to space. • Also – I'm concerned that Under 25s (a key creative demographic and important voice in our arts community) comprised only 6.5% of responses. I understand this is a tricky demographic to engage, but other than the Neo community workshop, how was direct engagement attempted? Was connecting with TAFE, universities or youth platforms a possibility? The 63% of respondents in the 40 – 74 age bracket were always far more likely to have engaged with the feedback method / branding and Council-run survey locations than young people. This feels like a bit of an oversight. • Regardless, I feel this is all on the right track and is a great start. I'm excited to see where it leads and to be involved where I can.	and cultural sectors and community, balancing small and large-scale cultural and community events across a diversity of spaces and the Park Lands. As part of the initial stage of community consultation for the development of the policy the City of Adelaide engaged with the following organisations and education institutions to ensure that the needs of people under 25 years old were considered: • Commissioner for Children and Young People (written submission) • Carclew (written submission and attendance at Culture: The Life of the City Forum) • TAFE SA (attendance at Culture: The Life of the City Forum). • Adelaide University (attendance at Culture: The Life of the City Forum). • Study Adelaide (attendance at Culture: The Life of the City Forum). • Adelaide International School (attendance at Culture: The Life of the City Forum). Alongside these industry engagements, The City of Adelaide spoke directly with 21 teens (13–17-year-olds) at the community pop-up session organised with the Art Gallery of South Australia as part of the Neo Hot House Teen Event at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. These direct in person engagements were complemented by 43 community survey responses from people under 25 years of age.
Australian Hotels Association (SA) Chief Executive Officer, Anna Moeller	

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• The AHA SA notes that the purpose of the Draft Cultural Policy is to promote and support the city's unique cultural identity and opportunities to strengthen Adelaide's role as a global cultural capital through to 2036. • The role of the AHA SA is to represent and protect the commercial interests of hoteliers throughout South Australia, as such we welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Cultural Policy. Pubs, hotels and hospitality venues are not only economic contributors—they are also integral to the city's social and cultural fabric. Hospitality venues within the Adelaide CBD host live music and community events, operate in many heritage-listed buildings, and provide inclusive spaces for a diverse range of patrons. • The AHA SA provides the following feedback on the five principles outlined in the Draft Cultural Policy: PRINCIPLE: Amplifying Our Creative Capital • The AHA SA supports the City of Adelaide's aspiration to become Australia's cultural and creative capital. This direction aligns well with our sector's long-standing involvement in supporting live music, festivals and local talent. This goal provides great potential to boost tourism and city vibrancy, which in turn benefits hospitality businesses. PRINCIPLE: Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected • The AHA SA supports the emphasis on inclusivity, as it reflects the social role that hospitality venues already play in Adelaide. Hospitality venues naturally support diverse communities, and the AHA SA believes that venues are well placed to partner with the City of Adelaide in inclusive programming and precinct activation. Public transport improvements, especially after dark, would also significantly benefit night-time trade and venue safety. However, we encourage the City of Adelaide to be mindful that affordability expectations are not unduly shifted onto private operators without adequate support or incentive programs. PRINCIPLE: Reconciliation and Truth Telling • The AHA SA supports the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in shaping the city's cultural identity. PRINCIPLE: Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress • The AHA SA acknowledges the City of Adelaide's commitment to preserving cultural heritage while embracing revitalisation. Many hotels	Noted. The Policy Principle "Amplifying our Creative Capital" highlights Council's role driving Adelaide's growth as a cultural tourism destination and creative capital through strategic planning and leveraging relationships with businesses among other organisations to invest in the creative sector. The Policy Principle "Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected" stresses Council's role in developing, facilitating, and supporting affordable, accessible and community-led cultural experiences for City of Adelaide venues, public spaces, neighbourhoods, precincts, and throughout the Adelaide Park Lands. It also highlights its role advocating for transport improvements that enhance access to culture and support sector workers. The Policy Principle "Reconciliation and Truth Telling" outlines Council's role in showcasing, celebrating and amplifying Kaurna and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and connection to Country to protect and respect self-determination and cultural heritage. The Policy Principle "Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress" outline's Council's role advocating for the value of Adelaide's heritage locally and internationally to influence policies and attract investment among the levers to safeguard Adelaide's built heritage. The Policy Principle "Creating Space for Cultural Expression" outlines Council's role facilitating, supporting, and delivering diverse and safe cultural experiences year-round in partnership with government, the private and cultural sectors and community, balancing small and large-
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and hospitality venues operate within heritage-listed buildings that are central to Adelaide’s identity. PRINCIPLE: Creating Space for Cultural Expression The Draft Cultural Policy’s support for enhancing cultural infrastructure and experiences is strongly endorsed by the AHA SA. Cultural programming throughout the year benefits tourism and stimulates local economic activity, including within hospitality. Small and large events offer opportunities for venues to host, partner and participate in the city’s creative life.	scale cultural and community events across a diversity of spaces and the Park Lands.
Festival City ADL Chief Executive Officer, Justyna Jochym	
- Festival City Adelaide welcomes the City of Adelaide’s commitment to culture as a central pillar in shaping the future of our city. We support the ambition outlined in the Cultural Policy 2025–2036 and, on behalf of our members, offer the following feedback to further strengthen its vision and outcomes. 1. Recognise and Amplify Our Festivals as Adelaide’s Defining Cultural Identity While the Policy references Adelaide’s international designations, it has the opportunity to more fully embrace and leverage our globally unique position as a city of year-round festivals. The “Festival Capital” title is not only symbolic — it’s a competitive advantage that should be foregrounded in cultural diplomacy, tourism, and economic development strategies. Elevating festivals as cornerstone institutions (albeit ephemeral) — alongside galleries, museums and cultural precincts — ensures they are resourced, valued, and embedded in the city’s long-term vision. Recommendation: Formally position festivals as enduring cultural infrastructure within the policy. Reference intended investment in the sustainability and global promotion of festivals as Adelaide’s major cultural, social, and economic asset. 2. Position Festivals as Cultural Heritage	Revised. As part of the Cultural Policy context, the City of Adelaide recognises that our world-class festivals are a central part of our reputation as a Creative City and as South Australia’s civic and cultural heart. The definition of Cultural Infrastructure in the glossary section of the policy has been revised to highlight festivals as spaces that support art, culture, and community engagement. As outlined in the Application section of the Cultural Policy, “The principles and priorities of the Cultural Policy 2025-2036 will be reflected in and enabled by strategies, operations, budgets and work plans across the organisation, including subsidiaries of Council. This cohesive and considered approach represents an efficient, effective and economical use of public resources through annual business plans and budget processes.” The Cultural Policy sets out core principles that affirm the inherent value and importance of culture, creativity and community to our city’s distinctive identity and future prosperity. The Policy Principle “Creating Space for

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• The longevity of many of Adelaide’s major festivals, such as Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe (both est. 1960) and WOMAdelaide (est. 1992), has created generational impact and deep community memory. These festivals should be recognised as part of Adelaide’s <i>intangible cultural heritage</i>, not only for their artistic value, but for their role in shaping the social and cultural fabric of the city. Recommendation: Embed festivals within heritage frameworks as vital expressions of both historical and contemporary identity. 3. Collaborate to Stimulate the Festival and Cultural Workforce To deliver on the ambition of hosting globally significant events and maintaining Adelaide’s high-quality festival experience for locals and visitors alike, policy attention to workforce development is essential, beyond artists and creatives. The City of Adelaide should partner with relevant bodies and state government to attract, retain, and upskill talent. Recommendation: Partner to deliver workforce and professional development solutions to support a growing and thriving cultural economy. 4. Create Australia’s Most Event-Friendly City Many festivals and cultural events encounter persistent barriers in navigating red tape and bureaucratic challenges, including but not limited to approvals, excessive compliance, and access to public space. A flexible, responsive regulatory environment is essential for creativity to flourish. Recommendation: Express intent to streamline planning, licensing, and public space use processes to better enable cultural activations of all sizes. 5. Long Term and Viable Access to Cultural Infrastructure for the Sector The festival sector — and the arts and cultural sector more broadly — requires secure, contemporary, and sustainable infrastructure to thrive. This includes access to rehearsal spaces, office hubs, storage, digital and	Cultural Expression” highlights Council’s role promoting, celebrating and elevating Adelaide’s cultural life to enhance access to cultural experiences and opportunities and attract new audiences and investment. References to the Council’s intended investment in sustainability and global promotion activities for specific cultural infrastructure are outside of the scope of this policy. The Policy Principle “Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress” has been revised to more clearly articulate that through the implementation of this policy Council will advocate for the value of Adelaide’s heritage locally and internationally to influence policies and attract investment to safeguard Adelaide’s festivals. The definition of heritage provided in the glossary section of the Cultural Policy is inclusive of both tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage and recognises the role of significant cultural and natural assets in shaping historical, social and environmental elements of the city. The Policy Principle “Amplifying our Creative Capital” highlights Council’s commitment to nurturing creative careers and sector growth and supporting talent retention through partnerships and co-investment. The principle is reflected in the priority “Drive Adelaide’s growth as cultural tourism destination and creative capital through strategic planning and leveraging relationships with universities, business, and organisations to invest in creative sector growth”. The Policy Principle “Creating Space for Cultural Expression” has been revised to more explicitly highlight intent to streamline planning, licensing and public space use processes to support integration of creativity and
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physical presentation and performance infrastructure. Ensuring long-term, equitable access to cultural spaces across the public, private and independent sectors must be a priority. Recommendation: Expand intention around investment in adaptable, fit-for-purpose cultural infrastructure that is affordable and accessible to the festival and event sector (arts sector more broadly). We commend the City of Adelaide for its bold cultural vision. By strengthening the policy in recognition of festivals as dynamic, historical and future-facing cultural infrastructure, Adelaide can ensure that its identity as a global creative capital is not only celebrated — but sustained.	culture into all aspects of city life, infrastructure and initiatives.
Adelaide University Pro Vice Chancellor, College of Creative Arts, Design and Humanities, Professor Craig Batty	
• The University of Adelaide and The University of South Australia, who in January 2026 will formally become Adelaide University, welcome the opportunity to provide input on the City of Adelaide's Draft Cultural Policy. There is a strong connection between the principles and priorities outlined in the Draft Cultural Policy, and the mission of Adelaide University. • Adelaide University will be a cultural anchor institution – one that delivers programs and events, but that also contributes to policy outcomes through education, workforce development and thought leadership. Adelaide University's focus on arts, creativity and culture (based on the successes of its foundation universities) include the university-wide Creative & Cultural Signature Research Theme, the International and External Engagement Portfolio, the College of Creative Arts, Design and Humanities, and our public-facing cultural institutions in the City of Adelaide: Samstag Museum of Art, MOD. (Museum of Discovery), Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, Elder Conservatorium of Music. Adelaide University will continue to provide a strong platform for arts, creativity and culture, with enhanced global connections, and community and regional engagement, driving sustainable development of the creative economies and cultural industries of the City of Adelaide. In doing so, Adelaide University will be an institution that shapes society, preserves cultural heritage, enriches public understanding, and builds deep and enduring connections that drive lasting societal impact.	Revised. The Policy Principle “Amplifying our Creative Capital” highlights the importance of strategic planning and leveraging relationships with universities, businesses, and organisations to invest in creative sector growth and grow Adelaide as a Cultural and Creative Capital. It also explicitly outlines international exchange and collaboration as a priority area for the policy. The Policy Principle “Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected” has been revised to more explicitly outline Council's role in enabling equitable access to digital tools and platforms and ensuring that digital innovation supports cultural diversity, equity and inclusion. In addition, the cultural infrastructure definition in the Cultural Policy's Glossary, refers to the digital spaces that support art, culture and community engagement including the digital platforms that expand cultural access. The Evaluation section of the policy has been revised to include universities as evaluation collaborators alongside

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• The feedback below aligns with the proposed principles, offering suggestions to strengthen the document and support the City of Adelaide's long-term cultural vision. <i>Principle 1: Amplifying our creative capital</i> • <i>Leveraging existing initiatives for strategic cultural growth</i> Building on planned Adelaide University initiatives and its cultural institutions will strengthen efforts in this area. We will deliver an annual program of impactful campus and cultural events, including university-wide events such as Open Day, Reconciliation Week events, collaborative community festivals, and strategic partnerships with external partners, such as Tasting Australia, that position the University as an active and valued contributor to the state's creative and cultural life. These efforts directly reflect the Cultural Policy's emphasis on place-making, participatory arts, and accessible experiences across the city and state, and include opportunities. This will include contributing to cultural infrastructure and precinct activation in the City of Adelaide through exhibitions and use of spaces on our campuses. The University's volunteer programs will activate civic participation, with thousands of volunteers providing an integral link between the University and the wider community. Within the Creative & Cultural Signature Research Theme, the planned program areas <i>Imagine Adelaide</i> and the <i>South Australian Cultural Exchange</i> would provide effective frameworks for cultural development and collaboration. These programs and platforms offer opportunities for strategic alignment, co-support and broader sector engagement, allowing the City to enhance its impact through shared resources and expertise. • <i>Alignment with UNESCO Creative Cities mission</i> The focus on the UNESCO City of Music designation is a positive inclusion. This City designation should be exploited more, however, and it would be useful to see more detail on how this is going to be achieved. With the right administration and project support, the UNESCO City of Music could become something genuinely meaningful — positioning Adelaide as a global centre of excellence in music. Compared to other 'Cities of Music',	capital city councils, the Australian Local Government Association, and State and Federal Governments.
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the title is far less visible here in Adelaide and should be used not only to support international touring but also to energise what we are doing here on the ground. Some **further clarity on what this ‘amplification’ looks like would be welcomed**. In addition, the broader UNESCO Creative Cities network could be much better leveraged. As above, there is a strong opportunity here to collaborate with Adelaide University's Creative & Cultural Signature Research Theme, as well as its new College of Creative Arts, Design and Humanities (incorporating the Elder Conservatorium).

- *Technology in creative practice*
There is limited mention of technology in relation to creativity. This appears to be a significant gap, considering how many creatives we have in Adelaide in this space, and the resources already available within the State – e.g., Immersive Light and Art. Adelaide University will also be home to a world-leading centre for interactive and virtual environments, incorporating creative arts approaches to technology, and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate.

Principle 2: Creating space for cultural expression

- *Integrating international engagement into cultural policy and leveraging current institutions*
- **We welcome the alignment with the recently released SA Government cultural policy, as well as the Federal Government’s National Cultural Policy, *Revive*, which provide a comprehensive framework for collaborative approach across all levels of government. The University sees this as an **opportunity to align institutional assets—physical, intellectual, and cultural**—with public policy priorities that celebrate creativity, expand access, and support the development of a thriving, sustainable creative sector in South Australia.**
- Adding a **clear reference to international engagement** would strengthen this principle. Adelaide’s cultural institutions and universities already benefit significantly from global networks, forums and partnerships. It would be beneficial for sustainable development in the longer term to envision a cultural policy deeply connected to international networks. The Creative &

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Cultural Signature Research Theme and its plans for global exchange (e.g., thought leaders in residence) align with this principle and could provide opportunities for enhanced international engagement. Strong international engagement could also be leveraged through partnerships with Adelaide University's cultural institutions (Elder Conservatorium, Samstag, MOD., Hawke Centre), who already have enviable connections with internationally significant artists, cultural producers and thought leaders.

- Our long-standing partnership with the [Helpmann Academy](#) also presents an opportunity to enhance the City's cultural infrastructure by fostering meaningful connections, supporting emerging creative practitioners, and amplifying diverse cultural expressions. There is scope to take the work of the Helpmann Academy even further, for example through shared space in the City to promote Adelaide's best up-and-coming creative talent.
- *Increased support for live music venues and acts*
Adelaide University would **welcome inclusion of increased and sustained practical measures that support a thriving live music ecosystem and genuinely enables the viability of venues and artists.** This might include investment in places and spaces, both indoor and outdoor, to support emerging and established talent to showcase their work and continue to practice their craft. The City's West End, close to Adelaide University's main creative and cultural teaching precinct, provides an ideal location for investment in live music (and other arts) venues, building a thriving culture and scene. Adelaide University has researchers working on the topic of the live music ecosystem and would welcome an **opportunity for collaboration.** In addition, the university's partnership with the Helpmann Academy provides another opportunity for leveraging existing organisations and activities to scale opportunities for emerging music (and other arts) talent.

Principle 3: Culturally inclusive and socially connected
Access to creative spaces for young people

- There is a valuable opportunity here to strengthen the connection between Council and Adelaide University, namely through the new Community and

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Regional Engagement portfolio within Adelaide University's International & External Engagement portfolio, particularly through partnerships and events with cultural institutions such as the Children's University Adelaide, Samstag and MOD., who already run successful arts and cultural programs with young people. We welcome the opportunity for more coordinated efforts to scale the work we do with young people, particularly for future impact and leadership. <i>Principle 4: Evaluation process</i> • Including universities as collaborators in the evaluation process – from initial evaluation framework design – would be a valuable addition to the policy. This may be part of, or in addition to, a formal Advisory Board overseeing the implementation of the cultural policy. With its Creative & Cultural Signature Research Theme, and the new College of Creative Arts, Design and Humanities, Adelaide University is well placed to provide independent and evidence-based evaluation of the policy and implementation, and is keen to contribute where it can in order to bolster the efforts and reputation of the City of Adelaide. Conclusion • Adelaide University congratulates Adelaide City Council on its draft Cultural Policy, and we look forward to opportunities where we can further contribute to growing the reputation of Adelaide as one of the world's premier artistic, cultural and creative cities. We are keen to be part of relevant working parties and committees that may be set up to help realise the ambitions of the City's creative and cultural footprint.	
TAFE SA Faculty Dean Business and Arts, Simone Gibbs	
• TAFE SA welcomes the City's commitment to community consultation in shaping the future of arts and culture. We operate two major campuses in the heart of the city: our Currie Street campus, and the Adelaide College of the Arts on Light Square.	Noted.

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- The Adelaide College of the Arts is a purpose-built institution that trains the next generation of cultural practitioners across a range of disciplines. It is the only tertiary institution in Australia to house performing arts, visual arts, and design under one roof. We are active members of the Adelaide West End Association and work closely with neighbouring cultural organisations to nurture a vibrant local precinct. We also acknowledge the City of Adelaide's ongoing support for precinct-based initiatives.
- TAFE SA is currently partnering with Festival City Adelaide to position South Australia as a global leader in festival and event education. Our goal is to attract and retain high-level talent while supporting the growth of Adelaide's reputation as a centre for cultural and arts festivals. This work aligns closely with the draft Policy's principle of 'Amplifying Our Creative Capital,' and **we welcome further opportunities to work with the City on initiatives that promote cultural employment and strengthen the sector's economic contribution.**
- We also recognise the positive impact of Renew Adelaide in activating underutilised spaces and strengthening community connection. The support for these objectives under the Policy's principles 'Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress' and 'Creating Space for Cultural Expressions' is encouraging.
- TAFE SA values its strong relationship with the City of Adelaide and looks forward to continued collaboration to promote our city's distinctive cultural identity. We are committed to supporting initiatives that reinforce Adelaide's standing as a leading cultural capital, both nationally and internationally, through to 2036 and beyond.

FELTspace

Co-Chair / Access and Inclusion Officer, Tayer Stead

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Firstly I think it would be good to include the d/Deaf community in the 'culturally inclusive socially connected' portion, as Deafness is an identity outside of disability. A potential way to put this could be: • d/Deaf and disabled people or • the d/Deaf community separate from - people living with disabilities. Secondly, I would like to see the policy focus on increasing access to cultural events for people living with intellectual disabilities specifically. They are the most excluded demographic of people in general and because of the broadness of 'people living with disabilities,' policies like this are still not inclusive of them (as people can meet accessibility requirements through accommodating for physical/less profound psychosocial disabilities without even considering people with profound intellectual disabilities). South Australian Council for Intellectual Disability is an amazing organisation that I hope the City of Adelaide has already consulted with. If not, I highly recommend them as they are peer informed and offer a range of services. Congratulations on getting to this point of the policy! It looks very promising and I am excited to see it come to fruition. I am very passionate about both art and disability and am very aware of the lack of accessibility for profoundly disabled people to participate in arts and cultural events.	Revised. A disability definition is included in the policy to clarify intent and demonstrate commitment to inclusion. The definition aligns with the Council's DAIP 2024-28 and the Draft State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029.
Department of Multicultural Affairs Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Zoe Bettison MP	
Engagement with the South Australian Multicultural Commission <u>Seek advice from the South Australian Multicultural Commission on ways to engage and collaborate with our culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</u> Multicultural Affairs in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is responsible for the development of multicultural policies and programs, and the promotion of cultural diversity and inclusion in South Australia. Multicultural Affairs reports to me, and consults across state government on policy matters related to multicultural affairs at the Commonwealth, state, and community levels. Through its projects, grant programs, and events,	Revised A representative from the Multicultural Commission has submitted a comprehensive response to help inform the development and refinement of the draft Cultural Policy. In addition, ongoing consultation and engagement with the South Australian Multicultural Commission (SAMC) will continue. As an organisational framework, the Cultural Policy embeds principles that support ongoing collaboration with the key communities advisory and representative

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Multicultural Affairs also strengthens our multicultural community organisations and showcases who we are as proud multicultural South Australians. In addition, Multicultural Affairs provides policy and executive support to the South Australian Multicultural Commission, which is a statutory body that reports to me.

The Commission plays an important role in raising awareness and understanding of multiculturalism and interculturalism in our South Australian community. It draws on the cultural diversity, skills and experience of its members to provide independent advice to the South Australian government about the advancement of multiculturalism. Information on the Commission's role and membership is available [here](#).

As you implement your Cultural Policy, you may wish to contact the South Australian Multicultural Commission for advice on ways to engage and collaborate with our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. You can contact the South Australian Multicultural Commission at samc@sa.gov.au.

The South Australian Multicultural Charter

Include the South Australian Multicultural Charter among the useful documents listed within the City of Adelaide Cultural Policy.

On 9 March 2023, I was honoured to join our Premier, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, to launch the first South Australian Multicultural Charter. The Charter was prescribed by the *South Australian Multicultural Act 2021*. It acknowledges our state's culturally diverse history and includes six principles to promote a unified, harmonious, and inclusive South Australian community that values, respects and supports diversity. It provides guidance to South Australian government agencies, organisations, institutions, businesses and communities and is a foundation for all South Australian service delivery, policy and program development, by placing cultural diversity at the heart of decision making.

The Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program

groups such as the SAMC and community groups on a variety of matters and plans affecting the City of Adelaide, with the aim of creating a more inclusive and diverse experience of the city.

The Cultural Policy demonstrates a clear commitment to cultural equity and sector growth by supporting culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) artists and creatives, particularly those who are independent or emerging. Under the principle *Amplifying Our Creative Capital*, the policy commits to “support local creatives of all backgrounds, abilities and stages of practice, and nurture cultural jobs and professions through showcasing and employment opportunities.” CALD communities are also identified as a priority population under the *Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected* principle. Additionally, the City outlines its role in “collaborating with the sector and other levels of government to build capacity and capability in the cultural sector.” The policy recognises that the City of Adelaide is part of a broader cultural ecosystem and notes its intent to work with state and federal partners to deliver initiatives that reduce access barriers and strengthen support for underrepresented creatives.

The South Australian Multicultural Charter has been added to the list of documents and relevant reading in the Cultural Policy.

The Policy acknowledges the importance of equitable access to cultural spaces, particularly under the revised *Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected* principle. Recent updates include commitments to “support community-led cultural experiences in City venues and public spaces” and to “develop, facilitate and support affordable, accessible and community-led cultural

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Consider participating in the Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program.

I am committed to encouraging South Australian organisations of all sizes and sectors, including local councils, to embed the South Australian Multicultural Charter's principles in their workforces, policies and service delivery. That is why I launched the Multicultural South Australia Ambassador Program in November 2023. The program includes tailored support, networking opportunities, and group training to empower organisations to make their workplaces more culturally responsive and inclusive, cementing their reputations as leaders and role models in our community.

The Ambassador Program commenced as a six-month pilot, with five leading South Australian organisations, now known as our Foundation Members. We then scaled up the program to include ten diverse South Australian organisations, that have created bespoke Action Plans to activate the Multicultural Charter within their organisations. Two Local Councils have participated in the Ambassador Program so far, including the City of West Torrens (a Foundation Member), and the Rural City of Murray Bridge. I invite the City of Adelaide to consider submitting an Expression of Interest to participate in one of the upcoming rounds of the Ambassador Program, either from June to November 2025, or January to June 2026.

Multicultural communities' access to facilities

Make the city's cultural infrastructure more accessible to multicultural community organisations and groups to create space for cultural expression.

Community facilities deliver valuable social and cultural outcomes, providing safe and welcoming spaces for community members of all ages and backgrounds to gather and interact, reducing social isolation and strengthening community connections and wellbeing.

Many of our European migrant communities that arrived in South Australia during or just after World War 2 were fortunate enough to be able to purchase - at minimal cost- land and/or buildings to establish their community centres, and to grow their assets

experiences year-round," with CALD communities identified as a priority group. While these revisions reflect inclusive intent, the policy only partially addresses the practical barriers faced by multicultural communities. Implementation presents opportunities to strengthen this further through actions such as reviewing hire fee structures, forming partnerships, and addressing infrastructure access disparities for newer migrant communities.

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This was an immense financial gain for these early migrant communities and it continues to benefit them today, with many now owning and operating private health facilities, education institutions and rental premises. The financial growth of these communities has resulted in further long-term economic benefits and strengths to the state, either through investments, infrastructure, the tourism sector, and hosting large festivals and events.

However, migrant communities that arrived in South Australia in the last 25 years have not had the same property and financial advantages. In fact, they are unlikely to ever enjoy the same physical and economic assets of our earlier migrant communities.

For these groups, being able to access affordable community facilities is of great importance, to help them promote community connections and wellbeing, and for cultural expression.

I have heard from the South Australian Multicultural Commission, and from communities directly, about the scarcity of shared multi-purpose local government facilities, and that some cannot accommodate required safe spaces or support cultural practices (such as prayer rooms).

I encourage the City of Adelaide to consider ways to make cultural infrastructure more affordable and accessible to our multicultural community organisations and groups, including by waiving or reducing hire fees and pursuing partnerships.

Expand support for culturally and linguistically diverse artists and creatives

Explore opportunities to support independent artists and creatives from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through grants and other funding.

South Australia has a well-deserved reputation as an arts and festival state, and Adelaide is Australia's first and only UNESCO Creative City of Music.

Our great state is home to incredible artists and creatives working across various forms. However, independent artists from migrant and refugee backgrounds can face additional barriers to developing their practice or

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exhibiting their work, because most grants programs administered by local, state and federal governments require applicants to be professional artists with proven track records of creative achievement. These criteria are especially hard to meet for new arrivals to our state. Noting your Cultural Policy priority to support cultural jobs and creative careers, I encourage the City of Adelaide to continue working with CreateSA (formerly Arts South Australia) and other stakeholders to explore opportunities to support independent artists and creatives from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds through grants and other funding	
Arts Industry Council of SA Co-Chairs, Emma Webb OAM, Jo O’Callaghan, Ruth Weldon and the Executive Committee members with Kim Roberts, General Manager, AICSA	
The Arts Industry Council SA (AICSA) is a non-government not-for-profit acting as an independent voice for the arts in SA. Run by a volunteer Executive Committee and part-time General Manager, AICSA acts on behalf of its members to advocate for a strong future for South Australian artists, arts workers and arts organisations. We are pleased to see City of Adelaide’s recent consultation on the Draft Cultural policy, and further understand that City of Adelaide aims to be Australia’s cultural and creative capital by nurturing careers and sector growth and supporting talent retention, through partnerships and coinvestment. Fundamentally it is essential that Councillors and administration staff alike are aware of the value arts and culture bring to a vibrant and safe city and the need for increased arts engagement and opportunities within their policies and procedures and we applaud the consultation and development work the City of Adelaide has done to develop and deliver this. Here we respond to the draft cultural policy and its five principles of: • Amplifying Our Creative Capital • Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected • Reconciliation and Truth-Telling • Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress	Revised The Cultural Policy affirms the City’s ambition to be Australia’s cultural and creative capital by integrating culture into economic development, employment, urban planning, and social wellbeing—aligning closely with AICSA’s call for stronger recognition of the arts’ civic value. Under the <i>Amplifying Our Creative Capital</i> principle, the City commits to supporting cultural jobs and creative careers through partnerships and co-investment. The <i>Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected</i> principle reflects equity priorities by identifying young people, CALD communities, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, women, and older people as priority groups, and emphasising inclusive access and affordability. The policy also strongly supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination through the <i>Reconciliation and Truth-Telling</i> principle, addressing language, cultural revitalisation, and Kaurna leadership in public art and design. The Policy treats all five principles as interdependent and equally important.

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• Creating Space for Cultural Expression

We suggest a reordering of the five principles. We hope that Reconciliation and Truth-Telling will be at the centre of the policy and would be in fact the first priority above all others. The arts sector as a whole plays an important role in supporting First Nations rights, including reconciliation and truth-telling. In addition to this, we argue that the final priority of Creating Space for Cultural Expressions is the most pressing and urgent aspect of the policy.

We recognise that “creating space” refers to both physical spaces as well as creating the conditions for art-making to occur. Many discussions with our membership have recently highlighted limited access to spaces to create, including live music and performance venues, rehearsal spaces and independent galleries and multi purpose arts spaces. These facilities are limited statewide but especially in the Adelaide CBD. This is highlighted by many urban hubs delivering year round activations in metro Adelaide, (eg. Goodwood Theatre, Warehouse Theatre in Unley, Shedley Theatre in Elizabeth) whilst independent venues within the CBD are rapidly declining, with the recent closures of The Bakehouse Theatre, Prompt Creative, Hades Hula House, My Lover Cindi, along with many others, and with other organisations seeking new offices outside the CBD. We argue this diminishes the cultural ecosystem of the city of Adelaide and the state of South Australia. Artists and creatives no longer have access to affordable venues to present and create work in. We believe more can be done to increase capacity for arts and cultural institutions and independent artists to present work within the City of Adelaide.

As part of the Cultural Policy feedback we encourage an audit on access for both artists and audiences in large and small scale venue infrastructure within the City of Adelaide, and increased investment in the operation of these businesses knowing they can not compete on commercial lease agreements.

We would also suggest that there is a need to highlight another priority, or to rethink Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected principle, to better prioritise issues of access, diversity and inclusion in the policy. We acknowledge the policy has benefited from an inclusive advisory panel, we recommend

The Policy provides a strong foundation for the City of Adelaide to address key gaps and enhance cultural access and sector support. Under the *Creating Space for Cultural Expression* principle, revised wording strengthens the City’s commitment to “expand cultural infrastructure, including activating underutilised spaces and supporting affordable, inclusive access to venues, facilities, and public places.” This opens opportunities for future initiatives or organisational activities such as venue audits, support for non-commercial spaces, and access constraints for creatives. While implementation details are still to come, the policy’s focus on developing clear deliverables and measurable actions will provide a framework to guide funding, timelines, and community-led priorities.

The Policy responds to AICSA’s call for stronger inclusion by identifying young people, older people, people with disabilities, CALD communities, women, and LGBTQIA+ people as priority groups under the *Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected* principle. It commits to integrating intersectionality, equity, and inclusivity into cultural planning and supporting community-led cultural experiences. these revisions reflect inclusive intent, development in implementation to ensure deeper engagement—such as through co-design processes, shared decision-making, and representation in governance and funding outcomes.

The City of Adelaide will further engage with the AICSA on future opportunities, collaborations and partnerships.

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highlighting the intersectionalities of our community and the important role, young people, older people, people living with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women; and LGBTQIA+ communities play within the five guiding principles and how this will shape the cultural policy and its implementation. It is essential to look deeper than participation and access to ensure communities are deeply engaged in delivery, in choices, opportunities and funding outcomes. Our recommendation is to further develop these outcomes and opportunities with a sharper focus on community needs and marginalised voices ensuring representation at all levels or engagement. We look forward to further understanding and collaboration in regard to actions that will take place against this plan as there is limited information shared around how the objectives will be achieved.	
Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia Sisaleo Philavong, Project Officer	
This submission critically analyses the City of Adelaide's draft Cultural Policy 2025-2036 from the perspective of the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia (MCCSA), focusing on accessibility, inclusion, and multicultural representation within Adelaide's cultural landscape. As a committee member with lived experience of cerebral palsy and a professional background in disability and developmental education, I bring intersectional insights to this review. The draft Cultural Policy establishes a foundation for Adelaide's cultural future through its commitment to universal human rights principles and recognition of diverse communities. However, to deliver on its vision of Adelaide as "Australia's cultural and creative capital," the policy must transform symbolic recognition into structural inclusion and community empowerment. This submission identifies specific recommendations supported by contemporary research, population data, and emerging best practices. These recommendations will strengthen the policy's practical application and ensure Adelaide's cultural ecosystem genuinely reflects and includes its diverse	Revised The revised Cultural Policy shows clear progress in global framing and multicultural recognition. It emphasises Adelaide's role as a "global cultural capital," strengthens references to international, national, and local networks, and explicitly acknowledges culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including migrants and refugees. The glossary now defines culture to include "diverse identities shaped by migration and history," and the policy formally recognises the <i>South Australian Multicultural Charter (2021)</i>, reinforcing alignment with inclusive state frameworks. While the policy does not directly address current geopolitical shifts, this reflects its intent as a high-level, principle-driven document designed to ensure long-term relevance and adaptability. The Cultural Policy demonstrates a strong alignment with the principles of inclusion, equity, and diversity, reflecting many of the values articulated in the South Australian

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population - particularly those at the intersection of cultural diversity and disability.

1. Acknowledging the Draft Policy's Strengths

The draft Cultural Policy 2025-2036 demonstrates several strengths:

Ethical foundation:

The policy grounds itself in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commits to equitable cultural participation, providing a solid ethical framework (p. 3).

Recognition of priority groups:

The explicit acknowledgment of 'people living with disabilities' and 'culturally and linguistically diverse communities' as focus populations signals an awareness of the historical barriers these groups have faced in participating fully.

Holistic cultural vision:

The policy articulates a comprehensive understanding of culture spanning traditional forms (heritage, storytelling, food) and contemporary expressions (digital platforms, music, design).

Strategic alignment:

The policy connects with key frameworks, including the City of Adelaide Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028, Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024-2027, and South Australian Multicultural Act 2021.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network:

The policy leverages Adelaide's designation as Australia's only UNESCO Creative City of Music to drive international engagement and cultural development.

These elements create a foundation for a genuinely inclusive cultural policy that better serves all Adelaide residents.

Multicultural Charter—particularly through its focus on cultural accessibility, support for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and a clear commitment to social connection and reconciliation. However, the policy does not explicitly reference the Charter or formally align its principles within the framework as the policy is a high-level, principle-driven document that aligns with multiple strategic frameworks—international (e.g., UNESCO), national (e.g., *Revive: National Cultural Policy*), and state-based (*A Place to Create*)—without privileging or directly citing any single one and to maintain flexibility and avoid overcommitment to one policy lens. While the Cultural Policy does reference the South Australian Multicultural Act 2021, which contains the Charter, and the Charter's principles are embedded by implication rather than requiring explicit inclusion.

The revised Cultural Policy introduces a valuable new commitment under the *Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected* section: to “enable equitable access to digital tools and platforms, and ensure that digital innovation supports cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion.” Additionally, the glossary now defines cultural infrastructure to include “digital platforms that expand cultural access,” acknowledging their growing role in broadening participation. To build on this, relevant action plans and strategies will explore further opportunities to address digital equity—particularly through community-led initiatives delivered via Community Centres and Library programs, as highlighted in community submissions.

While the Cultural Policy 2025–2036 does not establish a dedicated governance framework for cultural equity, it does embed important principles of inclusion, accessibility, and intersectionality throughout its priorities. The policy recognises the importance of community representation

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2. Critical Gaps in the Current Draft While the draft policy demonstrates positive intent, several significant weaknesses undermine its effectiveness as a future-facing document for Adelaide's culturally diverse community: 2.1 Failure to Address Changing Geopolitical and Cultural Landscape Critical Gap: The draft policy operates in a cultural and geopolitical vacuum, ignoring the rapidly evolving global context within which Adelaide's cultural ecosystem must function. Significant international and regional shifts since 2020 have fundamentally altered migration patterns, diaspora community formations, and intercultural dynamics. Impact of Omission - The policy ignores emerging cultural communities from regions experiencing recent conflict, climate displacement, or political instability - It fails to recognise how geopolitical tensions impact intercultural relations and community cohesion within Adelaide - It lacks strategies to navigate the impacts of global polarisation on local cultural expression - It provides no framework for addressing cultural safety concerns for communities experiencing increased vulnerability due to international events According to the 2021 Census data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, South Australia's cultural makeup continues to diversify with emerging communities that weren't present in significant numbers during previous policy development cycles. (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/cultural-diversity-census/2021) The Lowy Institute's Australia in the World poll (2023) demonstrates growing concern about how international conflicts affect community cohesion domestically. (https://poll.lowyinstitute.org/charts/)	and indicates that expert advice and community voices will inform implementation and relevant actions. This will be supported by existing Council advisory structures such as the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel, the Reconciliation Committee, and the Public Art Round Table, which bring diverse perspectives to cultural planning. These bodies offer a foundation for inclusive governance, and there is an opportunity to further strengthen this by ensuring ongoing CALD representation and culturally diverse leadership are formally embedded in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes. The <i>Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected</i> principle of the Policy commits to ensuring that “all people can contribute, participate and be represented in the cultural life of the city.” It explicitly identifies CALD communities—including migrants and refugees—as priority populations for access and inclusion. Under this principle, the Council commits to integrating intersectionality, inclusivity, and equity into cultural planning, and to supporting community-led cultural experiences in City venues and public spaces. These are strong starting points that acknowledge the importance of representation and cultural leadership and lay the groundwork for more participatory approaches in Council business, cultural planning and delivery to ensure cultural equity is embedded not just in intention, but in structure and practice. Additionally, inclusion of “culturally safe” access under this principle marks an important recognition of the need for not only physical and economic access, but also emotional and cultural wellbeing in participation. Embedding this reinforces the City’s responsibility to foster environments where people of diverse backgrounds feel respected, safe, and empowered in cultural spaces.
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2.2 Insufficient Recognition of Digital Transformation in Cultural Expression
Critical Gap: Despite references to "digital platforms," the draft policy inadequately addresses how technological transformation revolutionises cultural production, participation, and community formation - particularly for culturally diverse communities maintaining transnational connections.

Impact of Omission:

- Limited acknowledgment of how digital platforms enable diaspora communities to maintain cultural connections
- No strategies for addressing digital divide issues affecting older CALD community members
- Absence of vision for supporting digitally-native cultural expressions from newer migrant communities
- Lack of consideration for how virtual cultural exchange could enhance Adelaide's international cultural profile

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index consistently highlights that CALD communities and people with disability face additional barriers to digital participation. (<https://www.digitalinclusionindex.org.au/>)

2.3 Inadequate Governance Framework for Cultural Equity

Critical Gap: The policy lacks a robust governance framework to ensure representation and decision-making power for multicultural communities in ongoing policy implementation and evaluation.

Impact of Omission:

- Perpetuation of top-down cultural planning without meaningful, diverse community leadership
- Absence of accountability mechanisms to ensure policy objectives translate into practice
- No commitment to structural representation of CALD communities within cultural governance
- Limited transparency around how cultural investment decisions will be made.

3. Detailed Recommendations with Evidence-Based Rationales

Many of the proposed recommendations and initiatives outlined in the feedback and supporting materials offer valuable insight into potential organisational actions that could inform the implementation of the Policy. They are also relevant to several other strategies and action plans, including those focused on intersectional identity frameworks, multicultural and disability awareness training, cultural safety principles and practices, and the delivery of accessible, multilingual, and inclusive programs and training.

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3.1 Explicitly Align with the South Australian Multicultural Charter

Recommendation: Directly integrate the South Australian Multicultural Charter's principles throughout the policy framework and implementation strategy rather than merely referencing the Multicultural Act 2021 (p. 6).

Detailed Rationale:

The Charter emphasises fundamental principles that must guide the Cultural Policy:

- Recognition and respect for cultural, linguistic and religious diversity
- Enabling full participation in South Australia's social, cultural, economic and political life
- Equitable access to services regardless of cultural background
- Promotion of mutual respect and understanding among all people

According to 2021 Census data, 27.6% of South Australians were born overseas, with significant concentrations in metropolitan Adelaide. This demographic reality demands robust policy architecture that not only acknowledges diversity but actively enables cultural expression and participation. (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/cultural-diversity-census/2021>)

The current policy misses an opportunity to demonstrate how charter principles will operate in cultural planning and delivery. Embedding these principles will transform the policy from tokenistic recognition to genuine inclusion.

The South Australian Multicultural Charter is available at:

<https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/responsibilities/multicultural-affairs/south-australian-multicultural-charter>

Implementation actions:

- Include explicit statements aligning the Cultural Policy with each Charter principle
- Develop specific measurement criteria to evaluate each principle

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- Reference the Charter within each of the five policy principles where relevant
- Create accountability mechanisms for reporting on Charter alignment

3.2 Strengthen Multicultural Community Engagement Mechanisms

Recommendation: Establish structured pathways for direct multicultural community involvement in cultural governance, planning, programming and evaluation - moving beyond consultation to co-design and co-creation.

Detailed Rationale:

The Australian Human Rights Commission's "Sharing Our Stories" report (2021) identifies "cultural gatekeeping" as a significant barrier to participation, where decisions about cultural programming and investment occur without meaningful input from diverse communities. (<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination/publications/sharing-our-stories-guidelines-heritage-and-culture>)

The Settlement Council of Australia's "Settlement in Regional Australia" report highlights barriers newly arrived communities face in accessing cultural opportunities. (<https://scoa.org.au/publications/>)

The City of Adelaide's community profile indicates that over 100 cultural and linguistic groups reside within the council area. Yet, the policy provides no specific mechanisms to ensure their direct involvement in cultural planning and delivery.

Implementation actions:

- Establish a dedicated CALD Cultural Advisory Group with formal links to Council cultural planning
- Allocate resources for community cultural brokers to facilitate genuine engagement
- Create multilingual consultation processes with accessibility accommodations
- Develop specific pathways for emerging and established multicultural communities

Attachment B

- Implement weighted representation to ensure smaller communities have a meaningful voice
- Resource ethno-specific cultural initiatives through dedicated funding streams

3.3 Acknowledge and Address Intersectionality

Recommendation: Embed a comprehensive intersectionality framework throughout the policy that recognises the compound impact of overlapping identities - particularly the intersection of cultural background, language, disability, age, gender, and migration experience.

Detailed Rationale:

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) has produced several reports on the intersection of cultural diversity and disability, including their accessible resources guide, which demonstrates the complexities of addressing these intersecting identities.
(<https://fecca.org.au/resources/>)

The National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) has documented how people with disability from CALD backgrounds experience "invisibility" within both disability services and cultural community settings.
(<https://www.neda.org.au/publications>)

Current policy language lists these groups rather than acknowledging the unique challenges faced at these intersections.

Implementation actions:

- Develop an intersectionality audit tool for all cultural programs and venues
- Establish targeted support for people experiencing multiple barriers
- Collect and analyse participation data across intersectional categories
- Create specific programming that addresses compound disadvantage
- Ensure representative diversity among decision-makers and cultural workers

3.4 Implement Comprehensive Intercultural Intelligence and Disability Awareness Training

Attachment B

Recommendation: Mandate ongoing intercultural intelligence and disability awareness training for all staff, service providers, funded organisations, and contractors delivering cultural programs and services under the policy.

Detailed Rationale:

Intercultural intelligence (also known as cultural intelligence or CQ) provides essential frameworks for effectively bridging cultural differences in policy implementation. The Commonwealth Government's Australia in the Asian Century White Paper specifically identified intercultural intelligence as a core capability for Australian organisations operating in multicultural contexts. (<https://apo.org.au/node/31241>)

The Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing offers frameworks for intercultural intelligence training specifically designed for the Australian context, emphasising the distinction between cultural awareness (knowledge) and intercultural intelligence (skills and adaptive capabilities). (<https://www.culturaldiversity.com.au/training/cultural-intelligence-program>)

The National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) reports that even well-intentioned staff inadvertently create exclusionary environments due to a limited understanding of how culture impacts disability experiences. (<https://www.neda.org.au/publications>)

The Australian Human Rights Commission provides evidence that training interventions must be continuous rather than one-off to create lasting change in institutional practices. (<https://humanrights.gov.au/education/training-resources>)

Implementation actions:

- Develop comprehensive intercultural intelligence training covering:
 - Moving beyond cultural awareness to cultural adaptability
 - Intercultural communication strategies across diverse contexts
 - Cultural dimensions of disability

Attachment B

Cultural safety in program design and delivery Accessible communication across languages and abilities Migration trauma and its impact on participation Inclusive practices for public events and exhibitions - Require training completion before funding allocation - Include refresher training in funding agreements - Evaluate training impact through participant feedback and practice change - Create partnerships with specialised providers such as Diversity Australia and the Australian Intercultural Society to deliver targeted training programs - Develop train-the-trainer models to build ongoing internal capacity 3.5 Foster Cultural Intelligence and Safety Recommendation: Integrate cultural intelligence (CQ) and cultural safety principles throughout the policy implementation, including program design, venue management, funding criteria, and evaluation frameworks. Detailed Rationale: Cultural intelligence research demonstrates that it goes beyond awareness to include adaptive capabilities necessary for genuine inclusion. Cultural safety requires that: - Organisations use language respectfully - Staff observe cultural protocols - Venues respond to community concerns - Programs create spaces free from judgement or stereotyping The current policy lacks explicit attention to creating environments where people feel their cultural identity is respected, protected, and welcome. For information on cultural safety frameworks relevant to Australian contexts, see: https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/about+sa+health/cultural+safety.	
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Attachment B

Implementation actions:

- Develop cultural safety guidelines for all Council cultural venues
- Incorporate cultural intelligence measures in staff performance frameworks
- Train venue managers in cultural safety principles
- Create cultural safety audit tools for funded organisations
- Establish feedback mechanisms for community members to report safety concerns
- Implement consequences for cultural safety breaches by funded organisations

3.6 Provide Dedicated Community Cultural Spaces

Recommendation: Allocate physical spaces specifically for multicultural community management and use, providing infrastructure for cultural maintenance, celebration, and exchange.

Detailed Rationale:

The Scanlon Foundation's Mapping Social Cohesion Report regularly examines factors affecting multicultural community cohesion, with community spaces identified as important infrastructure.

(<https://scanloninstitute.org.au/mapping-social-cohesion>)

Multicultural NSW has documented the importance of dedicated spaces for newer migrant communities who lack established infrastructure and face barriers to accessing mainstream venues.

(<https://multicultural.nsw.gov.au/publications/>)

The current policy contains no specific commitment to physical infrastructure for multicultural communities beyond general statements about cultural infrastructure.

Implementation actions:

- Audit existing Council-owned spaces for potential community management
- Develop a dedicated multicultural hub with performance, exhibition, and gathering spaces

Attachment B

- Create multilingual community kitchen facilities for food-based cultural activities
- Establish a subsidised access program for community-managed cultural spaces
- Support community ownership models through capacity building and resources
- Develop clear governance frameworks for community-managed cultural spaces

3.7 Fund Community-Led Cultural Celebrations

Recommendation: Establish dedicated funding streams for grassroots multicultural events and celebrations, prioritising emerging communities and those with limited access to mainstream resources.

Detailed Rationale:

The Settlement Council of Australia identifies community-led celebrations as critical vehicles for cultural maintenance and intercultural exchange.
(<https://scoa.org.au/publications/>)

Deloitte Access Economics has produced several reports on the economic value of festivals and events, demonstrating their benefit beyond cultural outcomes.
(<https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/topics/economic-analysis.html>)

MCCSA data indicates that over 40 significant cultural celebrations occur annually across Adelaide's communities. Yet, many receive minimal or inconsistent support, limiting their reach and sustainability.

Implementation actions:

- Create a dedicated multicultural celebrations fund with simplified application processes
- Establish multi-year funding agreements for established cultural events

Attachment B

- Provide grants officer support for communities unfamiliar with application processes
- Develop mentoring relationships between established and emerging festival organisers
- Create shared resource pools (equipment, marketing, venues) for community celebrations
- Measure and promote the economic and social impact of funded celebrations

3.8 Ensure Accessible and Multilingual Communication

Recommendation: Implement comprehensive communication accessibility standards for all cultural information, programming, and promotional materials, including multiple languages and accessible formats.

Detailed Rationale:

The Meeting of Cultural Ministers' review of the National Arts and Disability Strategy (2019) identified information accessibility as one of the most significant barriers for culturally diverse people with disability. Even well-funded programs fail when communities cannot access or interpret materials.
(<https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/access-and-participation/national-arts-and-disability-strategy>)

Effective communication requires multiple overlapping strategies, including:

- Auslan interpretation at events and in promotional videos
- Easy English versions of key information
- Braille and large print materials
- Audio description for visual elements
- Screen reader-compatible digital content
- Translated materials in key community languages
- Cultural mediators to facilitate engagement

Implementation actions:

- Develop comprehensive accessibility guidelines for all Council cultural communications

Attachment B

- Create a translation fund for cultural organisations to access professional services
- Implement language identification tools on all digital platforms
- Train staff in creating accessible communications
- Audit all cultural venue information for accessibility compliance
- Create an accessibility checklist for all funded events and programs
- Establish a community translation verification process to ensure quality

3.9 Increase Inclusive Employment in the Cultural Sector

Recommendation: Establish targeted pathways for employment, leadership, and professional development for people from CALD backgrounds and people with disability within Adelaide's cultural institutions and creative industries.

Detailed Rationale:

The Australia Council for the Arts "Making Art Work" research provides data on diversity in the arts workforce. (<https://australiacouncil.gov.au/advocacy-and-research/making-art-work/>)

Arts Access Australia works to improve employment outcomes for artists with disability through targeted programs and advocacy. (<https://artsaccessaustralia.org/resources/>)

Diversity Arts Australia's "Shifting the Balance" study examined representation in Australia's cultural institutions. (<https://diversityarts.org.au/tools-research/shifting-the-balance-research/>)

The policy makes a general commitment to "support cultural jobs and creative careers". However, it lacks specific measures to address the historical exclusion of marginalised communities from the cultural workforce.

Implementation actions:

- Establish paid internships specifically for CALD people with disability
- Create a cultural sector diversity employment target with accountability measures

Attachment B

- Develop subsidised training programs for underrepresented communities
- Implement mentoring programs with established cultural sector leaders
- Support cultural entrepreneurship through targeted business development
- Create pathways from community cultural practice to professional opportunities
- Ensure accessible workplaces with appropriate adaptive technologies

3.10 Track Cultural Participation and Inclusion Metrics

Recommendation: Develop comprehensive data collection and analysis frameworks to measure participation, representation, and outcomes across cultural programs, with detailed demographic analysis.

Detailed Rationale:

Diversity Arts Australia emphasises the importance of measurement in creating change. (<https://diversityarts.org.au/tools-research/>)

The Australian Human Rights Commission notes that cultural institutions often lack baseline data on who accesses (or cannot access) their programs, making it difficult to address gaps effectively. (<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/rights-and-freedoms/publications>)

Current measurement approaches typically count attendance without demographic analysis, masking disparities in participation across different communities.

Implementation actions:

- Establish baseline participation measures across cultural programs
- Collect disaggregated data on participation by cultural background, language, disability status, and other relevant factors
- Implement consistent evaluation methodologies across Council cultural programs
- Develop community-designed evaluation metrics that reflect community priorities
- Create multilingual feedback mechanisms

Attachment B

- Publish annual diversity and inclusion reports with transparent metrics
- Use data to drive resource allocation and program development

3.11 Establish Dedicated Accessibility and Multicultural Funding Pools

Recommendation: Create protected funding streams specifically for accessibility improvements and multicultural initiatives within the cultural budget.

Detailed Rationale:

The South Australian Multicultural Act 2021 encourages public authorities to allocate resources to support multicultural policy objectives. Without dedicated funding, these objectives remain aspirational rather than operational. (<https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz?path=/c/a/multicultural%20act%202021>)

The National Arts and Disability Strategy emphasises the need for dedicated accessibility funding to overcome historical underinvestment of inaccessible cultural infrastructure and programming. (<https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/access-and-participation/national-arts-and-disability-strategy>)

CALD communities often face barriers to accessing general funding pools due to:

- Limited grant-writing capacity or experience
- Lack of established relationships with funding bodies
- Unfamiliarity with application processes
- Language barriers in application materials
- Requirements for matched funding

Implementation actions:

- Establish a dedicated multicultural arts fund
- Create an accessibility infrastructure improvement fund
- Implement simplified application processes in multiple languages
- Provide grant-writing support for first-time applicants
- Develop percentage-based allocation from the overall cultural budget
- Create reporting frameworks that demonstrate outcomes and impact

Attachment B

- Secure multi-year funding commitments to enable sustainable planning

3.12 Develop Approaches for Navigating Geopolitical Impacts

Recommendation: Incorporate frameworks and strategies for addressing how global geopolitical shifts affect Adelaide's cultural landscape, intercommunity relations, and cultural safety.

Detailed Rationale:

The Lowy Institute regularly tracks how international relations affect Australian communities and social cohesion.

(<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/subject/australian-foreign-relations>)

The Australian Government's Social Cohesion Framework acknowledges the impact of global events on local communities.

(<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/social-cohesion>)

The draft policy operates in a geopolitical vacuum, failing to acknowledge how global events shape local cultural dynamics and community needs.

Implementation actions:

- Develop cultural mediation protocols for navigating sensitive international issues
- Create neutral dialogue spaces for communities affected by international tensions
- Establish rapid response mechanisms for cultural safety during periods of heightened international conflict
- Provide training for cultural workers on conflict-sensitive programming
- Engage diaspora communities in developing appropriate cultural responses to international events
- Create ethical frameworks for cultural exchange with regions experiencing political tensions

4. Conclusion and Future Directions

Attachment B

The City of Adelaide's draft Cultural Policy 2025-2036 establishes the necessary foundations for developing a vibrant, inclusive cultural ecosystem. However, to truly deliver on its vision of Adelaide as Australia's cultural and creative capital, the policy must transform symbolic recognition into structural inclusion while acknowledging the complex global context in which local cultural practices exist.

The recommendations outlined in this submission provide a roadmap for transforming how cultural policy operates. By adopting these evidence-based approaches, the City of Adelaide can:

1. Create a cultural landscape that authentically reflects its demographic diversity
2. Ensure equitable access and participation for all residents
3. Position Adelaide as a national leader in inclusive cultural practice
4. Generate economic and social returns through expanded cultural participation
5. Build stronger, more connected communities through shared cultural experiences
6. Develop resilience in navigating global tensions that affect local cultural relations

As a city with rich cultural diversity and a progressive approach to inclusion, Adelaide has the opportunity to become a national and international exemplar of culturally inclusive practice. Doing so will align with the UNESCO Creative Cities mission referenced in the policy and position Adelaide as a genuinely global cultural capital—one that embraces and celebrates its whole demographic reality.

MCCSA commits to working collaboratively with the City of Adelaide to implement these recommendations and create a cultural policy that ensures every story is valued, every voice is heard, and every culture is celebrated.

Art Gallery of South Australia

Deputy Director, Emma Fey

Attachment B

Overall comments: • Excellent to see the City commit to a Cultural Policy, bringing together key threads of amplification and connection, across local, national and international platforms • Pleased that the Policy encompasses the entire expanse of the City, and its subsidiaries for a united, integrated approach • Important to see the connections across the City's strategic plan, and iconic differentiators such as the UNESCO designation • In reading the policy, we were looking for the intentionality of the policy - e.g. the articulation of the City's active role in cultivation, creation and investment in regards to landmark arts and cultural offerings/infrastructure that will contribute to defining Adelaide. We note that supporting and amplifying are critical tenets, and this comment is not to disregard how important these aspects are. • There are some very exciting opportunities for AGSA to lean into this policy position with the City; particularly given AGSA's vision to be the most inspiring art destination in Australia: ○ building local, national and international partnerships to deliver destination-making cultural experiences available to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year that drive emotional connections with Adelaide as well as a strong economic impact, ○ Tarnanthi – the nations' leading First Nations visual arts festival that grows artists and creative ideas from early seeds through to full production, and engages with thousands of First Nations artists and vast audiences across the CBD (and beyond), ○ Nurturing and growing future audiences for arts and cultural experiences across the city, ○ The development and amplification of live music and building the talent and audience pipeline, ○ As custodian of a significant heritage and contemporaneous collection of visual art that is made available to residents and visitors from far and wide, and so much more Principle – Amplifying Creative Capital	Revised The revised purpose expands the City's ambition by positioning Adelaide as a "global cultural capital" through to 2036, while the policy now explicitly commits to leveraging partnerships across international, national, state, and local levels—supporting AGSA's vision for building destination-making cultural experiences. The amplified emphasis on Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music status reinforces its global cultural identity, while expanded language under the <i>Amplifying Our Creative Capital</i> principle strengthens Council's role in driving cultural tourism and supporting creative careers. The policy also highlights the delivery of affordable, accessible, and community-led cultural experiences, indicating openness to collaboration with cultural institutions such as AGSA in precinct-based programming. There are opportunities to further articulate the City's leadership in initiating and co-investing in landmark cultural infrastructure and major artistic initiatives—ensuring Adelaide's cultural ambitions are matched by bold, strategic action. These opportunities for initiatives and actions are to be developed and detailed as part of implementation and organisational planning.
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Attachment B

- The focus on amplification underscores the earlier reflection - perhaps this is a language nuance with the wording of the 'Lead' point.
- This principle is both addressing local opportunities (connecting, amplifying) and international with a focus on Unesco creative cities, but there seems to be an opportunity to bring these together

Principle – Culturally inclusive

- Curious about the decision to itemise the focus areas when collectively they cover such a broad scope? Is this for a specific reason?
- This is a powerful and exciting pillar – the outcomes will always be in the how, action and decisions around engagement and investment

Principle Reconciliation and Truth Telling – excellent to see

Principle Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing progress

- Appreciate the principles of looking back and looking forward, and wonder if there could be stronger integration between Reconciliation and Truth Telling and this pillar.

Principle Creating Space for Cultural Expression

- Celebrate this pillar for the way it captures the need for ideas and infrastructure to realise them
- Under the 'Enable' strand, curious about the word *safe* and what is intended by its use here. I also wondered about the emphasis on events in this section. Is that intentional or intended to be a broader expression?
- Under 'promote' strand, what is intended by the use of the word 'Celebrate'?

Attachment B

City of Adelaide Committees, Subsidiaries and Advisory Panels:

During April and May 2025, further consultation was undertaken with City of Adelaide Committees, subsidiaries, and advisory panels through a combination of email, in-person meetings, and direct engagement. Their feedback and input is below:

Adelaide Economic Development Agency AEDA Advisory Committee	
The AEDA Advisory Committee were supportive of the direction of the policy and the value that the cultural sector brings to the life of the City including its economy. - During the discussion the following points were raised: - The impact of cultural shifts on the night time entertainment economy and the need for policies and programs to be delivered collaboratively with businesses and property owners, noting it could be difficult to reestablish entertainment venues once they have been closed and the property owner considers using those venues for other purposes.. - The Policy could be strengthened by recognising the City's position the City as a gateway to South Australia's regional areas. This would involve thinking about how we celebrate or reflect our State's outback and agricultural cultural heritage. • Youth engagement could be strengthened, and the Policy should have greater focus on attracting young people and fostering their cultural connection to the City.	Revised The Cultural Policy recognises the vital role of culture in shaping the life and economy of the City. Through the <i>Amplifying Our Creative Capital</i> principle, it commits to supporting cultural jobs and creative careers as drivers of economic growth, innovation, and employment. It also acknowledges Adelaide as a “vibrant gateway to the regions,” reflecting its broader cultural identity within South Australia. Young people are identified as a priority group under the <i>Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected</i> principle, with a commitment to inclusive participation across diverse communities. While this demonstrates a clear intent, the Policy will allow for opportunities to further support this by developing specific, co-designed initiatives that foster young people's creative development and cultural engagement across the organisation in a variety of strategies and action plans.
Adelaide Central Market Authority	
No further comment or feedback.	Noted
Reconciliation Committee	
No further comment or feedback.	Noted
Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel	
No further comment or feedback.	Noted
Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority	
No further comment or feedback.	Noted

Attachment B

[Copies of Submissions from External Parties can be found here.](#) Please note that submissions from emails are presented verbatim in the tables above.