

Museum Collection Management, Acquisition and Exhibitions Policy

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009
Moreton Bay Region Community Plan 2011-2021
Corporate Plan 2017-2022

Objective

To establish a framework for the management of Moreton Bay Regional Council's Museum Collection and Exhibition Programs.

Definitions

Core collection means heritage objects acquired for the purposes of preservation, display and research.

De-accession means the removal, sale, or disposal of a heritage object from the Museum Collections.

Exhibition Programs means Council managed exhibitions and associated public programs such as workshops, guided tours, and children's activities taking place in Museums.

Heritage Object means item or object with relevant historical significance.

Keeping Place means houses heritage objects, art and/or information relating to the history, heritage and culture of Aboriginal Australia.

Museum Collection means the Moreton Bay Regional Council Museum Collection. The Museum Collection is comprised of two sub-collections: the Core collection and Secondary collection.

Museums means the Pine Rivers Heritage Museum, Redcliffe Museum and Bribie Island Seaside Museum.

Provenance means the historical information regarding ownership, use and manufacture of an object.

Region means the Moreton Bay Regional Council area.

Secondary collection means heritage objects used for the purposes of working models, education and interpretation, loan to educational organisations, promotional display, research, and/or for the preservation of items in the Core collection.

Significance means the historical, social, scientific and aesthetic values that an object or collection has for past, present and future generations.

Policy Statement

The Moreton Bay Regional Council Museum Collection is a significant collection of heritage objects held by Council's Museums. The heritage objects that make up the Museum Collection are material evidence of the natural and cultural environments that have existed across the region and as such are fundamental to our region's spirit and identity.

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Council recognises the important role that the Museum Collection plays as a source of public reference and as a resource for the development of historically-significant exhibitions for its network of Museums. The Museum Collections also provide opportunities to showcase the history of the Moreton Bay region at a state and national level through the loan of heritage objects to other like-minded institutions.

Underpinned by Council's Cultural Strategy, which outlines the overall strategic direction for Arts, Culture and Heritage for the region, this policy provides a framework for the development and management of Council's Museum Collection as well as the curation and delivery of high quality Exhibition Programs.

Museum Collection – Development and Management.

The Museum Collection is comprised of two sub-collections: a 'core collection' and a 'secondary collection'. The core collection is primarily used for preservation, display and research while the secondary collection allows for objects to be used for the following purposes:

- Hands-on use as working models;
- Education and interpretation;
- Loans to educational organisations;
- Promotional display;
- Research; and
- For the preservation of items in the Core collection.

Acquisitions and de-accessions

Items for Council's collection are consciously selected for their capacity to build up a composite picture of essential themes in the history of the Region. Therefore, all heritage objects will be assessed against the following acquisition criteria before acceptance into Museum Collection:

1. **Regional relevance:** the heritage object should:
 - 1.1. have been made or used in the region or be comparable to a heritage object used in the region;
or
 - 1.2. have a proven association with a known individual, some event or a period in the history of, or technology developed or employed in the region;
2. **Essential themes:** the heritage object should meet one of the following essential themes in the history of the region:
 - Indigenous history. Indigenous heritage objects must only be collected with full consent of relevant stakeholders;
 - European exploration and settlement in the region and significant families and individuals;
 - Timber-getting and land-clearing;
 - Farming;
 - Local industry;
 - Commerce and trading;
 - Transport;
 - Domestic life;
 - Education and religion;
 - Local government;
 - Military service;
 - Services such as postal, electricity, water, health;
 - Entertainment and recreational activities;
 - Natural environment;
3. **Establishment of Provenance:** the heritage object should have established Provenance.
4. **Maintenance and conservation:** the heritage object should have manageable maintenance and conservation requirements.

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5. **Storage:** there should be availability of appropriate storage for the object. Large items may not be collected if space is not available to accommodate them in perpetuity. In such instances, where the items are of historical or technological significance, photographic records may be taken for archival purposes.
6. **Constraints:** wherever possible the Museums should obtain the necessary copyright clearance associated with the object. The heritage object should also be taken into the collection unencumbered by onerous restraints or conditions by donors; and
7. **Consideration of other institutions:** acquisition of the object should take into consideration the acquisition priorities of other institutions and keeping places.

From time to time, Council may be required to de-accession heritage objects from the Museum collection. De-accessioning of heritage objects is a serious and rigorous process which requires careful consideration before actioning. Possible reasons for de-accessioning objects include:

- the heritage object being damaged beyond repair or conservation, or requiring conservation disproportionate to its significance;
- repatriation of cultural material to an Indigenous community with proof of a valid claim;
- the object no longer relating to the acquisition criteria;
- appropriate storage space no longer being available; and
- theft or loss.

This process will be managed in accordance with the de-accession principles outlined in the Museum Collection Management, Acquisitions and Exhibitions guidelines.

Museum Exhibition Programs

Exhibitions presented in Council museums will include a mixture of touring exhibitions, locally-developed curated exhibitions and community-initiated exhibitions. Council is committed to developing, implementing and promoting Exhibition Programs in accordance with the following criteria.

- **Historical significance:** Exhibition Programs should be of strong historical significance and integrity;
- **Relevance:** Exhibition Programs should demonstrate the exploration of local, regional and national heritage issues and/or be of relevance to the Museum Collection;
- **Coherence:** Exhibition Programs should contribute to strategic programming across Council's network of Museums;
- **Audience development:** Exhibition Programs should meet audience targets by meaningfully engaging with established audiences of the region and/or creatively attracting new audiences; and
- **Best-practice:** Exhibition Programs should be in-line with industry standards such as exhibition development timelines and standards of display in the presentation and interpretation of exhibitions.

Related Documents

This Policy complements and is to be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies, directives and relevant documents published by other agencies including, but not limited to:

Cultural Strategy
Museum Collection Management, Acquisitions and Exhibitions guidelines (A8259942)

Review and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents.

A review of this policy will occur by June 2022.

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by the Manager Cultural Services; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by the Director Community & Environmental Services.

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