

Heritage Collection Policy

| Council Policy - Strategic | |
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| Corporate Plan Link: | Our Vibrant Communities |
| Policy Owner: | General Manager, Community and Environmental Services |
| Responsible Manager: | Manager, Cultural Services |
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Objective

This policy outlines the City of Moreton Bay's approach for acquiring and managing objects to build the City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection.

Statement

The City of Moreton Bay (Council), through its Corporate Plan, is committed to providing services that deliver our communities' shared vision: *Our Moreton Bay. Amazing places. Natural spaces.* Underpinned by Council's Community and Wellbeing Strategy which outlines the overall strategic direction for Arts, Culture and Heritage for our City, this policy provides a framework for collecting objects to build the City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection.

The City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection is important as a record of the City's history and a source of reference and inspiration. It stimulates public discussion and debate and returns long-term cultural benefits to Council and its communities.

The Heritage Collection provides opportunities to showcase the cultural capital of the City of Moreton Bay through its museums network and through loans to and from other cultural institutions. The objects that make up the Heritage Collection are material evidence of the natural and cultural environments that have existed across our City and are, as such, fundamental to our City's spirit and identity.

Council is committed to developing a quality Heritage Collection of relevant and significant objects, most of which are acquired through donations processes. However, in accordance with the Heritage Collection Management Guidelines, objects may occasionally be purchased to represent significant moments in our City's stories and histories.

Acquisition of Heritage Objects

All objects are assessed against the Council's acquisition criteria, as listed below, before being accepted, or rejected for inclusion in the Heritage Collection.

- **Relevance:** The object demonstrates a rare, uncommon, or endangered aspect of history, builds an understanding of our City, demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement, has a strong cultural association, or represents the life or works of a prominent person, group, or organisation in our City.
- **Significance:** The object has strong provenance to our City, a proven association with a prominent individual, event, or significant period, or is technology developed or utilised in our City.
- **Regional reference:** The object depicts a high-quality representation of social, cultural, or spiritual characteristics and plays a significant part in the evolution or pattern of our City's histories.
- **Exhibition:** The object is suitable, practical, and transportable for exhibition.
- **Provenance and title:** The object should have legal title and provenance established.
- **Constraints:** The object is unencumbered by onerous restraints.
- **Maintenance, preservation, and conservation:** The object has manageable maintenance, preservation and conservation requirements. A condition report should be conducted if able / appropriate.

- **Storage** - There is practical and appropriate storage at City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection facilities for the proposed object/s.

Council will not accept gifts or donations of objects that do not meet these criteria.

In addition to this Policy, donations made under the Cultural Gifts Program and any other similar Federal Government programs will be managed in accordance with Federal government specifications and associated tax laws.

Acquisition of First Nations works are guided by the principles set out in the Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material and will follow Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property protocols. Council staff will consult and collaborate with relevant traditional custodians or authorised representatives as appropriate.

Management of the Heritage Collection

The City of Moreton Bay undertakes the managerial, operational, and custodial requirements to care for the Heritage Collection appropriately. Each object varies in its composition, materials used, age, historical relevance, and connection to people, culture, place, and community. Each object needs to be considered, assessed, and cared for individually.

Council takes a preventative approach to managing the Heritage Collection, employing risk-reducing practices to limit restoration or conservation and maintain its integrity and significance. Its holistic care is based on currently recognised museum collection management practices.

The lending of Heritage Collection objects to suitable organisations is supported as it promotes the Heritage Collection, our museums, and the City of Moreton Bay.

De-acquisition of Heritage Objects

Council may be required to deaccession objects from the Heritage Collection, and reasons for this can include:

- The object being damaged beyond repair or conservation or requiring conservation disproportionate to its significance.
- The cost of preservation, storage and / or maintenance outweighing significance.
- The object is considered a duplicate.
- The object lacks clarity on provenance or legal title.
- The object is subject to a valid repatriation of cultural material or another legal claim.
- The object is not considered relevant to the collection and its ongoing inclusion devalues resources, and or, the overall significance of the collection.
- The object would be more appropriately housed in another public institution's collection.
- The object poses harm to other items in the collection, storage facilities, staff, contractors and / or members of the public.
- Theft or loss.

An object may be the subject of deaccessioning, regardless of the method by which it was acquired.

Deaccessioning Heritage Collection objects is a serious and rigorous process that requires careful consideration before action. Deaccessioning is conducted in a transparent and ethical manner. This process is managed in accordance with the deaccession principles and work instructions outlined in the Heritage Collection Management Guidelines.

Objects received through the Cultural Gifts Program will be deaccessioned in line with this policy, however the object will not be returned to the donor, as the donor has already received the benefit of a tax deduction for the gift.

Application

Council - wide.

Related Documents

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 2009*

Council documents

- Community Wellbeing Strategy
- Heritage Collection Management Guidelines

Other resources

- National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries
- Australian Best Practice Guide to Collecting Cultural Material | Office for the Arts
- Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts - Creative Australia
- Cultural Gifts Program | Office for the Arts

Definitions

| Term | Definition |
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| Acquisition | The process of obtaining heritage collection items. Heritage collection items may be acquired through a variety of means including gift, bequest, purchase, award and commission with the purpose of accessioning into the City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection |
| City | Moreton Bay City Council Local Government Area |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer of Moreton Bay City Council |
| Council | City of Moreton Bay / Moreton Bay City Council |
| Councillors | The Mayor and Councillors of the Moreton Bay City Council |
| Deaccession | The removal, sale, or disposal of a heritage collection item from the Heritage Collection. |
| Gift | Any donation of a heritage item by an individual or organisation is categorised as a gift. This includes Cultural Gift donations through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program |
| Heritage Collection | The City of Moreton Bay Heritage Collection is a collection of heritage objects that meet acquisition criteria and are stored, managed, curated and available for exhibition within Council museums. |
| Museums | Locations that are City of Moreton Bay owned and managed museums. |
| Provenance | A record of the history of ownership of a work of art, object or literature, used as a guide to authenticity or quality. |

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