

Sunshine Coast Council  
**Arts and Heritage Levy**  
**Annual Report**  
**2023-24**



Edition November 2024

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### Acknowledgements

Council wishes to thank all contributors and stakeholders involved in the development of this document.

### Reference document

This document should be cited as follows:

Sunshine Coast Council Arts and Heritage Levy Annual Report 2023-24

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**Cover image:** Plein air event at Bankfoot House, as part of the Land Holds Memory exhibition at Caloundra Regional Gallery.

## Traditional acknowledgement

Sunshine Coast Council acknowledges the Sunshine Coast Country, home of the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples, the Traditional Custodians, whose lands and waters we all now share.

We recognise that these have always been places of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance. The Traditional Custodians' unique values, and ancient and enduring cultures, deepen and enrich the life of our community.

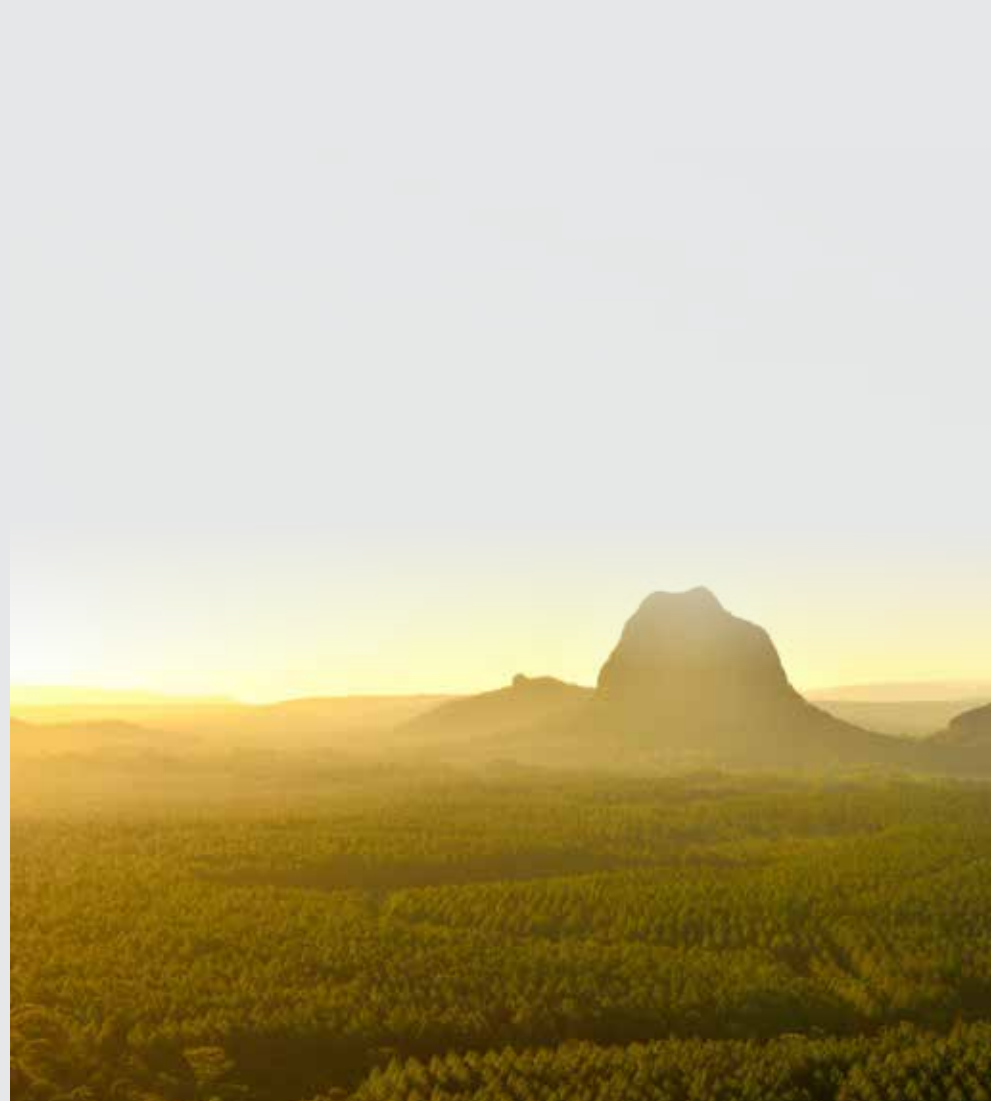
We commit to working in partnership with the Traditional Custodians and the broader First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) communities to support self-determination through economic and community development.

Truth telling is a significant part of our journey. We are committed to better understanding the collective histories of the Sunshine Coast and the experiences of First Nations peoples. Legacy issues resulting from colonisation are still experienced by Traditional Custodians and First Nations peoples.

We recognise our shared history and will continue to work in partnership to provide a foundation for building a shared future with the Kabi Kabi peoples and the Jinibara peoples.

We wish to pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role First Nations peoples continue to play within the Sunshine Coast community.

Together, we are all stronger.





# Message from our Mayor and Strong Community Portfolio Councillors

**Our Sunshine Coast community, our sense of belonging and our identity are intrinsically shaped and influenced by our region's rich arts and cultural heritage.**

Programs that enhance this cultural vitality underpin our community's sense of self and, as a result, are funded through our Arts and Heritage Levy, which all Sunshine Coast ratepayers contribute.

It provides our community and future communities with opportunities to engage with this region's arts and heritage, whether it is as a practitioner in either the creative arts or heritage sectors, an audience member or consumer. The levy truly helps to preserve, develop and support arts and cultural heritage across the region.

In 2023-24, the heritage program, funded by the levy, supported a range of projects and initiatives.

Highlights included a series of free community heritage events celebrating First Nations Peoples and culture, sporting history and built heritage; funding programs to support local museums and research groups; and professional development training and assistance.

The arts program, also funded by the levy, helped develop local artists and local content; helped grow local participation and audiences; and embedded art and creativity into the identity and experience of our Sunshine Coast.

Highlights included a successful artist-in-residence program, a number of First Nations-led creative programs and the Creative Industries Investment Program which provides grants and professional development for established arts and cultural initiatives that support the development of our region's arts ecology.

The support and leadership of volunteers is vital to the success of the levy-funded programs. We acknowledge and thank the countless volunteers, whether they be industry advisors, partners and mentors, or those giving their time in our museums or galleries. You make a difference in the lives of Sunshine Coast residents.

Our community, as a whole, is well-served by our region's arts and cultural heritage offering and we are delighted to support this report.

**Mayor Rosanna Natoli**  
**Councillor Taylor Bunnag**  
**Councillor David Law**



## About your Arts and Heritage Levy and where did your Arts and Heritage Levy go in 2023-24?

Council demonstrates its commitment to supporting arts and cultural heritage outcomes through the collection of the Levy, recognising the important role that both sectors and industries play in shaping and influencing our sense of community, belonging, cultural vitality and identity in a time of unprecedented growth and change.

In 2023-24 the Arts and Heritage Levy, paid by all rateable properties as part of the annual rates payment, was increased by \$2 to \$18. The Arts Program directed \$4 to achieve the vision and goals of the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038, and the \$14 Heritage Program delivers the outcomes of the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031.

The total Arts and Heritage Levy revenue in 2023-24 was **\$2,768,122**

In 2023-24 the arts component of the Levy was **\$4** per annum per rateable property

Total Arts Program investment in 2023-24 was **\$612,572**

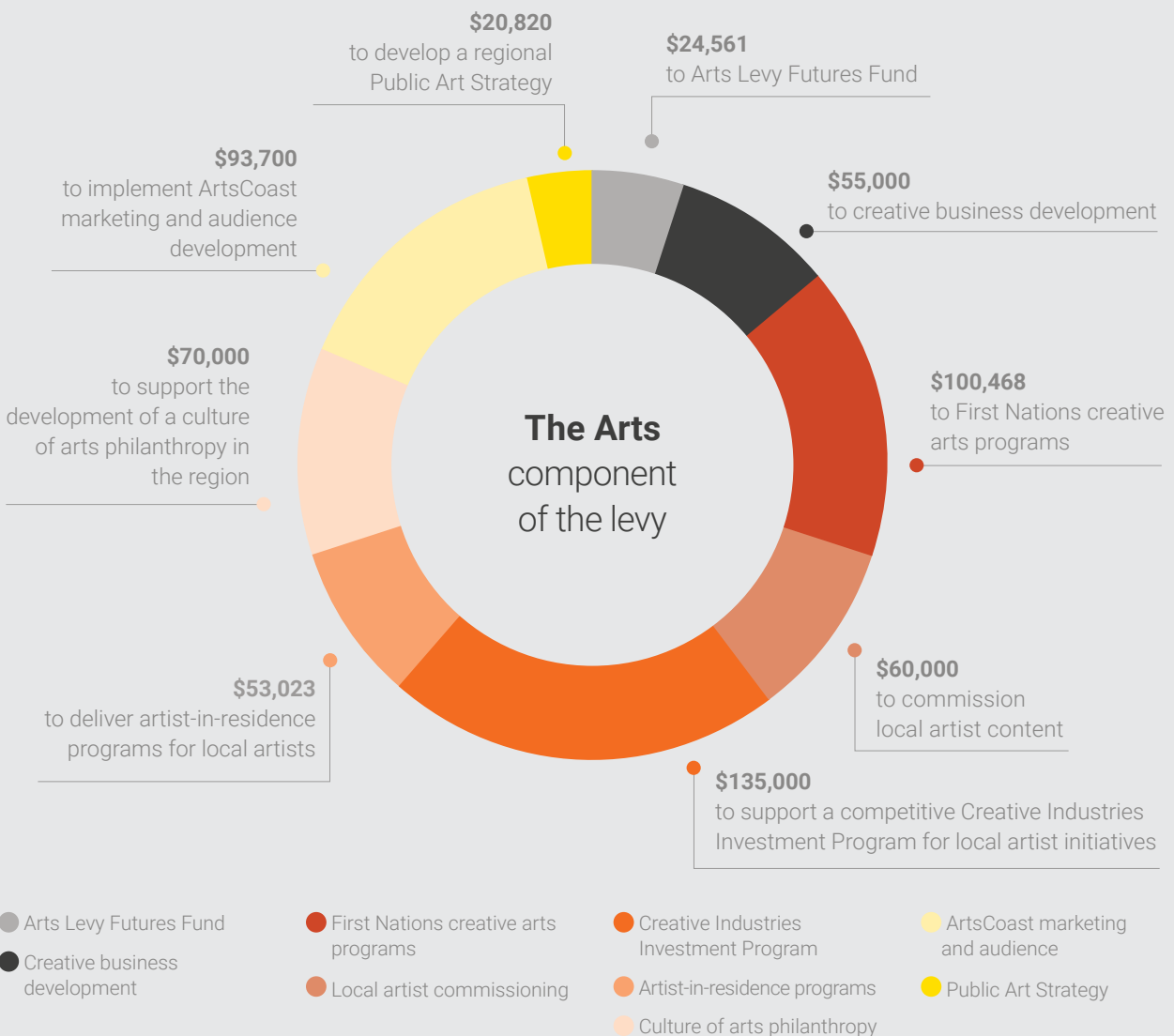
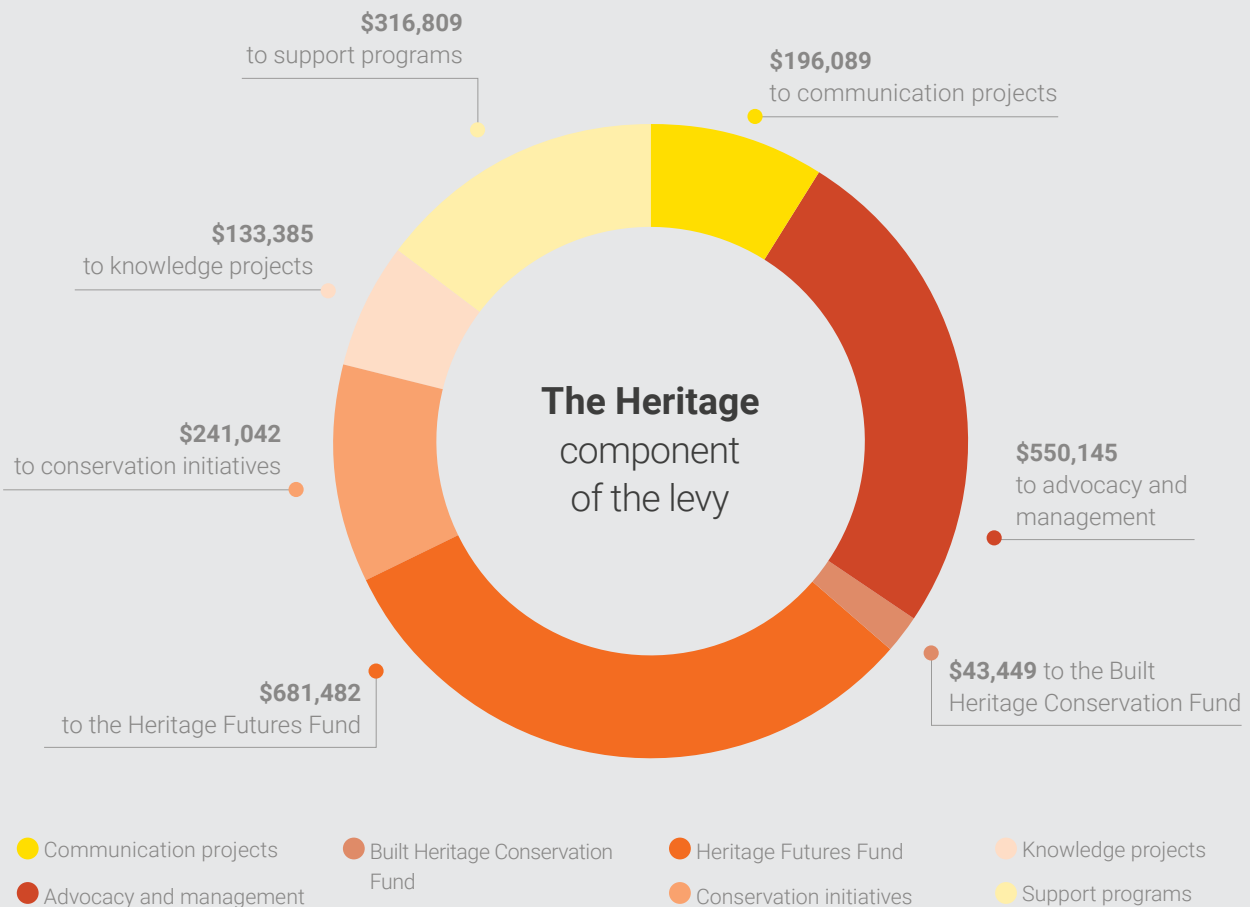




Image: Landsborough Museum Street Festival. Photo: Rhiannon Lunney.

In 2023-24 the heritage component of the Levy was **\$14** per annum per rateable property  
 Total Heritage Program investment in 2023-24 was **\$2,162,401**



**Funding (heritage program)**

Heritage Levy **\$2,155,550**  
 Sales and donations **\$6,851**

**As of 30 June 2024**

Heritage Levy Futures Fund balance is **\$5,190,536**  
 Built Heritage Conservation Fund is **\$251,403**  
 Other (heritage) restricted cash is **\$337,764**  
 Total **\$5,779,703**



## Arts program 2023-24 snapshot

### Overview

The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy, Arts program for 2023-24, at \$4 per rateable property, aims to develop local artists and local content, grow local participation and audiences, and embed art and creativity into the identity

and experience of the Sunshine Coast through achieving the arts goals within the Sunshine Coast Creative Arts Plan 2023-2038.

### In 2023-24:



**218** artists/  
arts workers engaged



**42** First Nations artists/  
arts workers engaged



**205** volunteers



**19** initiatives  
supported/delivered



**2,403** participants  
in initiatives



**13,060** audience  
of initiatives



**94%** rated the funded  
projects as good to excellent



### Initiatives delivered or supported include:

- development of a **Public Art Strategy** to support a strategic and coordinated regional approach to public art planning and delivery
- **local artist commissions** for development and presentation of work
- the **Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation** encouraging the development of a culture of arts philanthropy in the region
- implementation of the **ArtsCoast** Brand Strategy and Marketing Plan to increase the visibility of our creative sector and grow audience engagement with the arts
- the **Creative Industries Investment Program**, which provided funding for established arts and cultural initiatives, that support the strategic development of the local arts ecology and deliver significant cultural benefit to the Sunshine Coast region
- **First Nations** led programming including Artist-in-Residence opportunities, Blak Creatives program, Kabi Kabi Connections and Jinibara Exhibition Njumga Djum Yo: ran Ba Djuwan.

## Heritage program 2023-24 snapshot

### Overview

The Sunshine Coast Arts and Heritage Levy, Heritage program for 2023/24, at \$14 per rateable property, aims to document, research, conserve, protect, promote and provide access to items, places, facilities and events that define the stories, history and values of the people, communities and culture of the Sunshine Coast.

The Heritage Program, is used to achieve Council's vision for heritage in the region "Our heritage is our gift for the future", as identified in the Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031, and its five key heritage outcome areas: Knowledge; Conservation; Support; Communication; and Advocacy.



**202** events and public programs,  
**14,091** attendees



**115,552** visits to the  
heritage website



**19** volunteers, **3,730**  
hours contributed



**6,232** visitors to Bankfoot House,  
including **2,088** school students  
experiencing education programs



**5,957** visitors to  
Landsborough Museum



**93%** average satisfaction rate

### Knowledge

Projects to research, record, and share information about the region's heritage. In 2023-24, this included the Historian in Residence program, digitisation of significant regional collections, and improved accessibility to stories through digital platforms.

#### Topics explored:

- Sunshine Coast cemeteries
- the lives of people at Bankfoot House



**2** historians in  
residence appointed



Over **6,000** items digitised from  
the Bill Robinson collection

### Conservation

Supporting best practice management of heritage assets, from collections, artefacts and photographic records to heritage listed homes and buildings. In 2023-24, this included: a series of capital works at Landsborough Museum to increase accessibility and improve the visitor experience, and enhancements to collection storage and other preventative conservation measures; changing exhibitions and a program of interesting talks and workshops at Bankfoot House and Landsborough Museum; continued growth and engagement with educational programs and school groups at Bankfoot House; and regional heritage events: First Nations Family Fun Day at Bankfoot House and the Landsborough Museum Street Festival.



First Nations Family Fun Day. Photo: Black Dog Media.

## Support

In 2023-24, the Cultural Heritage Levy continued to assist local museums, heritage organisations, and First Nations Peoples through professional development initiatives, grants programs, and community events.



over **\$163,000** in grants initiatives supported in 2023-24



**16** organisations, Community Partnership Funding Program



**7** projects, collection care program



**6** projects, exhibitions and events program



**1** project, cultural support program

## Communication

Creating and increasing awareness of the region's heritage continues to be an important role of educational initiatives, interpretive trails, and marketing campaigns. The ever-popular Discovery Guide reached new audiences through a range of community events and partnerships with local film festivals.

## Advocacy

Council works in partnership with internal and external stakeholders, and provides advice and assistance for heritage places and projects.

The Built Heritage Conservation Fund supports maintenance programs for heritage listed, council owned, community leased properties.

The Heritage Futures Fund was established to provide capital funding for a Regional Collections Store and Interpretive Facility.





Photo: Cooper Brady Photography

## Summary

### In 2023-24



the Arts Program  
invested **\$612,572**



the Arts Levy Futures Fund  
increased by **\$24,561**



the Heritage Program  
invested **\$2,155,550**



the Heritage Levy Futures Fund  
increased by **\$681,482**



the Built Heritage Conservation Fund  
increased by **\$43,449**



the total of all of The Heritage  
Program restricted funds as at  
30 June 2024 is **\$5,779,703**

Reflecting Council's budget allocation and end-of-financial year reconciliation of arts and heritage levy expenditure.



Image: Exhibition in the Mary Grigor Centre.



Image: First Nations Family Fun Day. Photo: Black Dog Media



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