Baw Baw Shire Council invites community feedback about the

Arts, Culture and Events Strategic Plan.
Project Summary

At its meeting on 28 June 2017, Council endorsed, in principle, an Arts, Culture and Events Strategic Plan to guide Council’s delivery of services in this area for the next four years.

The strategic plan builds on the Arts and Culture Policy which was adopted in 2016 and expresses a strong vision for Baw Baw Shire as a place with a vibrant cultural life.

The strategic plan itself was developed with significant community consultation informing it and the process was managed directly by Council’s Arts, Culture and Events team, and referred at each stage to the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC), whose members brought input from a wide range of community stakeholders.

The plan has been developed to reflect the Baw Baw Shire Council Plan 2017-2021. Stakeholder input identified strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in terms of Council’s services in Arts, Culture and Events and responds to the aspirations of the community, as expressed in the consultation process, and to the anticipated needs of a growing and changing community.

The strategic plan sets out key priorities and activities which address Council’s objectives over the next four years.

Council is seeking public comment on the strategy to confirm the conclusions drawn from consultation to date properly and completely represent the expectations of the community in terms of the delivery of services in the area of Arts, Culture and Events.

Included in this pack

- Project information
- FAQs
- Feedback form

Submissions

Online

Visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay for more information and to provide your comments online.

Alternatively comments can be emailed to bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Written Submissions

All written submissions must be received by 5:00pm Friday 8 September and should be addressed to:

Manager Arts, Culture and Events
Baw Baw Shire Council
PO Box 304, Warragul, VIC 3820

Enquiries

Name: Rob Robson
Position: Manager Arts Culture & Events
Phone: 5624 2411
Email: rob.robson@wgac.com.au
Arts, Culture and Events Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Purpose
The Arts, Culture and Events Strategy guides Baw Baw Shire Council’s delivery of services to the community and the region.

Background
Baw Baw Shire Council’s core business includes the provision of Arts, Culture and Events services to the community. The Arts, Culture and Events (ACE) department provides support for community cultural development and manages West Gippsland Arts Centre.

Council seeks to support the vibrancy and character of our local community as it grows and changes, through support for local communities, health and wellbeing, recreation, youth, arts culture and events.

Council will also support smaller and remote communities in meeting their needs for vibrant community life.

Project Benefits
An effective strategic plan will enable Council to achieve its objectives and these objectives in particular:

- Quality community focussed services, facilities and infrastructure to support a growing community.
- A vibrant, healthy and inclusive community.
- Thriving town centres, rural and remote communities.

Engagement Timeline
Community feedback will be received through August, with submissions to be received by 5:00pm on Friday 8 September 2017

Providing Feedback
How do I provide my feedback?

- Complete the Comments Form at the back of this hand out.
- Email bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
- Visit a Council Customer Service Centre.

How do I know my feedback has been received?
All forms, submissions or correspondence will be acknowledged either by email or letter so that you know your comments have been received.

After consultation closes
Submissions will be reviewed by Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and may be used to inform the final version of the Arts, Culture and Events strategic plan for 2017-2021

What happens to my ideas and feedback?
Council will consolidate comments and feedback and consider all submissions.
Those who have taken part in the community engagement process will be informed of the final outcomes.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What are some of the services Council delivers through the Arts, Culture and Events Department?

A. This Department looks after the West Gippsland Arts Centre (WGAC), presents an annual program of professional touring shows, hires the venue to commercial hirers who present shows, hires the venue (at subsidised costs) to community groups and schools who put on shows, runs the ticketing service for all shows at WGAC, supports and assists community groups whose activities include arts and events, looks after Council’s collection of art, provides services to people who want to use Council facilities for meetings and conferences, assists community groups and individuals running events and festivals and assists with promoting the Shire as a destination for visitors.

Q. Who has drafted this strategy?

A. Council staff have worked closely with the Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee (ACAC) to draft this strategy.

Q. Who is on the Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee?

A. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee is made up of ten community members, who represent a wide range of community ‘art forms’ and ‘art interests’ and have special knowledge and experience in the sector. Each member represents a broad constituency, whose views are brought to the table through them. ACAC meets monthly and is chaired by a Councillor and is assisted by Council’s Community Cultural Development Coordinator and the Manager, Arts, Culture and Events.

Q. How is the strategy different to what we have had before?

A. This strategy anticipates number of changes and developments in the region, including the expanded capacity of an upgraded WGAC, projected population growth, growth in demand and interest in Arts, Culture and Events in the community, a desire for a more distributed delivery of services, especially to serve the smaller townships and a clear understanding that community participation in the arts will be as important as the community being spectators of professional performances and exhibitions.

Q. What will happen to the feedback from ‘Have Your Say’?

A. ACAC will consider all feedback offered and will use it to review the strategy, to ensure the final draft accurately reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.
Arts, Culture and Events
Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Feedback Form
Please submit your ideas, questions and feedback by **5:00pm on Friday 8 September.**

Contact Details
Name:  
Phone:  
Email:  
Address:  

Please tell us how you participate in Baw Baw life? *(Tick all that apply)*

- [ ] Resident
- [ ] Business owner
- [ ] Worker
- [ ] Student
- [ ] Shopper/visitor
- [ ] Other

Please tell us more about you *(Optional)*

Gender:  
Year of birth:  

What social media do you engage in? *(Tick all that apply)*

- [ ] Facebook
- [ ] Instagram
- [ ] Twitter
- [ ] Linkedin
- [ ] Other

I would like to be kept informed about progress and outcomes of the …?  

Yes [ ] No [ ]

*Privacy Statement: The personal information collected on this form will be used solely for the purpose of providing feedback in this Have Your Say process. You can gain access to your own personal information by contacting Baw Baw Shire Council’s Privacy and Freedom Information Officer on 5624 2411.*
1. **PRORITIES for action**: Community Consultation told us we need to address the following weaknesses. Did we get it right? Do you agree these are the needs? (Tick a box to show how strongly you agree with each statement.)

5 = Strongly agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Undecided, 2 = Disagree, 1 = Strongly disagree.

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- We need more ‘Community Creative Spaces’ (or Creative Hubs), useable for all sorts of arts and community activities including meetings, networking gatherings, visual arts activities, performances, dance and music rehearsal.

- We need to improve how we make our valuable heritage buildings, collection of paintings and art work, and heritage collection more accessible to visitors and the community.

- There is need for greater inclusion or reflection of local indigenous culture in Arts, Culture and Events programs and services.

- Library services currently sit outside the Council’s Arts and Culture Policy scope. They need to be included in an Arts strategy.

- Community festivals and events depend on volunteers for their sustainability. Council needs to play a more direct role in the delivery of these events.

- Events services offered by Council are ‘reactive’ and there is a need to do more in terms of attracting major in-bound events or producing major events ourselves.

- The majority of Council’s arts and cultural events and services are delivered in the major towns. More needs to be delivered into smaller towns and rural areas.

- There is a need for a coordinated Visitor Information service in Warragul or Drouin to assist the many visitors who come here.
2. **PRORITIES for action**: Do you have any additional comments to add regarding the weaknesses listed in the strategy?

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3. **PRORITIES for action**: Tell us any needs or weaknesses we have missed.

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4. **Initiatives and actions**: Community Consultation told us these were the actions we needed to undertake. Did we get it right? How **important** are these to you?

(Tick a box to show how **important** these are to you.)

5 = Very important, 4 = Important, 3 = Undecided, 2 = Slightly important, 1 = NOT important.

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<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
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<td>Redevelop WGAC into a premier regional performing arts facility.</td>
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<td>Develop WGAC’s capability to attract major conferences and events.</td>
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<td>Consult with the community to identify needs and opportunities for new or improved community ‘creative spaces’, cultural/arts services or facilities.</td>
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<td>Further develop the Community Cultural Facilities/Creative Hub Master Plan for Warragul Civic Place Precinct.</td>
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<td>Manage and program WGAC to deliver a diverse range of professional arts and cultural events.</td>
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<td>Manage and program WGAC to enable the community to actively engage in creating and performing.</td>
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<td>Manage Council’s visual arts collection and public art, and program exhibitions in WGAC and other suitable Council facilities.</td>
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<td>Establish and maintain strong relationships with key community stakeholder groups to ensure our activities reflect and respond to the diversity of our community, inclusive of both its recent and indigenous culture.</td>
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<td>Support community based arts, culture, events and festivals, and support and facilitate arts/events creation/production by and for the community.</td>
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4. **Initiatives and actions (Continued)** Community Consultation told us these were the actions we needed to undertake. Did we get it right? How important are these to you?

(Tick a box to show how IMPORTANT these are to you.)

5 = Very important, 4 = Important, 3 = Undecided, 2 = Slightly important, 1 = NOT important.

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- Develop and deliver a program of Arts, Culture and Events to venues and communities in the smaller towns.

- Work in partnership with local committees and communities to facilitate bookings and sustainable community use of Council community halls and facilities.

- Promote Baw Baw Shire’s Arts, Culture and Events and build opportunities to develop the visitor economy.

5. **Initiatives and actions:** Do you have any additional comments to add regarding the proposed initiatives and actions?

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6. **Initiatives and actions:** Tell us any initiatives and actions you think we have missed.

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Engagement Survey (Optional)

To ensure ‘Have Your Say Baw Baw Engagement’ works for our community we seek responses to the following questions and value your input.

1. How important was it for you to have your say today? And overall, how satisfied were you? (1 least to 7 most). Please circle your response.
   - Importance: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
   - Satisfaction: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. To what level do you want to be engaged? (please tick)
   - [ ] Being Informed
   - [ ] Being Asked and listened to
   - [ ] Being Involved
   - [ ] Being a partner
   - [ ] Being the decider

3. Did this involvement today, meet that level? Y/N

4. What ideas do you have for engagement in the future?

5. Did you want to be involved in future sessions to explore engagement? Y/N

If so please provide your details:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address: