Recognising outstanding council achievements in delivering arts & cultural initiatives

The Local Government Arts & Culture Awards were initiated by the Local Government and Shires Associations (LGSA) in 2003 and are held annually.

New award categories are introduced in 2012 and now open to broader Arts and Cultural initiatives from across council. Each council can submit multiple nominations, each in up to three categories.

2012 sees the introduction of the Local Government Arts & Culture Summit 2012 where finalists will be showcased and winners announced. All councils will benefit from this professional development opportunity. Summit discussion and recommendations will identify trends and inform policy. As well as NSW council leaders and staff, participants include government and peak body representatives.

Nominate and Register online: www.lgsa.org.au
Through the LGSA website access full category descriptions, submit your award nominations and register for the summit.

Enquiries
Chloe Beevers, Project Manager - Arts and Culture
Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW
02) 92424047, chloe.beevers@lgsa.org.au

Sponsors
The Local Government Arts and Culture Awards are proudly supported by:
How to Participate in the Awards

New Award Categories
New award categories are in place for 2012, representing the broad scope of Local Government Arts and Cultural practice. The categories are grouped under five themes:

- Participation in Arts and Culture
- Developing Arts and Culture
- Places for Arts and Culture
- Interdisciplinary Arts and Culture
- Leading Arts and Culture

Awards for these five main themes will be made in three divisions, determined by population:

- Division A: Council population less than 20,000
- Division B: Council population between 20,000 and 60,000
- Division C: Council population over 60,000

Awards will be presented in the categories (listed on the following pages) regardless of council size.

Each initiative can nominate for up to three categories
Initiatives may relate to more than one category. Councils are encouraged to identify up to three categories for each of their nominations. For example: an initiative may be reaching a particular target group (eg: engaging young people, nominating under the Young People in the Arts Award category), through a particular art form (eg music, nominating under the Performing Arts Award category), toward a particular thematic outcome (toward a mental health outcome nominating under the Arts and Health Award category).

By nominating in a category councils will automatically also be nominated in the overarching theme according to their council population size.

Eligibility
This round, nominations will need to cover initiatives predominantly delivered between 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2012, as the Awards are moving to a financial year basis.

Awards are open to all councils in NSW. Initiatives with strong partnerships encouraged.

How to Nominate
The submission process is electronic and conducted exclusively through the LGSA website: www.lgsa.org.au

Awards presentations at the Local Government Arts and Culture Summit
First of the annual Local Government Arts and Culture Summits will be held 13-14 November 2012 at the Powerhouse Museum, Ultimo.

The Summit will:

- Announce the award winners at a gala presentation dinner.
- Showcase a selection of awards nominations through:
  - 10 minutes presentations and panel discussion on category.
  - An exhibition of posters about the nominations.
- Recognise nominations as case studies, to:
  - Identify the best of current Local Government practice
  - Inform discussion and summit recommendations
  - Identify models of what can work
  - Create opportunities for collaboration
  - Promote Local Government as key providers of arts and culture
  - Inspire councillors and council staff

When submitting the nominations, Councils are asked to specify if they are interested to:

- Deliver a 10 minute presentation about their initiative.
- Display a visual poster (A2) outlining the key points of their initiative.

Register for the summit through the LGSA website www.lgsa.org.au
Defining the Award Categories

Participation in Arts and Culture
Local Government arts and cultural initiatives addressing community needs, assisting expression of community identity and facilitating community cohesiveness. Initiatives that increased and broadened participation in the cultural life of communities. Initiatives will demonstrate:

- The physical, mental and emotional benefits of participation in arts programs
- Improved feelings of well-being, psychological outlook and morale among participants
- Creating an outlet for social connections and enhanced social relationships
- Enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem of participants
- Nurtured social cohesion and social capital

- **Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Development**
  Leadership by a Local Government in Aboriginal cultural planning processes and initiatives demonstrating Aboriginal control and participation and resulting in long term benefits for Aboriginal arts. Councils are encouraged to nominate their NAIDOC activities for this award.

- **Creative Ageing (Supported by the NSW Office for Ageing)**
  Initiatives cultivating leadership, participation and expression of older people in the arts and cultural life of communities.

- **Young People and the Arts (Supported by Young People and the Arts Australia, and by Indent, a program of Music NSW)**
  Initiatives cultivating leadership, participation and expression of young people in the cultural life of communities.

- **Accessibility in the Arts (Supported by Accessible Arts NSW)**
  Initiatives cultivating leadership, participation and expression of people with a disability in the cultural life of communities.

- **Regional Arts**
  Initiatives cultivating leadership, expression and inclusion of smaller or satellite communities within the Local Government Area.

Developing Arts and Culture
These Local Government initiatives support development of a broad range of arts and cultural genres.

- **Library and Literature Initiatives (Supported by the State Library of NSW)**
  Local or regional public library initiatives including presentation of literature, multimedia and film, public programming, collection development, digital access, innovation and partnership. Also initiatives supporting literature development.

- **Heritage, History, Keeping Place and Museum Initiatives (Supported by Museums and Galleries NSW)**
  Initiatives relating predominantly to heritage and history, including development of the sector, projects promoting and celebrating local history, collection management, museum programming.

- **Visual Arts, Cultural Centre and Gallery Initiatives (Supported by Museums and Galleries NSW)**
  Initiatives relating predominantly to the visual arts, including development of the sector, projects expressed through the visual arts, collection management, gallery programming.

- **Performing Arts Initiatives (Supported by Music In Communities Network a program of the Music Council of Australia)**
  Initiatives relating predominantly to the performing arts, including development of the sector, projects expressed through the performing arts and public programming.

- **Festivals and Events**
  The award recognises both the delivery of major arts and cultural events, and the integration of arts and cultural programming into other types of events. Events cultivating leadership, participation and expression of the community and the arts and cultural sector.

Places for Arts and Culture
Local Government arts and cultural initiatives that have been integral to the development of the built environment, cultural facilities and overall land use planning. Initiatives address community needs, assist expression of community identity and facilitate community cohesiveness.

- **New Cultural Facility**
Development of a new cultural facility meeting community cultural needs and representing local cultural identity in design elements. Entries are encouraged to consider how the facility is addressing the triple bottom line including economic development and eco-friendly design as well as social and cultural aspects.

- **Improved Cultural Facility**
  Adapting or upgrading an existing facility to meet community cultural needs and represent local cultural identity in design elements. Entries are encouraged to consider how the facility is addressing the triple bottom line including economic development and eco-friendly design as well as social and cultural aspects.

- **Public Art and Place Making**
  Design of public space to cultivate local distinctiveness and sense of place, including public art, creative approaches to public space design and developing gathering places.

- **Pop-ups in Empty Spaces**
  Council support to development of temporary creative places in vacant commercial and industrial spaces. These ‘Pop up’ and ‘meanwhile use’ projects are opportunities for creative people to activate spaces through an art installation, exhibition, event, creative enterprise or community project. Initiatives will demonstrate how the projects contributed to economic and social benefits. (For more detail about what approach go to http://emptyspaces.culturemap.org.au/page/local-government-and-empty-space-initiatives

**Interdisciplinary Arts and Culture**
Local Government integration of arts and cultural initiatives across council, recognising the relationship with social, economic and environment fields.

- **Arts and Health Initiatives** *(Supported by Arts and Health Australia)*
  Initiatives where the creation and enhancement of cultural and creative outlets address some components of the physical, mental, social and spiritual health and wellbeing needs of a community, enabling an improvement in quality of life.

- **Environmental Arts Initiatives**
  Initiatives where the arts and cultural development are utilised as a means to promote ecological sustainability and/or appreciation of the natural environment.

- **Developing Creative and Cultural Industries**
  Leadership by a council in developing creative and cultural industries with local communities, including leadership by a Local Government in developing and implementing film production. This can include digital development and delivery of arts and culture. Preparations for the arts to benefit from roll out of the National Broadband Network are also eligible.

- **Cultural Tourism Initiatives** *(Supported by Powerhouse Museum)*
  Arts and Cultural Initiatives designed to attract visitors seeking to participate in local experiences and places.

**Leading Arts and Culture**
Local Government demonstrating leadership for arts and culture, based on integration, collaboration, innovation, planning and capacity building. Councils undertake this approach internally, in building lasting relationships with stakeholders and the broader community.

- **Integrated Cultural Planning**
  Leadership by a council in developing, implementing and evaluating strategic cultural planning, in particular how it relates to council’s overall integrated planning and reporting. Councils cultural planning may be fully integrated with Councils Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program, or a separate cultural plan demonstrating a clear link to council’s overarching plans.

- **Cultural Policy**
  Council policies and strategies which set arts and cultural standards and directions.

- **Creative Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration**
  Community and stakeholder engagement that utilises creative techniques to inform council planning. Frameworks for facilitating connections and maintaining relationships with local arts and cultural groups. For example: arts and cultural advisory committees and collaboration brokerage.

- **Building Capacity of the Arts and Cultural Sector** *(Supported by Sydney Institute of TAFE)*
  Supporting local arts and cultural stakeholders through professional development (such as training programs), or sector support (such as grants programs).

- **Enduring Staff Contribution to Arts and Culture**
  This award acknowledges pivotal cultural staff within councils. It recognises distinguished efforts fostering and furthering the arts and cultural development by an employee of Local Government. Employees must be nominated by their council.