

# Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee

## Meeting Agenda

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee	<b>Meeting No.</b>	4 D-23-063663
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday, 15 June 2023		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00am		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Geraldton Regional Library Randolph Stow Rooms		
<b>Attendance by Electronic Means</b>	<i>In accordance with the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 regulation 14C (2) - Attendance has been authorised by the Mayor for Cr Michael Reymond to attend this meeting by electronic means.</i>		
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr Michael Reymond MR - Electronic Cr Kim Parker KP Councillor Cr Jennifer Critch JC Councillor Fiona Norling FN CGG Trudi Cornish TC CGG Marina Baker MB CGG Marnie Facchini MF CGG Sari Jacobsen SJ Community Member Susan Smith SS Community Member Reni Kerley RK Yamaji Art Shauni Norman SN (Minutes)	<b>By Invitation</b>	
		<b>Apologies</b>	Cr Steve Cooper SC (Chair) Mark Lennard ML Community Member
		<b>Leave of Absence</b>	
		<b>Distribution</b>	As listed
<b>Purpose of Committee</b>	Refer to <a href="#">Committee Book</a>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

### 1 Welcome & Apologies

### 2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

### 3 Disclosure of Interests

### 4 Applications for Leave of Absence

## **5 Minutes of Previous Meeting - 16 Mach 2023**

# Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee	<b>Meeting No.</b>	5 D-23-034535
<b>Meeting Date</b>	16 March 2023		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00am		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Randolph Stow Meeting Rooms		
<b>Attendance by Electronic Means</b>			
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr Steve Cooper Chair Cr Michael Reymond (Proxy Chair) Fiona Norling CGG Trudi Cornish CGG Marina Baker CGG Mark Lennard Community Member Sari Jacobsen Community Member Shauni Norman CGG Minutes	<b>By Invitation</b>	
		<b>Apologies</b>	Susan Smith Community Member Roni Kerley Yamaji Art Cr Jennifer Critch Rachel Vieraitis CGG Cr Kim (Butch) Parker Annalise Fosbery Community Member
		<b>Leave of Absence</b>	
		<b>Distribution</b>	As listed
<b>Purpose of Committee</b>	Refer to <a href="#">Committee Book</a>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

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[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

### 1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed the members and noted apologies from

RV, RK, SS, JC, AF

### 2 Acknowledgement of Country

Chair - I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

### 3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures made.

### 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Meeting held on 01 December 2022 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:  
MOVED MR, SECONDED ML**

**CARRIED**

### 5 Action Log

GRAAC-08: On going MR to update.

GRAAC-12: Discussed in item 7 on agenda.

GRAAC-12: Ongoing pending update from project team.

GRAAC-17: Ongoing, noted City has also met with business in the laneway to find solutions for vandalism.

GRAAC-18: FN has worked on a draft Public Art Master Plan to grow the collection, in accordance with the City's adopted Public Art Strategy. Noted condition monitoring and maintenance of the collection is separate and a Capital Renewal budget request of \$15,000 has been requested in 2023/24 to this end.

Noted any Terms of Reference suggestions to be put to TC.

Noted the PA sound system at the GRAG has been fixed inhouse and now working correctly.

### 6 Geraldton Regional Art Gallery Strategic Plan 23/26

The public consultation period opened 21 December 2022 and closed 13 February 2023, noted no feedback on the content and no objections. The Plan will be put the Council for endorsement in either April or May 2023 pending the response from the State Government on the level of funding GRAG will receive as a result of the AOIP grant application submitted by the City in September 2022. Grant recipients will be announced in mid-April 2023

### 7 Art Gallery Mural Project

A Capital (New) budget request has been completed, noted the Council Renewals are currently being being considered.

TC completed a grant opportunity for up to \$30,000 for regional art projects. This will open opportunities for local artist to do upskilling and potential for a second community mural on the old Blue Heelers building. Noted that research had been undertaken on other Councils on recent projects to ensure the requested amount was appropriate.

### 8 Report from Coordinator Art Gallery

Highlights from report

GRAG is currently in deinstallation and closed for two weeks, which then gives ample time to install the next exhibition.

#### Past Exhibitions

The Town Hall and Banksia Ball 50th Anniversary

Genesis 2022 (at the Library)

Ink in the Lines

The Visitors

### **Upcoming**

Stitched and Bound by WA Quilters Association

Peregrinations of a Citizen Botanist by Susie Vickery

He Is Myself – The Art of William Gardiner

Irwin Lewis

Mid West Art Prize opens Saturday 9 December 2023. Noted the Art Gallery Park will now be utilised as it is available and there is potential to use the Post Office car park. The Committee has been alerted to key dates in the approach to the competitive exhibition and opening event. The success of closing the road in raising profile of previous event was highlighted, with reminder that this occurred due to GRAG Park being a construction site at the time.

## **9 Report from Public Art Officer**

Highlights from report

Women's History Month

Mullewa Youth week banners and art workshops

April Pine "Protected Memories" plaque being repositioned for easy accessibility.

A Day in the Laneway event approaching on Saturday.

CGG Public Art Map is in design period with the Comms team assisting.

## **10 Growing Public Art Collection**

Discussed in Action Item GRAAC-18

## **11 General Business**

ACTION: SN to amend the agenda to have a separate page and remove the past tabled set of documents when attaching the previous minutes.

## **12 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 15 June 2023 at 10:00am.

## **13 Close**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 11:15am

Signed Councillor Steve Cooper: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6 Action Log

## Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee - Action Log (D-22-029021)

Log #	Meeting Date	Agenda Item #	Action	Resp. Person	Status (Ongoing / Complete / Next Agenda)
GRAAC-08	17/03/2022	6.5 Public Art Strategy	MR to propose ideas for committee's review and consensus to be achieved whilst reviewing strategy. This helps streamline project development and achievement of goals. MR to provide a draft proposal for committee's consideration.	Cr Reymond	<b>Ongoing</b> , not yet tabled
			Committee to recommend to Council an annual budget for public art maintenace and procurement to be considered as budget items in the next financial year	GRAAC members	<b>Ongoing</b> , not yet tabled
GRAAC-15	1/12/2022	6.3 Other Upcoming/Potential Future Public Art Projects	Advise the Project Team of the request for more shaded seating areas to activate the space for better public use (with regard to Chapman Rd)	Trudi Cornish	<b>Ongoing</b> , pending further details with regard to scope of works
GRAAC-20	16/03/2023	11. General Business	Amend the agenda to have a separate page and remove the past tabled set of documents when attaching the previous minutes.	Shauni Norman	
GRAAC-21					
GRAAC-22					
GRAAC-23					
GRAAC-24					
GRAAC-25					

## **7. AOIP Grant Funding and Advocacy**





Our Ref: D-23-059122  
Your Ref:  
File Ref: GR/11/0017  
Enquiries: Trudi Cornish

11 May 2023

Hon David Templeman Dip Tchg BEd MLA  
Minister for Culture and the Arts  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
West Perth WA 6005  
By e-mail: Minister.Templeman@dpc.wa.gov.au

*CC: Lara Dalton MLA  
Member for Geraldton  
PO Box 1091  
GERALDTON WA 6531*

Dear Minister,

## **RESPONSE TO ARTS ORGANISATIONS INVESTMENT PROGRAM - 2023 TO 2027 ANNOUNCEMENT**

The City would like to acknowledge your recent advice of the successful outcome of the City of Greater Geraldton's application for funding through the Arts Organisations Investment Program - 2023 to 2027. The confirmation of grant funding of \$170,000 per annum (excl. GST) for a new four (4) year period is welcome news and greatly appreciated to continue to deliver arts and cultural experiences in our community.

As you are aware from our previous communication and advocacy to you in September 2022 seeking increased ongoing financial support for the City operated Geraldton Regional Art Gallery and its associated programs, the financial burden on local government to deliver this service is significant. Whilst funding provided through the AOIP program's next cycle has been stated as an increase by 30%, the City is disappointed to see no increase in its annual allocation.

An annual allocation of \$170,000 to City of Greater Geraldton for the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery has now been in place since 2016, when the State's contribution to the gallery was inexplicably reduced by 50%. Our communication with you sought only to reinstate previous levels of support in acknowledgment of the significant role the gallery plays in arts and culture, not only for the Geraldton community, but also as an A Class gallery serving the Midwest region, as well as many visitors from outside the region, including interstate and international tourists.

You are aware from our previous communication of the significant financial burden on the City to operate this facility, incorporating both capital upgrades as well as meeting the shortfall in operating costs. The forecast financial commitment by the City in 2023-2024, as advised in our funding application, is in the order of \$670,000.

On this basis, the City continues its advocacy to you for increased financial support due to the importance of the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery as a regional facility and its role in



delivering arts and culture outcomes for the benefit of the community here and beyond our borders.

Visitation data for the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery confirms the important role it performs as a regional provider of arts and culture – as an example, for the period Jan-April 2023, 38% of visitors to the Gallery Exhibition Spaces were local and 62% from outside Greater Geraldton (947 City of Greater Geraldton residents, 1,549 from Midwest, Perth/WA, interstate and overseas).

The City is committed to continuing to play a leadership role in support of arts and culture in the knowledge that it aligns with the City's Greater Geraldton Strategic Community Plan 2031 and forms an integral part of supporting the overall health and wellbeing of communities, as outlined in the accompanying advocacy document, *Geraldton Regional Art Gallery – the importance of arts and culture in regional communities*.

The City once again take this opportunity to thank the State for its ongoing support, whilst seeking consideration of enhanced support to demonstrate a more equitable sharing of responsibility for the benefit of residents of Western Australia, including those who reside in our region.

Yours sincerely

Shane Van Styn  
**MAYOR**

## **8. Geraldton Regional Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2023-2026**

**DRAFT**



# **GERALDTON REGIONAL ART GALLERY**

## **STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027**



Left: Margaret Whitehurst, *Summer Season*, 2009, Acrylic on canvas, 120 x 104cm (CGG Ac. No. 410).

Cover image: Ailsa Small, *My Native Land*, 1993, Oil on canvas, 60 x 100cm (CGG Ac. No. 101).

GRAG

GERALDTON REGIONAL ART GALLERY

A CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON GALLERY

# CONTENTS

THE CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SOUTHERN YAMATJI PEOPLES WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FIRST PEOPLE OF THIS LAND. THE NHANHAGARDI, WILUNYU, AMANGU. WE PAY RESPECTS TO THE ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE FOR THEY HOLD THE MEMORIES, THE TRADITIONS, THE CULTURE AND HOPES OF THE SOUTHERN YAMATJI PEOPLES.

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Julie Dowling, *Granny Mary*, 2017, Acrylic, red ochre, mica gold on canvas, 100 x 120cm (CGG Ac. No. 503).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housed in the State heritage listed, turn of the century Town Hall building, the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery (GRAG) opened in 1984 as Western Australia's first regional A-Class venue. The GRAG is the City of Greater Geraldton's principal arts institution, delivering high quality arts and creative experiences with the aim to engage, connect and enrich the diverse communities of the Midwest region of Western Australia.

Geraldton is the regional centre of the Midwest, with some 39,000 people and a stable, diverse economy. The arts and culture ecosystem is notable for three characteristics:

- \*A strong, publicly funded arts and cultural strategy, with clear rationales that integrate social, cultural and economic objectives;
- \*A longstanding, extensive ecosystem of pro-am and volunteer arts and cultural workers, non withstanding increasing challenges of FIFO work; and,
- \*Strong local understanding of arts entrepreneurship and innovative business models for artists.

The GRAG presents both touring and locally curated exhibitions, along with educational and public programs for all ages and abilities, with the aim to elevate the vitality of the regional arts scene, amplify local artists and creatives, and provide opportunities for visitors and locals to learn, be challenged, entertained and inspired. Exhibitions and programming provide a community arts hub which is contemporary, accessible and relevant to the region's diverse Indigenous and multi-cultural communities.

The GRAG is wholly owned and operated by the City of Greater Geraldton and is staffed by 3 FTE staff members, with additional support from a small casual pool. The Geraldton Visitor Centre is also co-located within the same building.

# PURPOSE

*To deliver high quality, responsive and targeted collection management and arts programs which grow and enhance City and regional cultural assets, enrich people's lives, provide economic opportunity, growth of local identity and encourage wellbeing and active participation in regional Western Australia.*



# STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Strategy has been informed by the following documents:

## Greater Geraldton 2031 Strategic community Plan

Underpinning the GRAG Strategic Plan are the following community aspirations contained in the Greater Geraldton 2031 Strategic Community Plan:

**COMMUNITY** - Our culture and heritage is recognised and celebrated. We are creative and resilient. We can all reach our full potential.

**ECONOMY** – A healthy and resilient economy that provides opportunities for all whilst protecting the environment and enhancing our social and cultural fabric.

## OTHER INFORMING DOCUMENTS

- City of Greater Geraldton Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025
- Creative Community Plan
- Operational Policy OP017 Geraldton Regional Art Gallery Collection
- Operational Policy OP035 GRAG Exhibition Programming
- Australian Cultural and Creative Activity: a population and hotspot analysis - Geraldton, 2020

## KEY PUBLIC ART DOCUMENTS

- City of Greater Geraldton Public Art Strategy 2020-2025
- Public Art Register extract

Trevor Richards, *Wildflower*, 2019, Metagraphic in Rocks Laneway, Geraldton (CGG PA 162).

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## STRENGTHS:

Located in an iconic, State heritage listed building with a high level of community visibility; strong, existing local, regional and other partnerships; Local Government Authority committed to provision of service delivery and maintenance of physical building; established permanent art collection; Biennial delivery of prestigious Mid West Art Prize (established in 2011); Geraldton Visitor Centre co-located within facility; Redevelopment of adjacent park and road area undertaken in 2022; CGG Art Collection was last valued in May 2019 and is scheduled again in 2023/24.

## WEAKNESSES:

Lack of recurrent funding opportunities; Difficult to plan activities and exhibitions ahead when in the past grant funding was only applied on an annual basis; Lack of Arts and Culture Council Policy, which could also encompass Public Art; Make sure access to the building and theatre is appropriate for all people, including those with a disability.

## OPPORTUNITIES:

Promote the Gallery as desired place of employment and one which also welcomes volunteers; Post- Covid grant opportunities; Increased visitation from regional travellers; Increased activity surrounding the Gallery building leading to the possible development of an arts precinct; Possibility of developing new revenue streams such as the sale of artworks; Greater interaction with the local tourism sector, locally and more broadly; Further development of the Gallery brand and identity; Increased visibility of City collection; Partnerships and leveraging existing events will continue to strengthen regional profile; 40th year anniversary in 2024.

## THREATS:

Staffing levels remain unchanged since 2017 despite increased demand for services; Maintaining resources which provide the capacity to deliver the artistic programs and other Gallery outcomes; Ongoing wear and tear/damage to public art collection by the environment, vandalism; The need to develop long-term storage solutions for the art collection; Aging building infrastructure; Budget allocation to new acquisitions and conservation/repair of existing collection; Ongoing community engagement a priority to continue to increase traffic and enhance profile.

# PRINCIPLES

The principles underpin the City's art activities and management, providing guidance to ensure best practice is maintained.

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS

Follow NAVA and ArtsLaw Guidelines for procuring exhibitions and contracting artists and ensure that all practices comply with City of Greater Geraldton procurement policies. Following industry best practice guidelines and utilising existing contracting templates will ensure City of Greater Geraldton remains an attractive exhibiting and commissioning body for artists.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Providing ongoing opportunities for the community to engage with Gallery programming and public art commissions will position the collection as a community asset. The Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee (GRAAC) is a Council appointed Advisory Committee which consists of Councillors, community representatives and City officers. The GRAAC is guided by Terms of Reference and plays an essential role in facilitating community involvement.

## LOCAL ARTISTS FIRST

The City and Public Art Collections are excellent platforms for local artists to exhibit their works. These collections should represent a cross section of the regional creative community, whilst also representing national and international artists. For significant artworks, an open tender process for artworks allows for locals and artists from further afield to submit. Commissions relating to sensitive local stories may be suited to local artists only.

## CULTURAL INCLUSIVITY

Home to diverse cultures and demographics, it is important that the collection is inclusive and accessible to all, telling stories and reflecting themes from the community.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility of the collection through online platforms, physical plaques with artworks, and audio guides is considered to be best practice. As the City builds and refines its collection, ensuring sites are selected for public art which are physically accessible, and online platforms are created with consideration given to accessibility should be prioritised.

# AREAS OF FOCUS

## GOAL 1

Facilitate meaningful and relevant **arts engagement opportunities** which increase engagement of the community with the City of Greater Geraldton Art Collection, exhibitions and programs facilitated by the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery whilst strengthening and developing the regional galleries network.

## GOAL 2

**Contribute to the vibrancy** of the City of Greater Geraldton and the quality of life in regional Western Australia, attracting visitation and economy to the Midwest region.

## GOAL 3

**Improve, promote and conserve** the City of Greater Geraldton Art and Public Art Collections.

# GOAL 1

Facilitate meaningful and relevant arts engagement opportunities which increase engagement of the community with the City of Greater Geraldton Art Collection, exhibitions and programs facilitated by the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery whilst strengthening and developing the regional galleries network.



Robert Cleworth, *Thinking of Cornelisz as a Contemporary*, 2009/10, Oil on canvas, 23 x 19.5

## KEY STRATEGIES

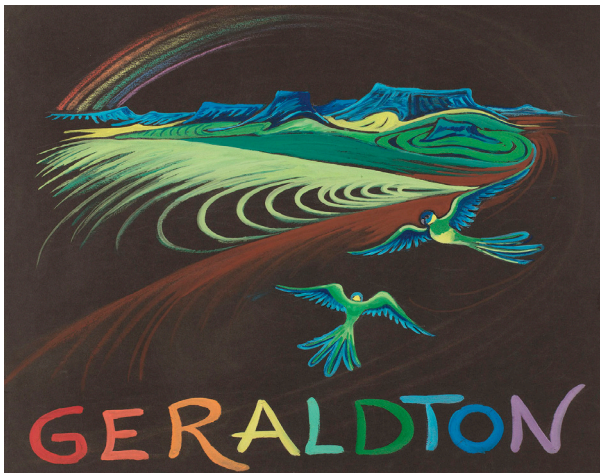
- 1.1 Deliver an Exhibition Schedule at the GRAG which, after taking into account install/deinstall elements in accordance with exhibition requirements, sees the Gallery spaces fully utilised for 10 months of every year.
- 1.2 Continue to seek exciting, innovative exhibition and programming opportunities for the GRAG, including increased opportunities for showcasing First Nations artists, multicultural groups and works which represent the diversity of the community.
- 1.3 Assist and mentor local artists and regional arts and creative organisations with the aim to exhibit locally curated exhibitions which are shown at the Gallery and other regional cultural venues.
- 1.4 Stimulate engagement with and understanding of the visual arts through events, workshops, learning opportunities and lectures.
- 1.5 Increase community access to and engagement with the City's Collection.
- 1.6 Engage with the West Australian School Curriculum to ensure programs for youth are targeted and appropriate for students and teachers.
- 1.7 Coordinate the annual round of community art installations in the Post Office Lane Lightbox Gallery.
- 1.8 Coordinate the Geraldton Regional Art Advisory Committee meetings which are held four times per year.
- 1.9 Deliver the Mid West Art Prize on a biennial basis.

# GOAL 1

Facilitate meaningful and relevant arts engagement opportunities which increase engagement of the community with the City of Greater Geraldton Art Collection, exhibitions and programs facilitated by the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery whilst strengthening and developing the regional galleries network.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Number and FTE of existing staff
- Number of visitors to the Gallery
- Number of exhibitions held, whether they are curated locally or are travelling
- Number of days/hours open to the public per year
- Number of activities held per year
- Engagement statistics relating to Gallery social media and website platforms
- Annual local funding contribution provided through Local Government
- Annual direct contribution provided by State Government
- Annual cash and in-kind funding provided by business partnerships, private and charitable organisations



Elizabeth Durack, *Rainbow Colours*, 1960, Gouache on paper (CGG Ac. No. D010).

# GOAL 2

Contribute to the vibrancy of the City of Greater Geraldton and the quality of life in regional Western Australia, attracting visitation and economy to the Midwest region.



Tim Williams, *Fallen Icon*, 1994, Oil on canvas, 176 x 174cm (CGG Ac. No. 005).

## KEY STRATEGIES

- 2.1 Promote the Gallery as the region's principal arts institution and as a regional tourism product, promoting exhibitions and other opportunities for engagement to increase visitation.
- 2.2 Provide a level of visitor service which is welcoming, knowledgeable and consistent with a Gallery of premium standing, seeking and responding to visitor feedback.
- 2.3 Provide local artists with a shopfront to promote and market their creative works whilst continuing to improve the Gallery retail space.
- 2.4 Enable the creation of a Local Creatives Contact List.
- 2.5 Promote the Art Gallery as a venue for use and hire by outside organisations.
- 2.6 Implement the City's Public Art Strategy and coordinate public art opportunities and activities across the City including the Post Office Lane Lightbox Gallery.
- 2.7 Provide employment and volunteer opportunities for local creatives and other community members.

# GOAL 2

Contribute to the vibrancy of the City of Greater Geraldton and the quality of life in regional Western Australia, attracting visitation and economy to the Midwest region.



Moira Court, *Howl*, 2011, Acrylic, wax oil, pastel and charcoal on canvas, 101 x 152cm (CGG Ac. No. 453).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Visitor data collection is undertaken to record the amount of visitation from both local and outside the City
- Engagement in public programs is meaningful as indicated by feedback
- Number of artists represented in the retail space and sales figures
- Number of outside hires
- Number of public/community art activities have been held for the year
- Examples of regional promotion of Gallery activities



*Stratigraphy*, Art Collective WA Artists, 14 May - 26 June 2022, GRAG.



# GOAL 3

Improve, promote and conserve the City of Greater Geraldton Art and Public Art Collections.



Norman Lindsay, *My Reflection*, c1910, Watercolour on paper, 40 x 36cm (CGG Ac. No. 182).

## KEY STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Where possible, acquire, by purchase, commission, gift and bequest, works of art of outstanding quality in line with the Operational Policy OP017 GRAG Collection Policy and the CGG Public Art Strategy.
- 3.2 Maintain an Asset Register for both collections.
- 3.3 Where possible, deaccession works that do not fit within OP017 GRAG Collection Policy and the CGG Public Art Strategy.
- 3.4 Seek funding, grant and donation opportunities through the City's Everlasting Agreement process.
- 3.5 Seek funding opportunities for public art via the building development process.
- 3.6 Provide appropriate storage, security and environmental conditions within the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery.
- 3.7 Provide appropriate financial and other resources to adequately conserve and repair works held in both the City and Public Art Collections.
- 3.8 Document, manage and display the collection, including the creation of digital records and online catalogue development utilising the Geraldton Regional Library - Portfolio database and the Collections WA platform delivered by the WA Museum and Australian Museums and Galleries Association.
- 3.9 Maintain relationships with key arts bodies such as the Art Gallery WA, Art on the Move, AMAGA etc. to keep abreast of training and professional development opportunities with regard to collection maintenance and Gallery operations.

# GOAL 3

Improve, promote and conserve the City of Greater Geraldton Art and Public Art Collections.



James Goatcher, *The Swan Valley*, c1950, Watercolour on paper (CGG Ac. No. 024).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Value of acquisitions added to the City of Greater Geraldton Collection and Public Art Collections
- Value of funding, grants and donations received from external sources
- Records are kept of building environmental controls, including temperature and humidity
- Number of collection items that have been condition reported upon and any subsequent repairs or deaccession processes applied
- Number of collection items digitised and added to online catalogues
- Number of training and professional development opportunities attended

## APPENDIX I - HISTORY OF THE GALLERY & COLLECTION

The formal exhibition of art in Geraldton first began in October 1894 when the Geraldton Floral, Art and Industrial Exhibition was held at the Masonic Lodge. Mayor Charles Gray officially opened the proceedings, announcing,

**“He regarded exhibitions of this character as among the most valuable educational factors of the day. They cultivated a taste for the beautiful and encouraged dexterity of the hand.”**

(Geraldton Murchison Telegraph, 9 October 1894.)

Through the years, strong local support for the arts continued. The construction of the Geraldton Town Hall in 1907 provided townsfolk with a long-awaited civic venue from which they could hold concerts, dances, recitals and gatherings, including art exhibitions. One group to utilise the Town Hall was the Geraldton Arts and Crafts Society, who were particularly active during the 1930s.

In 1949, one of Western Australia’s greatest benefactors, Sir Claude Hotchin (1898-1977), donated 22 substantial works to the people of Geraldton. These works included an early painting by West Australian artist Robert Juniper, and other paintings by Kathleen O’Connor, and Allan William Baker, and landscapes by Hans Heysen and Harold Septimus Power. Hotchin expressed his hope at the time that his gift would be the basis of a district art centre to which he and others could make suitable additions. The following year, a large gathering at Birdwood House celebrated an exhibition of oil and water-colour and etchings by local artist, John Tribe. The call for the construction of an Art Gallery in Geraldton echoes from these proceedings, as recorded by the Geraldton Guardian (02/09/1950)

In 1960 the Town of Geraldton commissioned Elizabeth Durack (1915-2000) to produce a body of work of the Geraldton area, including Dongara, Northampton and out to Carnamah. This collection remains significant not just to Geraldton but also to the State.

Through the 1970s, the Council considered the future of the aging Town Hall. Public use had diminished and the building was now in need of major renovations. Meanwhile, local exhibitions took place at Geraldton Art Centre, opened in 1974 and housed in the former Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Shenton Street. The following year the Wheel of Arts was established by the Arts Council of Geraldton (Inc) at the old Fire Station Building on Durlacher Street.

In 1982 the Council held a poll to ascertain ratepayer views for the future of the old Town Hall. The results, coupled with community pressure from the group known as FROTH (Friends of the Town Hall) led to consideration of the site for the Geraldton and Districts Regional Library or for an Art Gallery combined with a Municipal Museum and Tourist Centre. Costs were approximated at \$750,000. The WA Government had at this time embarked on holding cabinet meetings in country areas and during this meeting in Geraldton, Premier Burke announced a Government contribution of 70% / 30% ratio towards an Art Gallery and Tourist Centre.

On Monday 6 August 1984 the Geraldton Art Gallery was officially opened by the Governor-General of Australia, the Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen. The high standard of facilities made the Gallery one of the first A class regional galleries in Australia. The opening exhibition was “The Land Beyond Time”, a collection of over 100 works by John Olsen. Since 1984, the GRAG has established itself as the region’s principal arts institution, serving arts and culture to the Midwest, housing the City of Greater Geraldton’s Art Collection, facilitating the biennial Mid West Art Prize, whilst presenting a diverse and stimulating exhibition programme from local, state, national and international sources.

In 2017, the management of the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery transitioned from the Art Gallery of Western Australia to the City of Greater Geraldton.

Prepared by Trudi Cornish, 2021.

## APPENDIX II - ACHIEVEMENTS 2022-2023

- In 2022-2023 the Gallery felt the last effects of the COVID border restrictions that previously limited access to nationally touring exhibitions. It has been a time when we have mentored 2 emerging local curators, created opportunities for 15 local artists and craft makers, and enjoyed hosting a trainee in Arts Administration Certificate III funded by Art on the Move. In these ways we have been building capacity and supporting professional development for Midwest arts workers.
- Over the 12 months, 18 exhibitions have been undertaken, including the significant touring exhibition - The Alternative Archive from Art on the Move. This exhibition combined artworks from 15 exhibitions generated state-wide in 2021 through The Creative Grid Project, which GRAG was part of, with the resulting survey exhibition shown at John Curtin Gallery in 2022. Launched as a touring exhibition at GRAG on 8 July 2022 and including 3 Midwest artists, this exhibition partnered with next iteration of the Creative Grid, titled with the 2022 theme Open Borders. Mentored local Curator Roxanne Grant conceived an exhibition across 2 sites – indoors and outdoors - and facilitated a collaboration with community group FROGGS on the CGG Wonthella Bushland Reserve. A performative opening event with ephemeral installations attracted over 60 attendees to the reserve.
- To coincide with the 2022 Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival, GRAG generated 2 integrated exhibitions - The Town Hall 1907-1984 and the Banksia Ball 50th Anniversary. With a 6-month development phase, the exhibitions combined the CGG Heritage, Civic and Art Collections to tell the story of the former Geraldton Town Hall, still functioning as the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery since 1984. The CGG Coordinators of Heritage and the Art Gallery co-curated with local Curator Ingrid Horn to locate, interpret, loan, display and sequence the over-300 items including heritage photographs, original artworks, memorabilia, archival footage and original newspaper reports. Heritage Curator Lorin Cox worked with the Abdullah Family, whose father George was a well-known identity in local Aboriginal politics, to display his rare collection of photographs and memorabilia from the 1972 and 1973 Banksia Ball, the first Indigenous celebrations held in the Town Hall which heralded the community's entry to this significant public space post-1967 Referendum. The Banksia Ball has endured today as the NAIDOC Ball 50 years on. These popular exhibitions became the backdrop to Big Sky and Heritage events, with decorative bunting scribed by the community with their memories of Town Hall events. There was a record attendance of some 3,500 people to this exhibition.
- Beyond and outside the Gallery the Art Gallery Park redevelopment was completed, providing modern landscaping and facilities, enabling further Gallery and community events in the Art Gallery surrounds. The popular sculpture Horizon was replaced. In 2022 the Secondary Schools' exhibition Genesis moved to the Geraldton Regional Library, finding a new and appreciative audience. With Awards for each year level and a People's Choice vote, this vibrant exhibition combined the artwork of 8 local schools displaying 135 students' work in the main area of the Library. Reaching into the Geraldton CBD on Post Office Lane the set of 8 Lightboxes hosted 3 exhibitions, including a collaboration with the Wilunyu Language Reference Group and secondary school students in a Wilunyu Language revitalisation project, creating an opening event that was also part of the Big Sky Festival event. In a successful cross-collaboration, prints from the Post Office Lane Lightbox Gallery found another venue in the Library Walkway, illuminated on interior windows and bringing a new pop-up gallery site into consideration.
- **Snapshot** (Snapshot (June Statistics not available at time of printing):
  - Team of 4 (2 full time, 1 part time, 1 trainee) staff and casual staff delivered 18 exhibitions and 58 workshops/other sessions over the reporting period.
  - Total door count during reporting period was 37,082 (includes foot-traffic to Visitor Centre Desk and Gallery Retail Shop).
  - Open 7 days per week. Hours: Tues-Fri 9am-4pm; Sat, Sun, Mon and Public Holidays, 9.30am-1.30pm (except Christmas, Boxing and New Year's Day). Open 310 days in reporting period. Installation and other closure days totalled 90 days.

GRAG

GERALDTON REGIONAL ART GALLERY

— A CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON GALLERY —



**9. Public Art – Budget Requests**

**10. Report from Gallery Coordinator and Report from Public Art Officer**

**GERALDTON REGIONAL ART GALLERY  
CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT Marina Baker  
GRAAC 10am 15 June 2023**

**RECENT PAST EXHIBITIONS**

**STITCHED AND BOUND**

The West Australian Quilters Association

Exhibition Dates: 25 March -21 May 2023 First Floor

WAQA-funded workshops were run in Northampton and Geraldton by textile artist Megan Byrne 22-24 April 2023 and video of represented quilters provided.

**PEREGRINATIONS OF A CITIZEN BOTANIST** by Susie Vickery

Toured by Art On The Move

Exhibition Dates: 25 March -21 May 2023 Ground Floor

Included Artist Talk by artist Susie Vickery Saturday 25 March, film about Susie Vickery's development of the exhibition, 2 Workshops with Susie Vickery, at GRAG and at The Hampton Gallery, Northampton, also a small Craft Film Festival by Maker&Smith was run on Saturday 25 March at GRAG.

All events and artist visit funded by AOTM, with workshop attendance charging a ticketed fee, and Film Festival tickets to cover staffing.

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**CURRENT EXHIBITIONS**

**HE IS MYSELF: THE ART OF WILLIAM GARDINER**

Generated by FORM and Spinifex Hill Studio, Toured by Art On The Move

Exhibition Dates: 3 June -30 July 2023 First Floor

Born in the years leading up to Australia's first Aboriginal workers' strike of 1946-1949, Nyaparu (William) Gardiner (1943-2018) lived and worked in the country's remote northwest regions, painting the iconic stockmen and his countrymen in the last 4 years of his life at Spinifex Hill Studio in South Hedland.



**IRWIN LEWIS**

In collaboration with Mossenson Art Gallery, Subiaco and the Lewis Family

Exhibition Dates: 3 June -30 July 2023 Ground Floor

Covering the arts practice of the respected Aboriginal artist born in Morawa and working across the Midwest and WA during a pivotal time of Aboriginal self-determination.



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**NEXT EXHIBITIONS**

**SINGLE CHANNEL**

National Gallery of Australia Touring Exhibition Ground Floor

Exhibition Dates: 12 August – 24 September 2023

Opening: 19 August

Drawn from the National Collection, *Single Channel* brings together key video works from the 1970s to the present day. The selection traces the emergence of video, its connection to portraiture, and its promise of narrative possibility. Focussing on works by First Nations and Australian artists, the exhibition includes influential films by artists such as Sue Ford, Mike Parr, Destiny Deacon, Tracey Moffatt and Daniel Crooks.

**NB.** With mooted repairs to the First Floor ceiling at GRAG and postponement of a programmed Exhibition due to illness, we will mount a collection of artworks acquired through the Mid West Art Prize from the Geraldton Art Collection, curated by the Coordinator.

### PRIZE COLLECTION

12 Years of Mid West Art Prize Acquisitions to the Geraldton Art Collection      First Floor  
Exhibition Dates: 12 August – 24 September 2023  
Opening: 19 August TBC

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### Mid West Art Prize THIS YEAR AT GRAG

This year the Art Gallery program will celebrate its' completion with the biennial MWAP2023. Please note the following **key dates**:

24 April      Entries open for Artists  
May          Sponsors confirmed  
8 September   Entries close for Artists  
20 September   Shortlisting entries  
8 November   Selected, shortlisted entries delivered  
                         to GRAG  
**Saturday 9 December**      **OPENING NIGHT EVENT**  
4 February 2024              Close of MWAP2023



**MID WEST  
ART PRIZE  
2023**

**Call for entries**  
Acquisitional Major Prize - \$20,000  
ENTRIES CLOSE 8 SEPTEMBER 2023  
To apply visit <http://artgallery.cgg.wa.gov.au>  
Opening night event Saturday 9 December

  [artgallery@cgg.wa.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@cgg.wa.gov.au)  



## GRAAC Public Art Report June 2023

### Public Art Map

- Working on final edits before print-ready document is complete.
- On track to be printed by 30 June.

### Walkaway Bus Shelter

- New artwork designed by the Year 5 and 6 class at Walkaway Primary School to be included on a new bus shelter in Walkaway.
- The artwork showing the *Bimarra* travelling through water, land and sky. The students created a mixed media artwork using dyes, paint and lino prints over 10 sessions throughout Term 1 2023.
- Walkaway Primary School gratefully acknowledge Candy Mongoo and Nanna (name to be confirmed), a Wajarri Elder, who gave permission for the design to be completed.



### Lightbox Gallery / Currently Exhibiting:

- *Individuals* by DADAA Print Group  
4 May – 31 July 2023
- Printed during a workshop at the GRAG under the guidance of printmaker and group facilitator Lizzy Robinson.
- EOI for next round open. Closing 28 June 2023.



### Proposed Foreshore Mural

- New mural to be designed on the former shower block alongside the Two Foreshore Café.
- The Artist Brief references the importance of the mural being fun and engaging and including a creative selfie element in the overall design.
- It's also an important consideration with the proximity of the Foreshore Playground that the concept should be particularly appealing to young children.
- The City have engaged local artist, Luke Barlow, to submit up to three concept designs by 16 June 2023.



**11. General Business**

**12. Date of next meeting**

The final meeting is scheduled for 14 September 2023 at 10:00am.

**13. Close**