

## **6.6. RADF COUNCIL INITIATED PUBLIC ART: MOSAICS FOR MOSSMAN**

**REPORT AUTHOR** Jessa Lloyd, Arts and Culture Officer

**MANAGER** Lisa Golding, Manager People and Community Services

**DEPARTMENT** People and Community Services

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the Mossman Planter Boxes Mosaic Project, as a Council initiated public art project through the Regional Arts Development Fund,**
- 2. Endorses the re-allocation of funding of \$15,000 from Council's current Operational budget and \$15,000 from the Regional Arts Development Fund, and**
- 3. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise all matters associated with this project.**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council's Open Spaces team delivered planter box infrastructure to William Street, Mossman and proposed a continuation of the Front Street mosaic works be applied to the planter box surfaces.

Council's Officers requested artist Sam Matthews develop a project concept and costing to continue the Front Street mosaic works onto the William Street planter boxes, as a community driven public art project encompassing workshops, delivered across eight months to a wide cross section of the community.

This report provides a recommendation that Council endorse the proposal for the Mossman Planter Boxes Mosaic Project to be delivered as a Council initiated project under the Regional Arts Development Fund program for 2023-2024, with a 50:50 contribution to project costs allocated to Open Spaces and the RADF 2023-2024 Program.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Front Street beautification project enlivened Mossman's Front Street with the delivery of tropical insect themed mosaic installations on planter boxes throughout the town centre. Artist Sam Matthews was engaged to facilitate the project through a series of community workshops, mosaic classes, and ceramics classes at Douglas Arts Base, working with 42 volunteers from across the community to create the final works.

This proposal is a not only a continuation and extension of the Front Street beautification works, but an extension to the several mosaic projects throughout the region that have engaged and connected the local creative community and resulted in vibrant works that reflect the stunning natural assets of the region.

## COMMENTS

The costs associated with delivering the mosaic project are proposed to be allocated from Council's Open Spaces budget under beautification works and the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) as a Council initiated public art project as tabled:

**Table1: Proposed project funding allocations for the Mossman Mosaic Project**

Allocation	%	\$
Open Spaces	50%	\$15,000
Council Initiated Project RADF 2023-2024	50%	\$15,000
Total Costing	100%	\$30,000

### Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a Queensland Government and Local Government partnership to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

Applications to Council's funding programs or submissions for Council initiated public art projects that support strategic initiatives, such as the creation of public art, are strengthened if proposals clearly articulate how locally identified priorities are addressed.

Community feedback obtained during the development of Council's Corporate Plan 2014-2019, the regular review of Council's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), consultation during the development of the Arts Strategy 2017-2021 and the incoming Strategy for Arts, Culture & Creativity 2024-2029 identify a great desire for Cultural Tourism, Placemaking and Public Art, while acknowledging the need for greater diversity and inclusivity.

Public art proposals are considered and assessed against Council's strategic directions, policies, planning controls, and corporate documents as well as against the RADF guidelines.

The 'Making Mosaics for Mossman' project will be a community led and delivered placemaking and public art project:

All three of the artists proposed to be involved as leads in the mosaic project: Sam Matthews, Leanne Emmett and Ellen Terrell, have demonstrated their experience and involvement in other local projects and will work collaboratively at each stage, sharing their knowledge, involving and skilling up local creative volunteers and emerging artists.

## PROPOSAL

That Council note the proposal submitted by Sam Matthews for the Mossman Planter Boxes Mosaic Project and total project cost of \$30,000, and endorse the project be co-funded by Council's Open Spaces and RADF as a Council initiated public art project.

Funding of \$15,000 is proposed from an existing funding allocation from Open Spaces, matched by \$15,000 of funding from RADF.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with running the RADF Program have been provided for in the budget for the 12 months to 30 June 2024.

Ongoing maintenance, and repair costs associated with the mosaic installation are covered in the Open Spaces budget.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The risk of issues arising during the delivery of the mosaic project is mitigated by the experience of lead artists, Sam Matthews and Leanne Emmett (with some involvement by Ellen Terrell) who have delivered several similar public art mosaics works throughout the region using the same design, production processes and community workshop model successfully, including:

1. 2017 - Life Amongst the Trees, Rex Smeal Park, Port Douglas
2. 2018 - RSL Remembrance Mosaic, RSL Building, Mossman
3. 2020 – Life Amongst the Trees Part II, Rex Smeal Park, Port Douglas
4. 2021 – Making Mosaics for Mossman, Front Street, Mossman

Financial risks will be mitigated by staged payments scheduled to project milestones. Lead Artist Sam Matthews has provided costings based on previous delivery time and costs, with consideration given to increases in material costs and freight, and these have informed her quote to deliver this project to budget.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local and cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.
- Environmental:** Artists will work in a manner to ensure mural materials have minimal impact on the environment.
- Social:** The RADF program supports arts and cultural activities that provide public value for the Douglas Shire community, builds local and cultural capacity, cultural innovation, and community pride.

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy, and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

**Goal 1** - *We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

**Goal 2** - *We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the livability of our beautiful Shire*

**Goal 3** - *We will develop programs that promote health, well-being and safety in the community.*

**Goal 4** - *We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

### **Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship**

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come. We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent. Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

**Goal 4** - *We will partner with the community to educate and monitor.*

**Goal 5** - *We will recognise the contribution that Traditional Owners make to the protection of the environment.*

### **Theme 4 - Inclusive Engagement, Planning and Partnerships**

In delivering for our communities, economy and environment, Douglas Shire will ensure open and transparent engagement and communication. We will develop robust strategic plans and we will partner with our community and key stakeholders.

**Goal 1** - *We will implement transparent decision making through inclusive community engagement and communication.*

**Goal 2** - *We will develop forward looking strategies for the future of our communities, and we will ensure balanced and appropriate planning decisions.*

**Goal 3** - *We will recognise the critical role that our partners play in planning and delivering vital programs and services.*

### **Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:**

New project arisen during the financial year.

### **COUNCIL'S ROLE**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Advocate</b>	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
<b>Builder/Owner</b>	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
<b>Custodian</b>	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
<b>Facilitator</b>	Council often brings stakeholders together on important issues, projects or for service delivery. In this role, Council can act as a mediator, connector, collaborator or initiator.
<b>Funder</b>	Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Manager, People & Community Services, Team Community & Economic Development, Coordinator, Public Spaces, Project Manager, Open Spaces, Management Team.

Mayor and Councillors at the 31 October Council Workshop.

**External:** Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Advisory Committee, Sam Matthews (Douglas Arts Base, Leanne Am, Ellen Terrel).

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community feedback obtained during the development of Council's Corporate Plan 2014-2019, the regular review of Council's Regional Arts Development Fund, consultation during the development of the Arts Strategy 2017-2021 and the incoming Strategy for Arts, Culture & Creativity 2024-2029 identify a great desire for Cultural Tourism, Placemaking and Public Art, while acknowledging the need for greater diversity and inclusivity.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil