

Draft Creative Community Implementation Plan 2026-31

Plain English summary

This implementation plan delivers on the Council's Community Capacity and Connection Strategy 2026–31. The aims of our strategy cover 4 streams to support an informed, active, creative and empowered community. This plan explains the main actions we will carry out to meet objectives under the Creative Community stream of the strategy.

There will be 3 other implementation plans relating to delivery of the strategy. We already have an implementation plan for the Empowered Community stream, and an implementation plan for the Informed Community stream is in draft form. An implementation plan for the Active Community stream will be developed in 2027.

To guide our work on the Creative Community stream, each action has a timeframe of either:

- short-term – within 12 months
- medium-term – within 2 to 3 years
- long-term – within 3 to 5 years
- ongoing.

Each implementation plan lists actions under the strategy's 10 focus areas and 30 objectives. Various teams, sections and directorates across the council are listed against the actions as the lead or contributor. Team name is used wherever possible for increased clarity. A section or directorate name is used when involvement in delivering the action is intended to be broader than a single team. Progress on this plan will be reported to Council every 2 years.

This Plain English plan is a summary of the main Creative Community Implementation Plan 2026-31. The full Draft Creative Community Implementation Plan can be found at: www.onkaparingacity.com. To speak with someone about this plan you can call: 8384 0666.



Strategic objectives		Actions		Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	
Community Vision 2034 theme: Community							
Focus area 1: Wellbeing							
1.1	Support First Nations people	1.1.1	Work closely with Kaurna Traditional Owners, First Nations communities and organisations to support cultural leadership and shared decision-making across creative and cultural initiatives.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity	
		1.1.2	Support truth telling via the arts that provides for cultural empowerment and community education.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity	
		1.1.3	Increase visibility of First Nations cultural expression, language and storytelling across council spaces through public art, performances, workshops and other cultural initiatives.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Libraries Engagement, Grants & Events	
1.2	Enhance physical and mental wellbeing	1.2.1	Use our creative and cultural wellbeing initiatives to enhance social connection, reduce isolation and support positive mental-health outcomes.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries	
		1.2.2	Support and promote the delivery of community-led creative initiatives, in partnership with social service organisations, to enhance wellbeing, participation, connection and belonging.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries	
		1.2.3	Strengthen and advocate for the wellbeing and resilience of creatives through wellbeing supports, professional guidance, spaces and peer networks.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity	
1.3	Respond to the needs and aspirations of key age cohorts	Children	1.3.1	Partner with educational and community organisations to deliver creative and cultural opportunities to strengthen children's wellbeing, connection and participation in community life.	Ongoing	Youth	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development Libraries
		Young people	1.3.2	Support youth-led creativity and decision-making through opportunities to design, deliver and participate in arts and cultural initiatives.	Ongoing	Youth	Arts Reconciliation & Cultural Development Community Development Libraries

		1.3.3 Expand delivery of accessible creative activities, as well as safe spaces, for young people outside school hours to increase participation, connection, creativity, wellbeing and safety.	Ongoing	Youth	Community Development Arts Reconciliation & Cultural Development Libraries
	Adults & families	1.3.4 Expand delivery of creative and cultural activities for adults and families outside business hours to increase participation, connection and wellbeing.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Libraries
	Older people	1.3.5 Expand delivery of creative and cultural activities for older people to increase connection and wellbeing, including with different generations.	Medium	Active Ageing & Ability	Arts Reconciliation & Cultural Development Libraries

Focus area 2: Social inclusion and cohesion

2.1 Support under-represented community cohorts	2.1.1	Enable members of under-represented groups to connect, participate, contribute and be visible within the creative and cultural sector.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries
	2.1.2	Examine our arts and cultural experiences, communications and venues to improve accessibility and inclusion.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Development Libraries
2.2 Encourage connections between people	2.2.1	Bring people of different backgrounds, cultures, identities and age groups together to celebrate diversity at creative programs and events.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Libraries

	2.2.2	Support creative networks and partnerships that encourage participation, leadership, peer support, knowledge sharing, and learning with other age groups, through arts, culture and storytelling.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Libraries
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Focus area 3: Community vibrancy and pride

3.1 Inspire lifelong learning	3.1.1	Deliver creative learning opportunities that support participation in arts, culture, music, storytelling and skill development, including new technologies and modern digital creativity.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries
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3.2	Maximise opportunities for healthy, active lifestyles, and enjoyment	<i>See Sport and Active Recreation Action Plan 2021–25.</i> <i>Actions to be considered as part of developing the Active Community Implementation Plan.</i>				
3.3	Maximise opportunities for cultural, creative and self-expression, and enjoyment	3.3.1	Strengthen offerings at the Hopgood Theatre in partnership with Country Arts SA.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Country Arts SA
		3.3.2	Create opportunities for creatives to exhibit, rehearse, perform and showcase their work.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Development Libraries
		3.3.3	Strengthen support for new, original and contemporary arts experiences and the performing arts sector through partnerships, and investment and development opportunities.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
		3.3.4	Explore expansion of the Sauerbier House residency program to other locations to increase opportunities for artists and enhance this program's cultural contribution.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
		3.3.5	Deliver and promote a diverse, year-round calendar of creative, cultural and artistic festivals, events and experiences in partnership with local businesses, organisations and community groups.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Economic Growth & Tourism Country Arts SA
		3.3.6	Enhance the Arts Centre shop as a venue for local artists by increasing sales opportunities, online presence and market reach.	Short	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
		3.3.7	Undertake an audit of the public art collection.	Short	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
		3.3.8	Finish reviewing the Public Art Framework and implement results to guide integration of public art across the council’s projects and programs.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
		3.3.9	Integrate meaningful public art into major developments and precinct upgrades to enrich public spaces, reflect diverse perspectives and inspire community engagement with the arts.	Short	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Construction & Projects
		3.3.10	Identify ways to grow the council’s art collection while maintaining and preserving it through the Art Collection Management Procedure.	Short	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	

	3.3.11	Plan and deliver an ‘Onkaparinga’s Got Talent’ event in partnership with Country Arts SA to showcase the artistic talents of the community.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Country Arts SA
3.4 Deliver social projects and initiatives that address local matters and celebrate local values	3.4.1	Expand community public art initiatives, including murals and Stobie pole projects.	Ongoing	Community Development	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development
	3.4.2	Identify barriers and make processes easier for community-led public art initiatives.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Youth Community Development
Community Vision 2034 theme: Environment					
Focus area 4: Environmental care					
4.1 Care for the environment and respond to climate change	4.1.1	Use the creative arts to build community understanding of environmental issues, climate change and local ecosystems, with artists, organisations and First Nations working together.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Sustainability Libraries
	4.1.2	Encourage and support environmentally responsible creative practices for creative activities, projects and events.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Sustainability Libraries
4.2 Enhance disaster resilience	See Informed Community Implementation Plan 2026-31 and Empowered Community Implementation Plan 2026-31.				
Community Vision 2034 theme: Liveability					
Focus area 5: Food, shelter and safety					
5.1 Maximise opportunities for food security	See Empowered Community Implementation Plan 2026-31.				
5.2 Respond compassionately and effectively to people experiencing homelessness	See Informed Community Implementation Plan 2026-31 and Empowered Community Implementation Plan 2026-31.				
5.3 Contribute to community safety	5.3.1	Support arts, cultural and community activities in public spaces, increase visible community presence and strengthen social connection to contribute to safer and welcoming communities.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Engagement, Grants & Events Community Capacity

Focus area 6: Social economics						
6.1	Support people and households on a low income and/or experiencing cost-of-living pressures	6.1.1	Provide free or low-cost creative and cultural opportunities and access to facilities, materials and information, particularly in communities with high socio-economic disadvantage.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries
6.2	Support people to develop knowledge and skills towards employment	6.2.1	Deliver business development, mentoring and professional learning to increase ways artists and creative practitioners can have ongoing careers.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Economic Growth & Tourism
		6.2.2	Connect young or emerging artists with industry professionals through workshops, masterclasses and networking opportunities.	Medium	Youth	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development
		6.2.3	Support local creative enterprise through markets, commissions, exhibitions, performances and events.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
		6.2.4	Enhance opportunities for artists to sell work and expand audience reach through digital and physical platforms.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
		6.2.5	Support cultural safety for First Nations people participating in creative, cultural and professional development activities that strengthen skills, confidence and self-determination.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
6.3	Enable community-led activity	6.3.1	Improve community awareness of, access to and use of facilities, spaces, equipment, funding and resources that enable community-led creative, cultural and social initiatives across the region.	Short	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
		6.3.2	Provide practical support, develop and maintain partnerships and share information that enables people to start, lead and deliver local projects.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
		6.3.3	Support access to in-kind support, grants, funding and other capacity-building opportunities that enable artists, creatives and community groups to thrive and deliver community-led initiatives.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Strategy
Focus area 7: Community places						

7.1	Recognise local strengths, assets, characteristics and identity	7.1.1	Integrate public art, creative placemaking, cultural expression and heritage information into the planning and delivery of council’s projects and public spaces to strengthen local identity, community connection and sense of place.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Construction & Projects Community Assets
		7.1.2	Invest in First Nations cultural expression about relevant locations across the region through public art, digital storytelling and signage developed with Kaurna Traditional Owners.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
7.2	Provide and promote safe and welcoming facilities	7.2.1	Increase innovative use of the council's arts, music, cultural and other community facilities through partnerships, programming, activation and upgrades.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Assets Community Capacity
7.3	Respond to district needs, aspirations and characteristics	7.3.1	Establish a city-wide approach to increase opportunities for cultural and creative experiences at a range of venues, public spaces and locations.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Libraries
7.4	Enhance people’s access to places that are important to them	See Informed Community Implementation Plan 2026-31 and Empowered Community Implementation Plan 2026-31.				
Community Vision 2034 theme: Leadership						
Focus area 8: Active citizenship						
8.1	Develop leadership skills and support community leaders in their work	8.1.1	Build leadership and governance capacity among artists, creatives, community members and young people through creative initiatives, advisory groups and other leadership opportunities.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
8.2	Empower people to contribute to matters that affect them	8.2.1	Involve artists, community members, elected members and other stakeholders in the planning, assessment and delivery of public art and other creative and cultural projects.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	
8.3	Support strong community volunteerism	8.3.1	Recognise and celebrate volunteers, valuing their contribution to the local arts and cultural sector.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Human Resources
		8.3.2	Support opportunities for volunteers, community groups and local leaders to contribute their skills, knowledge	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Human Resources

		and experience to artistic, cultural and creative initiatives.				
Focus area 9: Access to information						
9.1	Cultivate high levels of awareness and participation	9.1.1	Work with the community to improve promotion of cultural and creative activities and information to maximise reach.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Marketing & Communications
		9.1.2	Promote and celebrate local creative outcomes and success stories to help with community engagement, participation and artistic careers.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Marketing & Communications
9.2	Strengthen public trust in Council	See Informed Community Implementation Plan 2026-31.				
Focus area 10: Strategic approach						
10.1	Address identified community priorities and amplify community voices	10.1.1	Support growth of the creative economy through partnerships, investment and funding, working with various sectors and using existing resources.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Marketing & Communications Economic Growth & Tourism
		10.1.2	Maintain partnerships with First Nations artists, organisations and cultural authorities as the basis of all First Nations arts and cultural programming.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity
		10.1.3	Partner with the McLaren Vale and Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre to showcase artists and cultural experiences that strengthen community participation and visitation to the region.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Economic Growth & Tourism
		10.1.4	Strengthen relationships, including with Good Bank Gallery and Fleurieu Art House, to enhance the region's reputation as a cultural destination.	Long	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Economic Growth & Tourism
10.2	Support the strength and independence of community networks, groups and organisations	10.2.1	Support arts networks and organisations through capacity building, collaboration, information sharing, governance support, advocacy and access to funding and development opportunities.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	

10.3	Respond flexibly to evolving community needs and aspirations and social issues	10.3.1	Use community insights and feedback to inform the planning, delivery and evaluation of arts, cultural and creative initiatives.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Engagement, Grants & Events Strategy
		10.3.2	Strengthen evidence-based practice through research partnerships and program evaluation to support continuous improvement.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Community Capacity Operational Excellence
10.4	Encourage broader understanding and adoption of community development principles and practice	10.4.1	Support the value of arts, culture and creativity within the council and across the community, and increase understanding of their role in wellbeing, social connection and community capacity.	Ongoing	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Marketing & Communications Community Capacity
		10.4.2	Focus on continuous improvement for how our arts and cultural services and facilities are operated to find ways staff can enhance community development and community capacity aspects of their work.	Medium	Arts, Reconciliation & Cultural Development	Learning & Development Operational Excellence

(Source of image: Magnific.)