

TOWARDS AN ARTS AND CULTURAL PLAN FOR GOYDER

The first thing you need to know reading this document is that **this is not an Arts and Cultural Plan. Yet.**

This is an invitation to help shape one.

The Regional Council of Goyder is developing a new Arts and Cultural Plan for 2027-2030. Before we write the plan, we want to hear from the people who live, work, create, volunteer, learn, gather and participate in the cultural life of our beautiful region.

We want to understand what arts and culture already look like here, what matters to our communities, what we must preserve or strengthen, what is missing, and what we want to build together over the next 4 years.



The opening of Eudunda SALA 2023

1. WHERE WE HAVE BEEN AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

The Arts and Cultural Plan will sit beneath the **Goyder Master Plan 2025–2040**, alongside other Council plans and strategies including tourism, youth, disability access and inclusion, and community engagement.

It builds on the **Regional Council of Goyder Arts Development Strategy 2019–2023**, while looking much more broadly at arts and culture across the whole region.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR



Your contribution matters. This is an early opportunity to influence the direction of the plan — before priorities, actions and measures are decided.

2. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ARTS AND CULTURE?

When we talk about **arts and culture**, we mean more than professional artists and cultural organisations.

Culture is the things we create, share, value, remember and pass on. It can be expressed through art and creativity, but also through language, food, buildings, public spaces, heritage, festivals, traditions, community groups and the ways we come together.

There are many definitions of **art**. But to keep it Goyder, we'll quote Burra Librarian, Lisa O'Connor, who said "Art is self-expression that provides joy, escapism, supports health, healing, and recovery. Art helps people connect with others. Its benefits are underestimated as its effects on wellbeing are difficult to demonstrate on a spreadsheet. Art is one of those rare activities that is accessible and inclusive to all socio-economic demographics in a challenging economic climate. It doesn't discriminate. It informs, enlightens, amplifies and preserves our social and political history and invites conversation."



3. WHY DOES ARTS AND CULTURE MATTER IN GOYDER?

Goyder has a strong cultural life. To use an arts metaphor: we are not starting from a blank canvas or empty page.

We have artists and makers, community groups, volunteers, history groups, festivals, libraries, galleries, schools, musicians, craftspeople, storytellers, heritage places and people who carry generations of knowledge.

The Goyder Master Plan recognises the importance of community connection, heritage, Ngadjuri Country, economic resilience and livability. It also identifies the need to support community groups and recognise the diverse history and culture of the region.

Arts and culture can help us turn those ambitions into lived experiences.

4. SOME IDEAS WE HAVE ALREADY GATHERED AND QUESTIONS WE ARE THINKING ABOUT:



Culture belongs to everyone

Arts and culture is not just something made by artists for artists.

How can we make creative and cultural participation part of everyday community life?



Our stories are living things

Goyder has extraordinary stories — ancient and recent, Indigenous and settler, agricultural, industrial, personal and environmental.

How can arts and culture help us experience, question, celebrate and share those stories?



Culture happens everywhere

A gallery is a cultural space. So is a library, hall, school, park, pub, farm, street or landscape.

How can we make better use of the places where people already gather?
How can arts celebrate our remarkable landscapes and endangered grasslands?



We need to build capacity, not dependency

How can Council support communities, artists and organisations to develop the skills, confidence, connections and resources to create things themselves?

Some cultural activity relies heavily on the energy of one or two people. Volunteers are vital, but many are already carrying significant workloads. How can we strengthen succession planning, share skills, build our cultural capacity and make this work more sustainable?



Arts and culture can bridge generations

How do we weave creative opportunities into all stages of life in our community?

What activities bring generations together?
What would it look like if young people had more opportunities to create, participate and shape the cultural life of Goyder?



Culture connects us to Country

How can the Arts and Cultural Plan support meaningful relationships with Ngadjuri Nation and greater opportunities for Ngadjuri culture, stories and artistic practice to be represented across the region?



Arts can help tell Goyder's story to the world

Goyder's heritage and landscape are already important to tourism and the World Heritage journey and our merino farms are the envy of the industry.

How might creative practice help make those stories more accessible, engaging, contemporary and memorable?

5. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

You might be a volunteer, parent, grandparent, farmer, teacher, young person, retiree, business owner, community group member, artist, maker, musician, history buff or simply someone who cares about where you live.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Come along

Join a community conversation or consultation in your town. We currently have seven sessions booked across six towns. These sessions will be facilitated by our Arts and Cultural Facilitator.

- Burra, Tuesday Oct 27th 10am at the Burra Community School Library
- Burra, Tuesday Nov 3rd 5.30pm at the Burra Community School Library
- Robertstown, Thursday Oct 29th 11am at the Robertstown Community Centre



- Eudunda, Thursday Oct 29th 3.30pm at the YAC Room
- Farrell Flat, Friday Oct 30th 3pm at the Farrell Flat Post Office
- Booborowie, Wednesday Nov 4th 10am at the Boob Diner
- Terowie, Friday Nov 6th 11am at the Supper Room

You can sign up to attend one of these sessions at the [Arts & Culture](#) page on the Council's website.



Battle of the Bands, 2018

Respond in writing

Sign up to receive a survey and share your ideas in writing. This can also be found at [Arts & Culture](#) or by emailing fkilpatrick@goyder.sa.gov.au

Host a community conversation

Our Arts and Cultural Facilitator will guide these sessions, but we need people to talk to and places to meet. The session could be in your living room, shop, in a community hall or park, at a school or on a farm. Our Arts and Cultural Facilitator is still new to our region so one of the best way you can contribute is to rally your community and get the right people in the room for her to listen to.

Share this document

We especially want to hear from people who might not normally participate in Council consultations.

Talk to us

Speak with the Arts & Cultural Facilitator or a member of the Art Is Working Group. Email fkilpatrick@goyder.sa.gov.au to book a time or connect with a working group member in your town.



Jodie O'Regan at work on the Burra Orchestra Project, 2026

The future Arts and Cultural Plan must be shaped by what we hear from our community: what matters, what is working, what needs support, what is missing and what possibilities people can see.

Help us imagine what comes next.