



ARTS AND CULTURE

Framing Our
City's Future



From the Mayor and Committee Chair

Ipswich is entering an exciting new phase in its development. We are rapidly changing and evolving to become a cultural destination of choice. We will continue to be a connected and engaged community, one which fosters emerging and creative talent.

Council recognises the importance of culture in building identity, fostering liveability, sustainability and growth. The Arts and Cultural Strategy will guide our investment in building and creating community cultural capacity.

I warmly encourage you to engage in building our vision for the city, through responding to the ideas and questions presented in this Discussion Paper.

Mayor Andrew Antonioli

Vibrant and diverse arts and cultural activity is a strong contributor to a city's sense of place: that intangible feel that attracts residents, visitors and investors. The arts creates employment, connection between communities and allows the city to express itself.

The development of a new Arts and Cultural Strategy is an exciting time for Ipswich.

Councillor Kylie Stoneman
Chair of the Arts and
Community Development Committee

Introduction

The development of a great city relies on a myriad of elements, all contributing to its productivity, vibrancy and sustainability. Arts and culture are transformative elements for modern cities and help to position them as attractive places to live, work and invest. The development of arts and cultural strategies, and their visible presence through programs and precincts, assist in providing a shared vision of identity for residents and acting as hubs of creative, innovative activity, open to entrepreneurial partnerships, new work and advanced practices.

Recognition and pride in local and Indigenous heritage is also an important part of our thinking about the place where we live and what we have collectively achieved.

Enhanced cultural engagement has amplified the importance of culture in driving liveability, sustainability and growth for the city of Ipswich. The city acknowledges the role of culture in contributing significantly to elevating the liveability and attraction of Ipswich, to create a city in which residents can be proud.

The Arts and Cultural Strategy is a significant statement of intent, which will help to shape the future of Ipswich. Community investment choices will be influenced by this Strategy which will be embraced as a Council-wide framework connecting with all of Council's activities. It will guide partnership-building – especially as many of the actions in the Strategy will be facilitated but not necessarily delivered by Council.

With an agreed Arts and Cultural Strategy Council will have an essential 'road map' for developing the liveability of our city, for investing in creative endeavour, and for celebrating and respecting our diverse communities.



What this document does

Through interviews and group discussions more than 60 individuals from the creative sector and the wider community have explored with us what arts and culture means to our community. They have given voice to some of the themes and ideas that matter to Ipswich. These will shape our vision for arts and culture, which will define and help achieve our long-term goals for our city. While the pace of arts and cultural development will be dependent upon available resources, it is important for us to have a clear sense of priorities.

The purpose of this Discussion Document is to hear more from the wider community. Your response to this Document will help inform the priorities, strategies and goals over the next five years which will be set out in the city's Arts and Cultural Strategy. The Discussion Document is being widely shared in the community and aims to secure your response to the key themes and ideas which we have heard so far, and provide you with an opportunity to influence the Arts and Cultural Strategy.



The terms we have used

The **Arts** are the physical results of our creative impulse. The various art forms represent an outlet for creative expression which is both influenced by our culture and, in turn, influences it.

Culture is how we express who we are, as a member of a group. Through arts activities, festivals and events, through food and traditions - our culture makes us feel connected and welcome, and proud of our home and city.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land. The people of the Yugara language, whose earth, winds and waters we share, have had a deep spiritual and cultural connection to country for thousands of years. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, cultures and stories of a proud people.

Who we are and what we want for our city's future

Ipswich is South East Queensland's fastest-growing city, with a population of 208,000 which is projected to rise to 520,000 by 2041. It is identified as a principal regional activity centre in the South East Queensland Plan.

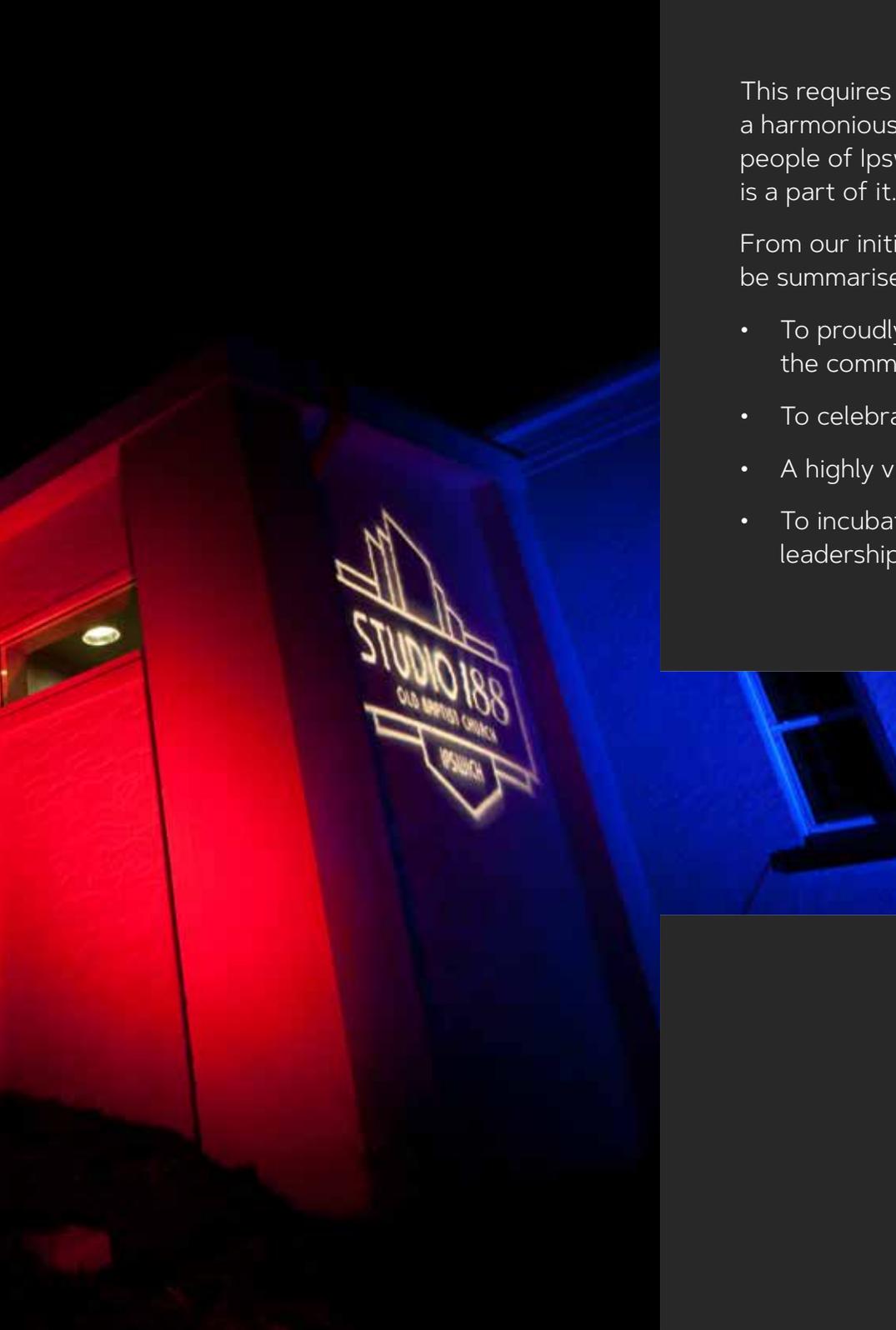
While our built heritage is a defining characteristic of Ipswich, our rapid population growth and new developments are shaping the dynamics of the city. While we embrace this, such growth brings challenges, and the physical size of our region – and the distance between the two major centres of Ipswich and Springfield – highlights the importance of communication and connection through arts and culture.

We have an extensive system of green spaces and parklands. The Bremer River winds through the city and is a significant ecological asset. Ipswich is dedicated to conserving its natural heritage with initiatives such as 'Open Space' and 'Beautiful Ipswich'.

We have a young and energised population. We have fostered many of the nation's talented performers and artists. We have an established, diverse and engaged creative community that is supported by passionate and committed volunteers who are willing to dedicate time and energy to growing and strengthening the creative community. While we have some places and spaces to gather and celebrate our creativity, we need more spaces and facilities to gather, and to foster and strengthen our community and its connectivity.

Although such pressures as rapid development and economic factors are very real, some of the primary challenges facing Ipswich's arts and culture sector come from the different lifestyles and expectations of those who have been in the city for generations, and those who are new arrivals.





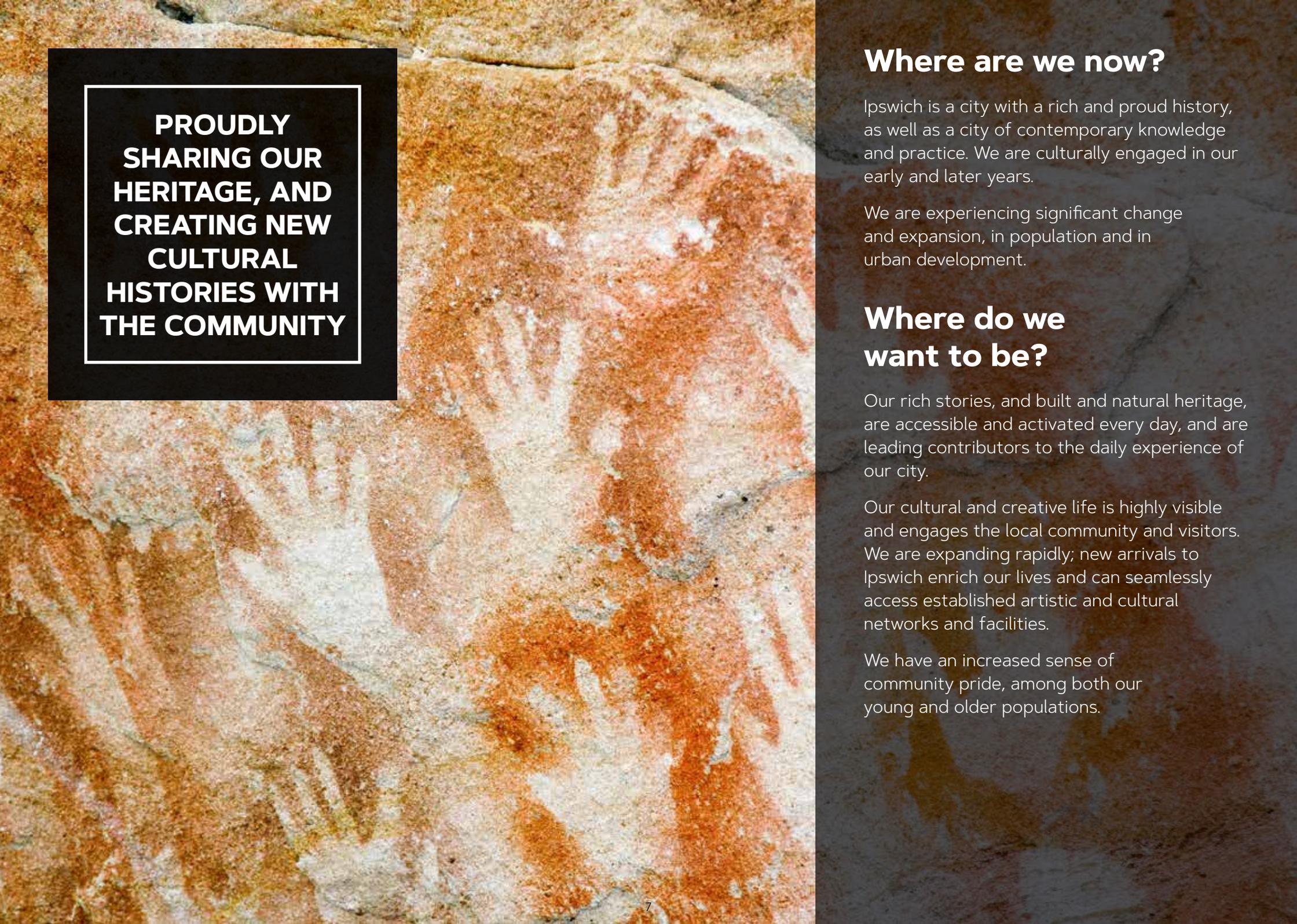
This requires adaptation and adjustment for us to progress as a harmonious society. Such change is a great opportunity for the people of Ipswich, and the Arts and Cultural Strategy planning process is a part of it.

From our initial consultation for the Arts and Cultural Strategy the views we heard can be summarised into four key aims for arts and culture in our city:

- To proudly share our heritage story and create and share new histories with the community
- To celebrate inclusivity, where our people and communities are connected and visible
- A highly visible and valued creative community, both inside and outside Ipswich
- To incubate creativity and innovation, support collaboration, and encourage leadership and learning.

The following pages expand on these aims and pose some questions to you to help us refine and expand upon them.

This is your city. We invite your ongoing participation in developing the Arts and Cultural Strategy through your further comments and feedback by Thursday 15th February 2018.



**PROUDLY
SHARING OUR
HERITAGE, AND
CREATING NEW
CULTURAL
HISTORIES WITH
THE COMMUNITY**

Where are we now?

Ipswich is a city with a rich and proud history, as well as a city of contemporary knowledge and practice. We are culturally engaged in our early and later years.

We are experiencing significant change and expansion, in population and in urban development.

Where do we want to be?

Our rich stories, and built and natural heritage, are accessible and activated every day, and are leading contributors to the daily experience of our city.

Our cultural and creative life is highly visible and engages the local community and visitors. We are expanding rapidly; new arrivals to Ipswich enrich our lives and can seamlessly access established artistic and cultural networks and facilities.

We have an increased sense of community pride, among both our young and older populations.

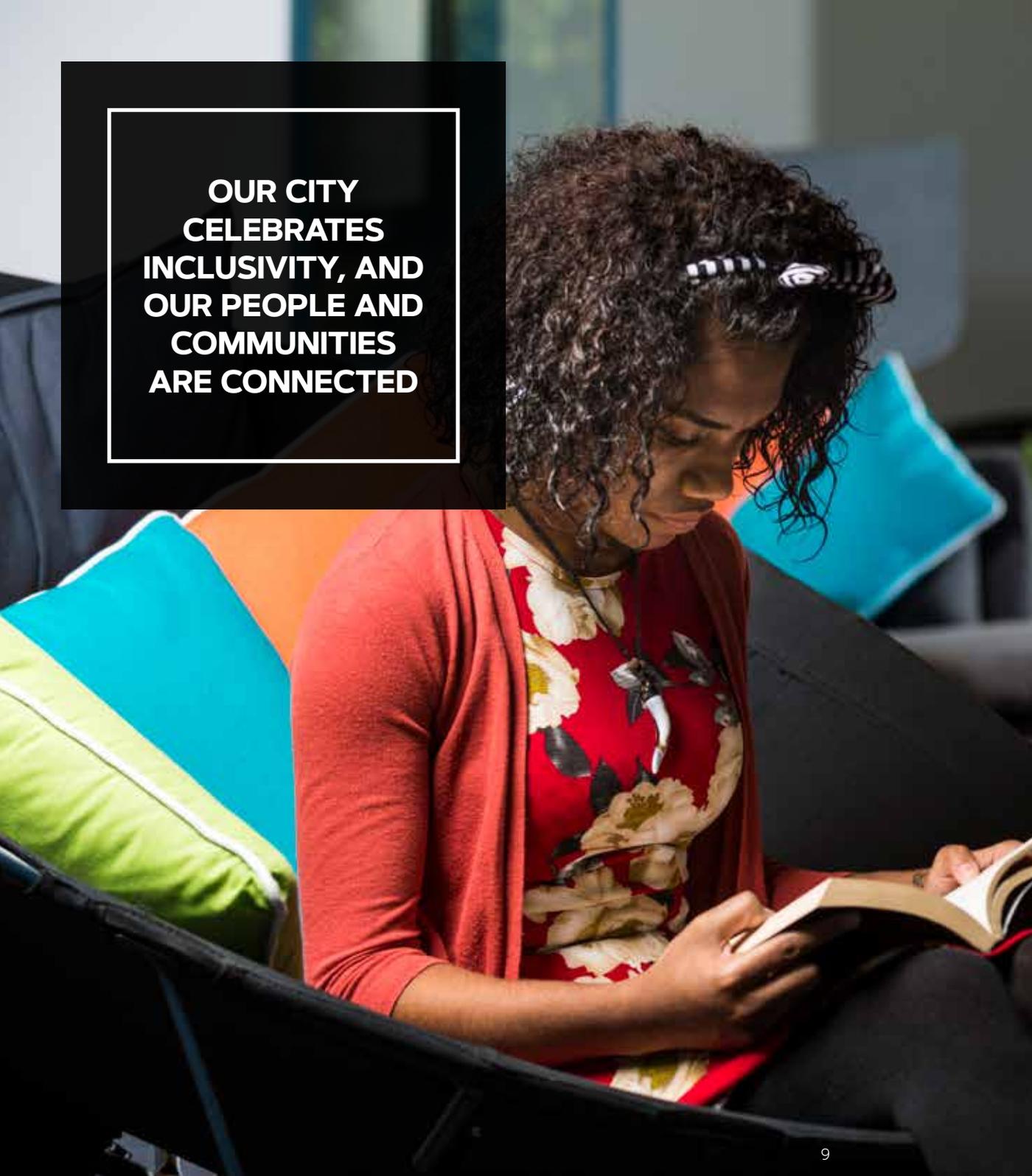


- > **What is the best way to share the histories and contemporary stories of the Ipswich community?**
- > **How could we improve access to artistic and cultural networks for those who move into the community?**

"Our identity is so strong here because so many people have been born here and then grow up here, and/or will return here to raise a family."

"We would like to see Aboriginal art hanging in businesses, banks, etc. It lifts the spirits of the Indigenous people when they see a community backing the art."

"There is little recognition about how far Ipswich has come and where it now sits due to this weddedness to the heritage/historic label."

A woman with curly hair, wearing a red cardigan over a floral top, is sitting in a lounge chair with colorful cushions (blue, green, orange) and reading a book. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

**OUR CITY
CELEBRATES
INCLUSIVITY, AND
OUR PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITIES
ARE CONNECTED**

Where are we now?

Our multicultural mix now includes over 163 countries of origin, with over 153 different languages spoken.

We recognise the need for improved cultural infrastructure to support diverse activity. Our Art Gallery, Library Service and Civic Centre make valuable contributions to the life of the city.

Where do we want to be?

The personality and cultural voices of our growing local and global community are evident throughout the city and inform a lively program of events and festivals, some of which are dedicated to specific cultures, including the Indigenous community, youth and emerging cultures.

There are new places and ways to engage, experience and learn from traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture. There are safe and inspiring spaces and events for our young people to enjoy a creative life.

Our events and festivals and the way we activate our city every day are an expression of a wealth of knowledge, traditions, religions and contemporary practices.

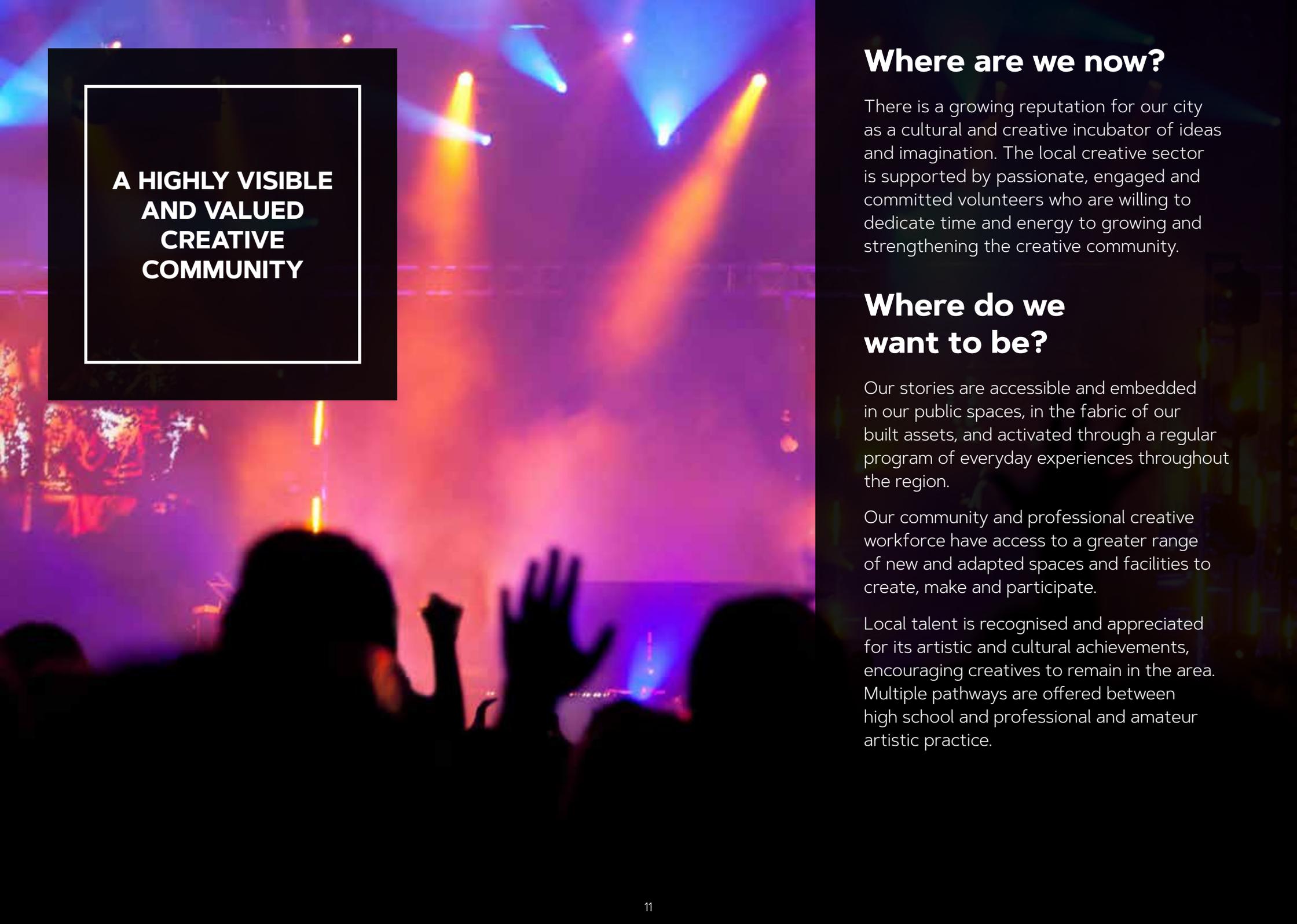
Equity, social inclusion, cohesion and celebration in our increasingly diverse community are supported by high levels of cross-cultural engagement.



- > **How can we encourage community members from all cultures to participate in the arts and cultural life of Ipswich?**
- > **How can we ensure that our young people feel they are an important part of our city?**
- > **How can our city demonstrate a strong commitment for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural projects and initiatives?**

"One of my observations working in the youth arts community is that we have talent - there is no shortage of it; we have dance schools; we have visual artists."

"We want to have our young (Indigenous) people able to feel connected to community and country."



**A HIGHLY VISIBLE
AND VALUED
CREATIVE
COMMUNITY**

Where are we now?

There is a growing reputation for our city as a cultural and creative incubator of ideas and imagination. The local creative sector is supported by passionate, engaged and committed volunteers who are willing to dedicate time and energy to growing and strengthening the creative community.

Where do we want to be?

Our stories are accessible and embedded in our public spaces, in the fabric of our built assets, and activated through a regular program of everyday experiences throughout the region.

Our community and professional creative workforce have access to a greater range of new and adapted spaces and facilities to create, make and participate.

Local talent is recognised and appreciated for its artistic and cultural achievements, encouraging creatives to remain in the area. Multiple pathways are offered between high school and professional and amateur artistic practice.



- > **How can the cultural sector support emerging artists so that their talents and skills are retained in our community?**
- > **How can we market artistic and cultural events to increase attendance and participation by the community, and to improve awareness of Ipswich's cultural and creative life?**

"We would like to see our own young people developing the public art and contributing to the community, and having it actually displayed as you drive through the town or walk through the city centre."

"Ipswich is full of talent – but it needs to be more recognised."

"It is hard to get the message out there about up-and-coming events."



**OUR CITY
INCUBATES
CREATIVITY AND
INNOVATION,
SUPPORTS
COLLABORATION.
IT ENCOURAGES
LEADERSHIP AND
LEARNING**

Where are we now?

Ipswich City Council makes a significant investment in culture throughout our city. Council recognises that cultural development is central to a cohesive sense of civic pride and is one of the keys to ensuring Ipswich is an attractive and exciting place to live, work and visit.

Where do we want to be?

Council listens to our community, drives innovative approaches to the development of a distinctive world-class city, and secures sufficient resources to deliver on arts and cultural priorities. It champions the role culture and the arts play in building a strong and unified community and invests in the conditions that allow for our local arts and cultural sector and our wider community to flourish.

We recognise the pace of change in our current environment and are open-minded and open-hearted to new opportunities and partnerships. Our city leverages existing and new platforms for knowledge generation, and cross-pollination of ideas and learning across business, industry, education and social investment.

We support a growing professionalism in our arts organisations' leadership. The arts and cultural community works in partnership with Council to provide facilities including creative hubs and collaborative working spaces and workshops to improve networks and support artistic development.



- > **How can Council use its buildings to better support arts and cultural activities?**
- > **What new facilities or spaces are needed to contribute to the cultural life of our city?**
- > **How can we facilitate increased professional employment opportunities for creative workers?**

"Support people, locals. Have small shops for their own art – progression from exhibiting to professional."

"Meetings occur all the time, but nothing ever comes of it, the government just likes to tick the boxes."

"There are more groups in Ipswich; they need to speak with one voice and teach advocacy and network with one another to provide a clear message to discuss plans and campaigns with council."



NEXT STEPS

Mid-February

Discussion document
feedback



Mid-April

Public comment on Draft
Strategy (issue date)



Mid-March

Draft Arts Culture and
Heritage Strategy



May

Submission to Council
for approval



Your feedback

Thank you for taking time in contributing to this discussion.

We invite your ongoing participation in developing the Arts and Cultural Strategy through your further comments and feedback by 15th February 2018.

Following receipt of feedback, we will prepare a Draft Arts and Cultural Strategy. This will be issued for public comment before the final Strategy is prepared.

If you have any further queries, please feel free to email info@positive-solutions.com.au

Give us your feedback ►

This Discussion Document has been prepared with the assistance of Positive Solutions and The Maytrix Group, who are supporting the City in preparation of the Arts and Cultural Strategy.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks to all the members of the community who have generously given interviews or participated in group discussions – and we look forward to hearing further from them, and from Ipswich's wider community in response to the questions posed in this document.

[Give us your feedback >>](#)



City of
Ipswich

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