



# CREATIVE AND CULTURAL PLAN

2024 – 2028





## Alison Dimer & Debbie Carmody | The Work

The Artist, Debbie Carmody, and the Storyteller, Allison Dimer, have completed a collaborative work for the Creative and Cultural Plan.

The artwork is reflective of Dreamtime Story and their own stories of living in the Shire.

The artwork depicts Gulgurla Rock in Coolgardie, Mularri which means 'talking hill' also known as Mount Burgess, Red Hill and the Kambalda salt lakes that are connected to the dreamtime story of the Crow and Eagle in Coolgardie.

The artwork's story is of the Gulgurla rock tjukurl (the Dreaming) a physiographical site believed to be the origin of the Gulgurla plant (silky pear / bush banana) at the beginning of creation.

Debbie shares the special area along the salt lakes where her father used to walk with his mother before he was put into Norseman mission.

The work is reflective of the many colours of the landscape in the Coolgardie and Kambalda areas. It includes a colour palette of greens, reds and the yellows of the soft sand around the salt lakes within the Shire of Coolgardie and rest of the Goldfields.

## About the artists

Debbie Cormody lives in Boulder and is an Anangu, Spinifex and traditional owner for Upurli Upurli Nguratja (Cundele) and Kepa Kurl (Esperance). Her connection to the community is through Country - Song/Travel Lines, and Family.

Alison Dimer is a Maduwongga Galagu woman, and the Holder of Cultural Stories passed down from her mother Dorothy Donaldson/Dimer who had the stories passed down to her from her ancestors of the Maduwongga Galagu tribe.



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**



## Acknowledgement of Country

*"The Shire of Coolgardie acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging."*

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## Message from the Shire President



As a long-term Coolgardie resident I have a strong affinity with the rugged landscape, the isolation, the vivid colours and the history, both Indigenous and post European settlement.

I am continually impressed by those who can capture the unique essence of this place through painting, music, dance, photography, and other forms of art.

This Creative and Cultural Plan for the Shire is aimed at motivating people to look round them, listen, observe, and be inspired to have their creativity drive them to either contribute their artistic expression to the broader community or become involved in celebrating the creativity of others.

By working together we can bring more and more dimensions of vitality to this place.

**Malcolm Cullen**





# INAUGURAL CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ..... PLAN



## Introduction

In May 2023, the Shire was awarded a grant from the Department of Local Government Sport Culture and the Arts (DLGSC) to develop its first Creative and Cultural Plan. The plan sets out to support the Shire's Community Strategic Plan and its four key pillars.

These key pillars seek to deliver on the Shire's vision for its community to be a 'connected, progressive, and welcoming community'.

This plan seeks to celebrate the rich culture, diversity and creative talent in the Shire of Coolgardie. In the development of this plan, the Shire has engaged with creative arts industries, community, First Nations community, resources companies, and others with the goal of leveraging the great talent and resources in the community to inspire a vision for arts and culture in the region.



Our Shire's history springs out of a harsh and rugged landscape. Our interaction with this unique terrain has created a rich cultural tapestry. Through the First Nations people, then pastoral industries, and mining, a unique narrative has developed for the Shire of Coolgardie based on our use of this land over time.

Our identity is a celebration of the close relationship between our culture, the land, and the ever-evolving story of who we are.







# .....OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY







# ..... HOW WE CELEBRATE



We celebrate our culture and identity through a diverse range of activities and events throughout the year including:

Coolgardie Day, Outback Rodeo, Wardens Finnerty activations, Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group, Makers Markets, Kambalda Christmas Tree, the Showcase our Shire Photo competition, Visitors Centre, and Youth activations.





# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

In developing the Shire's first Creative and Cultural Plan, the Shire of Coolgardie was committed to engaging with as many people in the community as possible.

The engagement involved:



16 one-on-one  
interviews



2 community  
workshops



4 youth  
pop-ups



online survey -  
158 respondents

During the engagement, a number of themes were explored including:

- What is unique about the Shire of Coolgardie
- How do we celebrate that now
- How could we celebrate that in the future
- How can we make that happen

The feedback from the extensive engagement has been used to inform the Focus Areas of the plan, creating a plan that has truly been written in partnership with the community.



# DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



**3636**

Residents in  
Shire of  
Coolgardie



**8.8%**

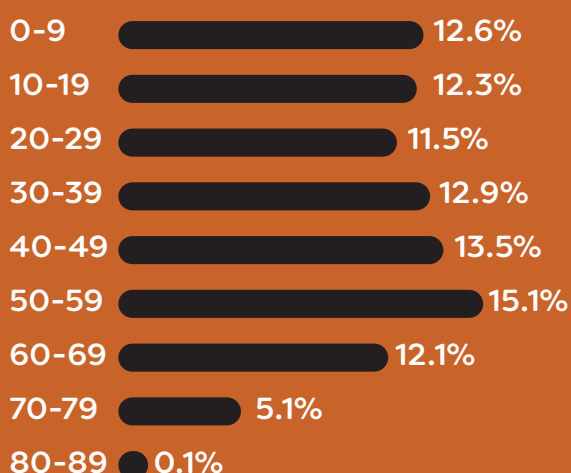
of residents are  
Aboriginal and/  
or Torres Strait  
Islander



**10.2%**

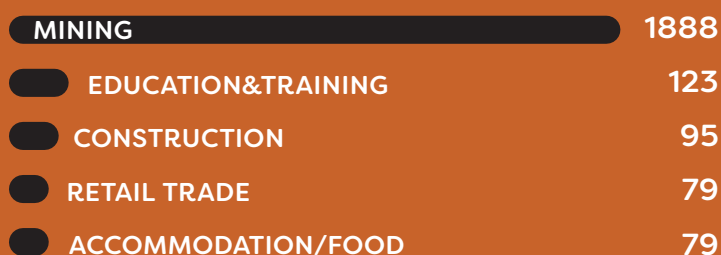
of residents born  
outside of Australia

## Population by age



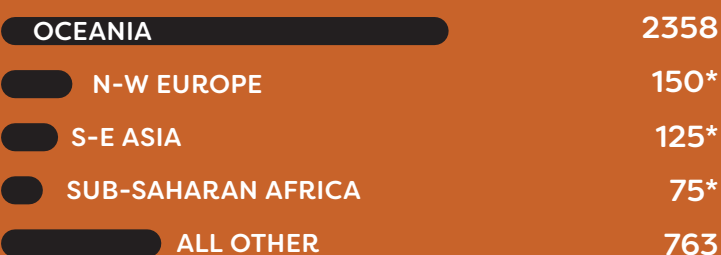
## Top 5 Industry Sectors

(number employed)

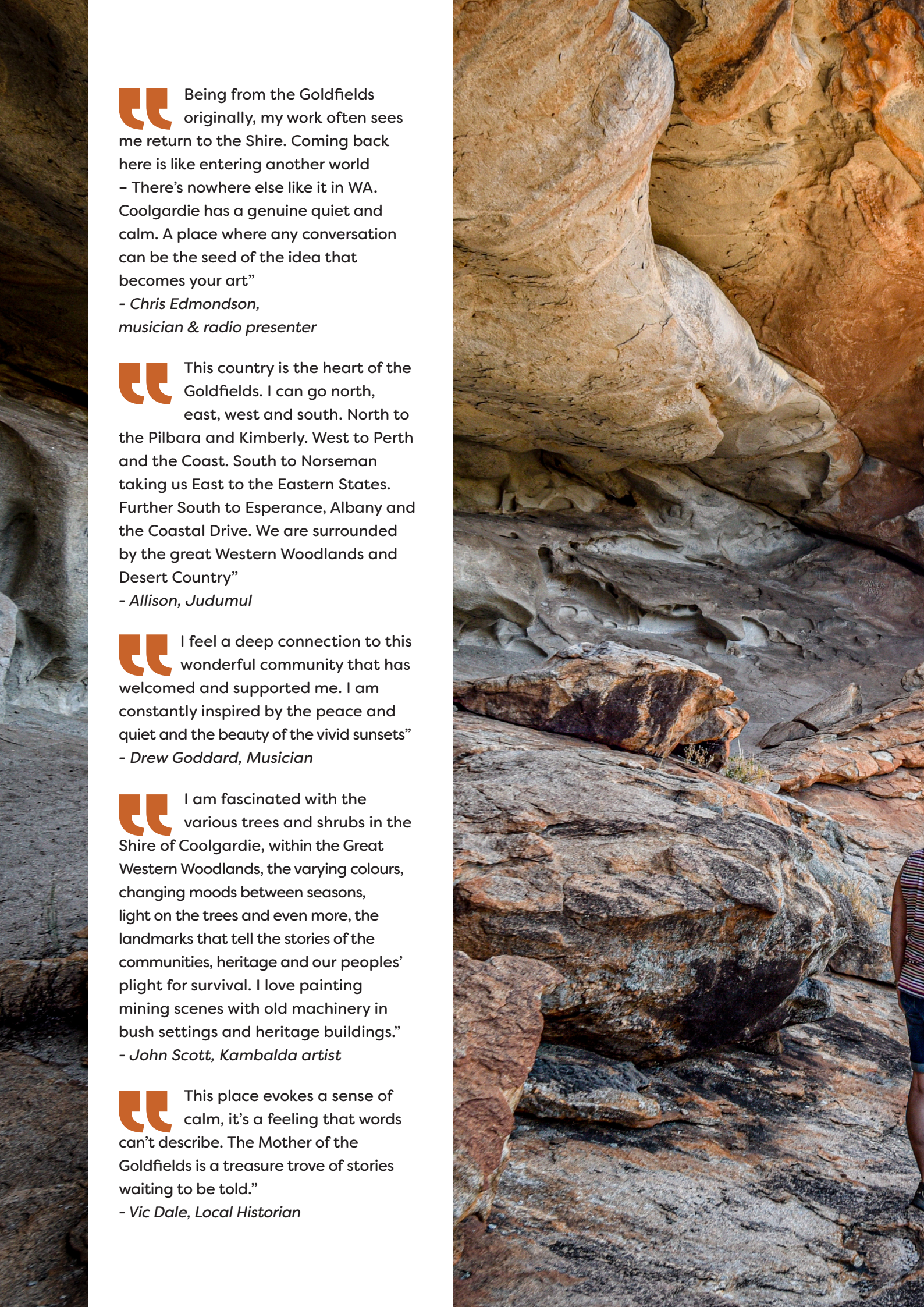


## Top 5 Birthplaces

(\*approximate)







“ Being from the Goldfields originally, my work often sees me return to the Shire. Coming back here is like entering another world – There’s nowhere else like it in WA. Coolgardie has a genuine quiet and calm. A place where any conversation can be the seed of the idea that becomes your art”  
- *Chris Edmondson, musician & radio presenter*

“ This country is the heart of the Goldfields. I can go north, east, west and south. North to the Pilbara and Kimberly. West to Perth and the Coast. South to Norseman taking us East to the Eastern States. Further South to Esperance, Albany and the Coastal Drive. We are surrounded by the great Western Woodlands and Desert Country”  
- *Allison, Judumul*

“ I feel a deep connection to this wonderful community that has welcomed and supported me. I am constantly inspired by the peace and quiet and the beauty of the vivid sunsets”  
- *Drew Goddard, Musician*

“ I am fascinated with the various trees and shrubs in the Shire of Coolgardie, within the Great Western Woodlands, the varying colours, changing moods between seasons, light on the trees and even more, the landmarks that tell the stories of the communities, heritage and our peoples’ plight for survival. I love painting mining scenes with old machinery in bush settings and heritage buildings.”  
- *John Scott, Kambalda artist*

“ This place evokes a sense of calm, it’s a feeling that words can’t describe. The Mother of the Goldfields is a treasure trove of stories waiting to be told.”  
- *Vic Dale, Local Historian*





# A PLACE .....THAT INSPIRES



# THE **FOUR** FOCUS AREAS OF THE PLAN

1



## CONNECT

Goal:

Strengthen community cohesion and wellbeing through arts and culture.

2



## PROSPER

Goal:

Create economic diversity through art enterprise.



## FOCUS AREAS

Goal:

Amplify our stories and showcase our distinct cultural assets.

4



## CELEBRATE

3



## INSPIRE



# SHIRE ROLE DEFINITIONS

For each action, the Shire of Coolgardie will have varied levels of involvement:



## Promoter

Dedicated to highlighting the positive aspects of ongoing events or initiatives.



## Advocate

Championing arts and culture initiatives to attract investment into the Shire of Coolgardie.



## Convener

Bringing people together to leverage the collective energy of the community.



## Supporter

The shire will provide support to community organisations to deliver initiatives.



## Partner

The shire will partner with key organisations to deliver initiatives.



## Provider

Initiatives that are delivered solely by the Shire of Coolgardie.

# 4 PILLARS OF COMMUNITY



Accountable and Effective Leaders



A Thriving Economy



An Inclusive, Safe and Vibrant Community



Effective Management of Infrastructure, Heritage & Environment



1














## CONNECT

Goal:

**Strengthen community cohesion and wellbeing through arts and culture.**

Sub-area	Key Actions
<b>Collaboration for greater impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create the Shire of Coolgardie Arts and Culture Working Group to support and promote activities within the Creative and Culture Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Promote arts and culture activities that connect the whole community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support regular hyper-local arts and culture activations in Kambalda and Coolgardie</li> <li>• Support initiatives that promote the inclusion of local FIFO workers in the towns' activities</li> </ul>
<b>Promote activities that create a sense of community pride in the towns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Kambalda, support community art projects and activities that create a more vibrant and inviting place</li> <li>• In Coolgardie, support arts and culture initiatives that invite travelers to spend time in the town</li> </ul>
<b>Connection to land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for and support initiatives that connect community to the landscape:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Astro-tourism</li> <li>- Art trail</li> <li>- Art experiences that connect to the landscape</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Shire Role	Alignment to 4 Pillars	YEAR OF PLAN				
		1	2	3	4	5
		X	X	X	X	X
 		X	X	X	X	X
 		X	X	X	X	X
 			X	X	X	X

































## Goal:

**Create economic diversity through art enterprise.**

Sub-area	Key Actions
Create opportunities for artistic enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with key First Nations groups to promote existing artistic endeavours</li> <li>• Support First Nations students to commercialise their talents for economic benefit</li> <li>• Support the development of an Aboriginal Art Centre Hub in Coolgardie</li> <li>• Support the development of cultural tourism opportunities</li> </ul>
Activating infrastructure	<p><b>Coolgardie</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope the use of the train station precinct and its potential as an arts and culture hub</li> <li>• Develop and promote a 'film friendly Shire'</li> <li>• Scope the illumination of the historic buildings to align with key historical events and to celebration special days (<i>including NAIDOC, Coolgardie Day</i>)</li> <li>• Ensure that Coolgardie town centre master planning prioritises arts and culture</li> </ul> <p><b>Kambalda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Kambalda town centre master planning prioritises arts and culture</li> <li>• Use public art projects to activate key buildings within the town centre</li> </ul>
Attracting Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for state and federal funds to flow through to the Shire's community organisations and initiatives</li> <li>• Partner with local resource companies to invest in arts and culture within the Shire</li> </ul>



Shire Role	Alignment to 4 Pillars	YEAR OF PLAN				
		1	2	3	4	5
   	   	X	X	X	X	X
     	     	X	X	X	X	X
   	   	X	X	X	X	X















## Goal:

**Amplify our stories and showcase our distinct cultural assets.**

Sub-area	Key Actions
<b>Support diverse and large-scale cultural events for local and regional audiences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support existing community-led large scale events (eg. NAIDOC, Coolgardie Day, Outback Rodeo)</li> <li>• Support organisations in the delivery of new and unique events that celebrate First Nations arts and culture (eg. bush band style events)</li> </ul>
<b>Celebrating our unique stories</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support projects that utilise multi-media to capture and record the oral history of the Shire of Coolgardie</li> <li>• Support projects that amplify local voices through music</li> <li>• Work with key communication partners to share high quality content celebrating the stories of the Shire</li> <li>• Support activities that share the history of the shire with visitors including guided and self-guided history tours</li> </ul>
<b>Celebrate the shire's unique artistic talent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support events that celebrate the artistic talents within the shire including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Art competitions</li> <li>- Photography competitions</li> <li>- Local makers markets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Shire Role	Alignment to 4 Pillars	YEAR OF PLAN				
		1	2	3	4	5
 		X	X	X	X	X
			X	X	X	X
 	 	X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X
 			X	X	X	X



4



## INSPIRE












Goal:

**Create pathways  
for arts and culture.**

Sub-area	Key Actions
Engage young people in art and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporate diverse creative arts activities into existing youth programming</li><li>• Advocate for and support education programs that create career pathways in music and art for young people within the Shire of Coolgardie</li></ul>
Arts and culture experiences for the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support initiatives that deliver arts and culture workshops and experiences to the broader community</li><li>• Support public art projects that encourage participation by the broader community</li></ul>





Shire Role	Alignment to 4 Pillars	YEAR OF PLAN				
		1	2	3	4	5
 		X	X	X	X	X
 			X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X
 			X	X	X	X





# THANK YOU!

The Shire would like to thank the following organisations who participated in engagements for this project:

- *Barefoot Bands*
- *Outback Rodeo*
- *Desert Rain Designs*
- *Coolgardie Crafts*
- *ArtGold*
- *Goldfields Economic Development Commission*
- *Ali Kent MLA*
- *Chuck Thomas*
- *CAPS Coolgardie*
- *Judumul Aboriginal Corporation*
- *Drew Goddard Music*
- *Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group*
- *Vic Dale – local historian*
- *Jeanne Bernitz*
- *Coolgardie Day*
- *Australia's Golden Outback*
- *Coolgardie RSL*
- *Helping Hands*
- *Kambalda Junior Football Club*

The Shire would also like to thank all the young people who attended the youth pop ups and everyone in the community who completed the survey.

