



# Exhibition Policy

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<b>Next review date:</b>	November 2021 (in line with strategic plan review dates)

## 1 Document control

Version	Approved by	Approval date	Revisions
V 1	State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer	18 December 2018	Revision of 2017 policy

## 2 Authority

State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

## 3 Policy statement

The Exhibitions Policy outlines the purpose and principles of exhibitions at State Library of Queensland and provides guidance for the assessment and programming of exhibition proposals.

## 4 Purpose

This policy defines the principles for State Library's temporary and travelling exhibition program. The purpose of exhibitions at State Library is to offer experiences that are inspiring, thought-provoking and transformative to people by telling stories with collections and communities.

State Library is committed to facilitating creative engagement with collections and communities. The program functions as an interpretive, inspirational and open environment to support the telling, sharing and exploration of shared and disparate stories from across Queensland and within the broader national and international context.

State Library embraces its unique position located in the South Bank Cultural Centre. State Library provides its diverse client base with access to specialist services, unique collections, exhibitions, public programs and schools and children's engagement activities. The exhibitions program at State Library provides a unique offer of purposeful exhibitions that tell stories, connect communities, invite participation and challenge perceptions.

The strength of engagement with communities of interest allows State Library to harness the diversity of the community; creating a space of equality and access. State Library's Engagement Framework is applied to develop and present exhibitions, to provide accessible and inclusive collections and services, embrace diversity, address disadvantage and enhance life participation via strong community connections.

The State Library's Strategic Plan sets the strategic future for exhibitions at the library – "Inspiring possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity", exhibitions primarily contribute to achievement of our vision through:

- interpreting Queensland stories through exhibitions and associated public programming
- developing an inclusive exhibitions schedule, addressing diverse needs, strengthening opportunities for the expression of ideas and fostering the appreciation of difference
- providing access points to collections and services in a range of formats, channels and locations.

## 5 Scope

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This policy applies to temporary and travelling exhibitions, showcases and displays, including related online, onsite and regional programs.

## 6 Definitions

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Word	Definition
Exhibition	A public display, for a limited period, of a collection of items. State Library exhibitions are displayed in slq Gallery and Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery.
Showcase	A public display, for a limited period, of a collection of items. State Library showcases are displayed in kuril dhagun and the Talbot Family Treasures Wall.
Display	Displays are spaces where a collection of items is presented for a limited time, does not include an online presence and are not in exhibition or showcase spaces.
Proposal	Exhibition proposals detail a concept and its alignment to the vision and purpose of State Library. They can come from internal or external parties.
Travelling exhibition	Travelling exhibitions are a collection of items which are developed appropriately for tour to regional locations by State Library.
Exhibitions PGB	The Exhibitions PGB acts as project governance board to develop exhibitions, showcases and displays.

## 7 Principles

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Exhibitions are guided by the principles of accessibility, community relevance and connectedness, and are achieved through the following aims.

Exhibition programming aims to:

1. tell, share and explore stories with collections and communities;
2. promote conversation with and between communities;
3. deliver inspiring, thought-provoking and transformative experiences;
4. enhance access and connect audiences with collections and communities;
5. integrate digital content into our exhibitions, ensuring those who use the library onsite and online have stimulating and rewarding experiences.
6. explore new ways of creating exhibition experiences that push interpretative methodologies to help create meaning and accessibility for contributors and audiences;
7. provide opportunities, access and stimuli for all to connect with Queensland stories through onsite and online activities – locally, nationally and globally;
8. present exhibitions that reflect national and international issues and interests, that allow Queensland stories to sit within a broader understanding of what it means to be an international citizen;
9. present exhibitions that are future focused, relevant to and reflective of contemporary society;
10. engage and attract existing and new visitors to State Library;
11. promote positive partnerships between government, industry and community.

## **8 State Library of Queensland collections**

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Exhibitions, showcases and displays form a fundamental component of the way State Library achieves strategic objectives related to collections both current and future. Exhibitions provide opportunities for the development of collections that are reflective of contemporary society and opportunities for access to and interpretation of existing collections.

Each exhibition will aim to draw on and highlight the unique State Library collections as well as facilitate the acquisition or creation of new items into the collection to support collection building initiatives.

Exhibitions, showcases and displays which include collection content relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be developed in accordance with State Library's "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections Commitments".

## **9 Gallery Spaces**

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Temporary exhibitions and showcases are sourced or developed for the following gallery spaces:

- slq Gallery (320 sq m)
- Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery (112 sq m)
- Talbot Family Treasures Wall (25 sq m)
- kuril dhagun (42 sq m)
- Australian Library of Art showcase (39 sq m)

Displays are developed for the following spaces:

- Level 1,2,3,5 Display Windows

## **10 Market and Audience Research**

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Exhibitions, Showcases and Displays are developed based on the strategic priorities of the library and informed by audience and market research, community feedback or involvement, and evaluation. Research may be undertaken during concept stage, before the exhibition has opened, during the exhibition or after the exhibition has closed to help inform development, delivery or evaluation.

Research will be used to develop and promote relevant exhibitions that attract and engage new and existing communities and visitors. This will enable State Library to develop temporary and travelling exhibitions and related resources that foster opportunities for participation, learning and creativity for diverse audiences.

## 11 Standards

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The exhibitions program of State Library upholds Australian museum standards and best practice in the delivery of exhibitions services - National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries. In maintaining industry standards in exhibitions practice, State Library's exhibitions program will:

1. Comply with the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) Code of Ethics in regard to conservation standards for the display and presentation of collections –  
  
Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material, 2008, Australian Institute for Conservation of Cultural Material, Tasmania, viewed 10 December 2018, <https://aiccm.org.au/sites/default/files/docs/AICCMBusinessDocs/CODE%20OF%20ETHICS%20AND%20CODE%20OF%20PRACTICE%20Australian%20Institute%20for%20Conservation%20of%20Cultural%20Material.pdf>
2. Protect the collection through appropriate and expert care, adopting alternative display methods through replication, reproduction or digitisation when the conditions of the original may be compromised
3. Comply with the International Council of Museums' (ICOM) Code of Ethics, Guidelines and Standards for museums in regard to exhibitions practice - <https://icom.museum/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ICOM-code-En-web.pdf>
4. Comply with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* by maintaining safe gallery and exhibition spaces - <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-health-and-safety-laws/laws-and-legislation/work-health-and-safety-act-2011>
5. Comply with the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries in regards to exhibition practice - [https://www.museumaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/field\\_f\\_content\\_file/nsfamg\\_v1.5\\_2016.pdf](https://www.museumaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/uploaded-content/field_f_content_file/nsfamg_v1.5_2016.pdf)

## 12 Incoming Loans for exhibition

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State Library is currently developing an Incoming loans policy for exhibitions and digitisation. In the meantime, due diligence for selecting incoming loan items for exhibitions and proper legal title remains with the lender or agent representing the lender. The policy will adhere to International Museum Standards and refer to certain International Convention, Federal and State Legislation.(refer to 18.References) for more information.

Incoming loans items may be sourced from individuals, communities, private galleries and collecting cultural institutions for State Library exhibitions. The State Library will exercise the same care, handling and security of loan items as it does in safe-guarding its own collection items.

## 13 Programming Schedule

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State Library maintains a minimum two year forward schedule for its exhibition program. The exhibition program is committed to staging up to two major exhibitions each year and includes incoming touring exhibitions. Exhibitions may be developed in house, in partnership with other entities or be a part of a state, interstate or international travelling exhibition program or exchange. An exhibition may also become a travelling exhibition in part or in whole.

The Exhibitions Project Governance Board provides direction, reviews and approves the exhibition program and acts as project governance board for the projects to develop exhibitions, showcases and displays.

## 14 References

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The Policy is supported by the following legislation policies and frameworks:

- Content Strategy
- Loans for Exhibition Procedures – Incoming (in development)
- Engagement Framework
- [Multicultural Engagement Framework and Action Plan 2018-21](#)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collections Commitments
- [Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021](#)
- Digital Strategy in Action 2018-2020
- Digital Preservation Policy
- Digitisation Policy

Convention and Legislation (refer to 14. Incoming Loans for exhibition)

- [Libraries Act 1988 \(Qld\)](#)
- [Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970](#)
- [Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan Act 2013 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Copyright Act 1968 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)

## 15 Approval

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\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /2018  
State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

## 16 Creative Commons licence

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