



Exhibitions Policy

File number:	695/380/012
Maintained by:	Community Connections
Review date:	November 2021
Next review date:	November 2024

1 Document control

Version	Approved by	Approval date	Revisions
V 1	State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer	18 December 2018	Revision of 2017 Policy
V1.1	State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer	07 September 2022	Update of 2018 Policy

2 Authority

State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

3 Responsibilities

Under the *Libraries Act 1988*, State Library has the responsibility to ensure content relevant to Queensland is collected, preserved, promoted, and made accessible.

4 Policy statement

The Exhibitions Policy outlines the purpose of exhibitions at State Library of Queensland.

5 Purpose

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. Our exhibitions highlight the unique State Library collection and integrate rich digital experiences.

State Library is committed to facilitating creative engagement with collections and communities. The exhibition 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.

The State Library’s Strategic Plan sets the strategic direction for exhibitions through our vision of “inspiring possibilities through knowledge, stories and creativity”. The exhibitions program contributes to the achievement of our vision by:

- seeking, collecting, and sharing authentic Queensland stories
- enabling access to collections
- integrating rich digital experiences in programs and exhibitions
- sharing and celebrating the First Nations perspective through knowledge creation and truth-telling in culturally informed and respectful ways
- providing inclusive spaces where cost is not a barrier to new knowledge
- promoting cultural inclusion and understanding.

6 Scope

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

7 Definitions

Word	Definition
Exhibition	A public display, for a limited period, of a collection of items. State Library exhibitions are displayed in slq Gallery and Phillip Bacon Heritage Gallery.
Showcase	A public display, for a limited period, of a collection of items. State Library showcases are displayed in kuril dhagun, the Talbot Family Treasures Wall and the Australian Library of Art.
Display	Displays are spaces where a collection of items is presented for a limited time and are not in an exhibition or showcase space.
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. Proposals should highlight the use of, or relevance to, the unique State Library collection.
Travelling exhibition	Travelling exhibitions are a collection of items which are developed appropriately for tour to offsite locations by State Library.
Exhibitions PGB	The Exhibitions Project Governance Board provides governance and oversight for the development of exhibitions, showcases and displays.
Programs	State Library’s exhibition offer is supported by a unique program of public program activities that enrich and deepen engagement with Queensland stories and history.

8 State Library of Queensland Collections

State Library exhibitions highlight and promote engagement with the unique State Library collection. Exhibitions also provide an opportunity for collection building initiatives that address priority collecting areas.

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](#) and the National and State Libraries Australia (NSLA) [Indigenous Intellectual Property and Ownership](#) position statement.

9 Gallery Spaces

State Library exhibitions are curated and programmed on an annual basis and are presented in the following spaces.

- kuril dhagun (42 sq m) – showcasing and elevating Queensland’s unique and diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history.
- slq Gallery (320 sq m) – premiere exhibition space, presenting two major exhibitions per year. These exhibitions drive programming and connect with flagship events. Exhibitions are supported by an ambitious whole of library approach to dynamic programming and activations
- Heritage Suite – showcasing State Library’s unique heritage collections and providing access and interpretation to curated content. The suite, located on level 4, chronicles events, people, places, and the ideas shaping Queensland and is comprised of the following:
 - *Phillip Bacon Heritage Gallery* (112 sq m) – a permanent showcase of rotating thematic collections that will provide new content and stories throughout the year.
 - *Talbot Family Treasures Wall* (25 sq m) – showcasing unique or rare single objects.
 - *Australian Library of Art Showcase* (39 sq m) – exceptional objects on a rotational schedule organised to represent the four collections of the Australian Library of Art.

Displays are presented in the following spaces:

- Level 1,2,3,5 Display Windows

10 Exhibition program

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

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

11 Essential considerations

There are no human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019* that are impeded by this Policy. In acting within the scope of this policy, the impact on the *Human Rights Act 2019* will be considered.

12 Risk management and mitigation

Risk	Description of risk	Mitigation management
1	Failure to curate and present in a way that is trusted and relevant	The strong governance process for exhibition development and exhibitions that provide diverse perspectives and opportunities for discussion

Risk	Description of risk	Mitigation management
2	Failure to act, program and communicate in culturally informed and respectful ways	Develop exhibitions in accordance with relevant State Library, Queensland and national policies
3	Damage to items while on display	Follow the Preservation Policy
4	State Library Collection Items unavailable to clients or staff while on display.	Follow the Loans for Exhibitions policy

13 References

The policy is supported by:

Queensland Government

- [Creative Together 2020–2030: A 10 Year Roadmap for arts, culture and creativity in Queensland](#)
- [Tracks to Treaty](#)
- [Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2021 \(RAP\) and RAP 2018-2022 Addendum](#)

State Library of Queensland

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commitments](#)
- [Content Strategy](#)
- Curatorial Rationale for Public Programming (Internal)
- [Digital Strategy – Becoming Digital by Design](#)
- [Intellectual Freedom Policy](#)
- [Intellectual Property Management Policy](#)
- [Loans for Exhibition Policy](#)
- [Preservation Policy](#)

Other

- [Indigenous Intellectual Property and Ownership](#)
- [Takedown Position statement](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

14 Approval

State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

07 / 09 /2022

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