

City of Marion

Public art strategy

2025-2030

A great place to live



Kurna Acknowledgement

Ngadiu tampendi Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya yaintya yerta

This Kurna acknowledgement was prepared in consultation with traditional custodians.

Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Marion acknowledges we are situated on the traditional lands of the Kurna people and recognises the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the land.



Gavin Malone, Sherry Rankin, and Margaret Worth, 'Tjilbruke Gateway', 1997, Warriparinga, Warriparinga Way, Bedford Park, photo by Sam Oster

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City of Marion's Public Art Strategy has been developed out of engagement with the community through information sessions, workshops, surveys and feedback posters. It has been guided by *Play Your Part* in collaboration with the City of Marion staff and Council members.

Cover art: Sair Bean in collaboration with Mya Damon, 'Unity in Diversity', 2024, Warracowie Way, Oaklands Park

Executive summary

The City of Marion Public Art Strategy and Action Plan (2025–2030) outlines a comprehensive framework for enhancing public spaces through innovative and impactful public art projects. Aligned with the City's Strategic Plan 2024-2034 of "A Liveable, Sustainable Community", this Strategy aims to foster a sense of belonging, celebrate cultural diversity, and support environmental sustainability while engaging the community and promoting economic growth.

What is public art?

"Public art is artwork located in public spaces and buildings other than galleries and museums. It is created by practitioners for outdoor spaces such as parks, foreshores, beaches, city squares, streets, courtyards and forecourts, or indoor spaces in publicly or privately-owned buildings such as schools, hospitals, churches, shopping centres, recreation centres, local government administration centres, office buildings, hotels, etc.

Public art can take many forms in many different materials. It can be free-standing work or integrated into the fabric of buildings or outdoor spaces, such as a sculpture or mural."

- National Association of Visual Arts (NAVA)

Public art comes in various forms, defined by its physicality, purpose, and materials, designed to achieve social, cultural, economic, and community benefits. It is typically created in relation to its environment, with a focus on community and place.



Gerry McMahon, 'Little Marion Skipping, 2008, Marion Historic Village, George Street, Marion

Vision and mission

- **Vision:** A public art collection that celebrates the character and identity of the City of Marion community, its people, and the landscape, and contributes to its vision of a liveable and sustainable community.
- **Mission :** To deliver best-practice public art projects in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and create artwork that not only transforms and enhances public space but also educates and reflects Marion's community, cultural and environmental values.

Strategic goals

- Activate and transform public spaces to enhance community identity and safety.
- Foster community engagement with culture and heritage through public art.
- Create iconic and interactive artworks that situate Marion as a cultural hub.
- Empower community and stakeholders to develop meaningful public art projects.
- Build artists' capacity to work collaboratively and deliver work in a community context.



Themes

- **Storytelling:** Public art celebrates Marion's heritage, culture, transformation, and future aspirations by telling creative and meaningful stories.
- **Nature and sustainability:** Public art reflects Marion's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices by incorporating environmentally friendly materials in the creation of public art projects, promoting sustainability, and raising awareness of environmental issues.
- **Inclusion and participation:** Public art fosters community pride and collaboration by involving residents in its creation, encouraging ownership, and strengthening connections between individuals and their local environment.
- **Exploration and interactivity:** Public art inspires curiosity and dialogue by offering innovative and engaging experiences that provoke thought, spark conversation, and encourage exploration of new ideas and perspectives.



Site selection and hierarchy

- **Hallmark sites:** High-profile locations for large-scale works. Large to medium scale artworks could be incorporated into this site, and include significant sculptures, large murals, or integrated installations
- **Connector sites:** Key areas linking people and places. This site could include large to medium scale artworks such as significant sculptures, large murals, digital/light based artwork or integrated installations.
- **Neighbourhood sites:** Intimate spaces fostering community connection. This site could include small scale artworks including footpath inlays, small murals, stobie pole art, digital/light based artwork, landscaping elements.

Upper left: Mark Timberlake, Laura Wills, 'Pages of the River', temporary digital installation, 2018, Coach House, Warriparinga

Upper right: Aboriginal Contemporary Arts, 'Kantlu' (Leap frog), 2023, Warriparinga, Warriparinga Way, Bedford Park

Why do we need a strategy?

The City of Marion's Public Art Strategy, aligned with the Public Art Guidelines 2020-2028, provides a cohesive framework for integrating public art into urban development. Public art can enhance community spaces and reflects the city's diverse identity.



Laura Wills, 'Weaving Communities', 2017, temporary art installation at Marion Celebrates Festival, photo by Sam Oster

Previously, public art was not always integrated into city planning, leading to some missed opportunities in major projects and partnerships. This strategy addresses those gaps by adopting a strategic, collaborative framework that prioritises early engagement in planning. It focuses on a long-term vision, stronger partnerships, and better resource allocation to ensure public art enhances the city's cultural, environmental, and community goals.

This new strategy improves upon past achievements and aligns with the organisational Strategic Plan. It refines our approach to site selection, third-party funding, and opportunities within major projects, emphasising public art as a fundamental resource to creativity, community engagement, and sustainability. By adopting a more strategic approach, we ensure public art remains integral to Marion's identity and growth.

Given limited funds, external partnerships and funding will be sought to support the creation and delivery of this strategy.

The City of Marion operates within a limited overall budget, with an annual allocation of \$25,000* dedicated to the creation of new public artworks and an additional \$15,000* for the Art on Utility Boxes, Stobie Poles and other small-scale infrastructure projects. This strategy will support the council in building partnerships and seek external funding, helping to lessen the reliance on council expenditure while continuing to enhance public spaces through art.

Public art can transform spaces into vibrant, welcoming hubs, activate underutilised areas, foster social connections, and improve safety, whilst supporting the City of Marion's broader goals of sustainability, community wellbeing, and cultural celebration.

Marion's cultural diversity and heritage, including the stories of Kaurna people, are central to its identity. Public art provides an accessible platform to celebrate these narratives, fostering reconciliation and a sense of belonging while strengthening connections and creating inclusive spaces.



*Groundplay, 'Chain Link People', 2012, Mike Turtur Bikeway, Plympton Park
* As at 2024/2025*

Economically, public art can help stimulate local economies by driving foot traffic to public spaces, supporting businesses, and attracting new audiences. For example, collaborating with businesses and landlords, like the mural on Addison Road in Warradale, enhances public spaces and supports local revitalisation.

Public art can foster community pride, creating a sense of ownership and belonging among residents. This sense of pride, coupled with improved spaces, can lead to higher property values, making the city more appealing to potential residents and investors.



Alexas Bellas, placemaking and activation mural, 2023, Addison Road, Warradale



Martin Corbin, 'Warracowie Wells', 2002, renewed 2024. Sair Bean in collaboration with Mya Damon, 'Unity in Diversity', 2024, Warracowie Way, Oaklands Park

The Public Art Strategy will foster a more connected and inclusive community, creating spaces for interaction and shared cultural heritage. It will enhance the environment, turning ordinary spaces into landmarks that reflect the city's values and identity. A notable work, *Unity in Diversity*, is a vibrant ground mural made from thermoplastic, located on Warracowie Way, Oaklands Park. The artwork honours the area's rich diversity and historical significance while promoting activity, connectivity, and the vibrancy of the Marion Cultural Centre Plaza and its surroundings.

Value of public art

Public art conveys ideas, stimulates conversation, and benefits communities in several ways.

*Project2Project, 'Congregate Ins and Outs', 2022,
Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre, photo by
Trim Photography*





Value of public art

Donna Gordge and community, 'A Place with a History and a Future' detail, 2022, Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre



Fostering a sense of belonging, pride and connection to place

Public art can reflect local identity and culture. Local residents can develop a sense of ownership and identify with the stories embodied within the work. 'A Place with a History and a Future' is a hand dyed, printed and stitched textile artwork installed at Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre. The textile artwork is a community storytelling artwork that acknowledges and celebrates the local environment, culture, industry, employment and community.

Value of public art

Danica Gacesa McLean, Trevor Wren, 'Synthesis B', 2024, Alawoona Avenue, Mitchell Park



Enhancing safety and reducing anti-social behaviour

Artworks that integrate light and sound have the power to transform spaces, attracting more people visiting a space, and enhancing the sense of safety.

'Synthesis A' and 'Synthesis B' artworks at Alawoona Avenue Reserves showcases this transformative potential. These installations not only illuminate the artwork itself but also provide ambient lighting for the reserve.

Matt Fortrose, 'The Big Thaw', 2021, Appleby Road Reserve, Morphettville, photo by artist



Educating and challenging perceptions

Art can raise awareness of issues like environmental concerns by using recycled materials or creatively educating and engaging audiences.

'The Big Thaw' court murals creatively interpret the impacts of coastal flooding, erosion and saltwater intrusion, linking these issues to rising sea levels and increased land temperatures while potentially sparking conversations on sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Barbary O'Brien and community, 'Save the Big Blue, coastal interpretive signage', 2004, Coastal Walking Trail, Hallett Cove, photo by Sam Oster



Influencing behaviour

Public art can encourage exploration and responsible actions.

'Save the Big Blue' coastal interpretive signs which stretch along Marino to Hallett Cove on the Marion Coastal Walking Trail, welcomes and introduces trail users to the marine coastal environment, Kurna language and coastal heritage. The signs encourage everyone to help protect the natural landscape.

Value of public art

Gerry McMahon, 'Little Marion Pondering', 2008, Finnis Street, Marion, photo by Sam Oster



Celebrating culture and identity

The 'Little Marion' sculptures in Marion Historic Village, plays an important role in preserving and sharing the stories of a community.

The artwork, which reflects the memories and experiences of a local resident, helps keep the history of the area alive for current and future generations. The sculptures are adored by the community, with a local family living in the village, even adding ribbons to the hair of the Little Marion figures, highlights how public art can foster a deep, emotional connection between a piece of art and its audience. This sense of shared history and personal involvement turns the sculptures into more than just art - they become part of the living narrative of the village.

Sair Bean, 'Pieces of Edwardstown', 2022, Raglan Avenue, Edwardstown



Boosting community engagement and economic impact

Large-scale public artworks can enhance community engagement, increase a region's vitality, and foster community pride. They can also contribute to higher property values and stimulate economic activity.

The 'Pieces of Edwardstown' mural serves as a welcoming entry point and is part of the Edwardstown Art Trail. Located near Raglan Avenue and Brookes Terrace, the mural transforms the Castle Plaza wall with vibrant colours and shapes, celebrating the area's past retail industry and growth to the present day.

Sair Bean and Creative Pavements installing 'Unity in Diversity', 2024, Warracowie Way, Oaklands Park



Supporting a vibrant cultural and creative sector

Public art provides opportunities for skill development, collaboration for artists, audience engagement and jobs.

'Unity in Diversity' DuraTherm road artwork was created in collaboration with artists, the local community, and road and pavement fabricators.

When developing public art projects, it is essential to clearly understand the purpose of the work. All parties involved must define the creative vision and intended outcomes, as these will shape the creation process, placement, and physical form of the artwork.

Strategic overview

Vision

A public art collection that celebrates the character and identity of the City of Marion community, its people and the landscape, and contributes to its vision of a liveable sustainable community.

Mission

To deliver best-practice public art projects in collaboration with a range of stakeholders and create artwork that not only transforms and enhances public space but also educates and reflects Marion's community, cultural and environmental values.

Goals

- Activate and transform public spaces increasing a sense of belonging and safety.
- Engage community in culture and heritage through public art.
- Develop iconic works which are distinctive, interactive and situate people within the City of Marion.
- Increase the capacity of a range of community, government and commercial stakeholders to develop public art projects that contribute to the social and economic fabric of the City of Marion.
- Increase the capacity of artists within the City of Marion to develop public art and work in a community context.



Michael Kutschbach, 'e.v.a', 2020, Denham Avenue, Morphettville, photo by S. Noonan

Alignment with City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024–2034

The delivery of the vision and the implementation of the Action Plan, will contribute to City of Marion's Community Vision directions of "Liveable", "Sustainable" "Community" and "Our Organisation".



Priority L2 – Accessible and Multiuse Places and Spaces: Public art installations can transform spaces into community hubs, creating public interest.



Priority S2 – Connecting to the natural environment: Public art can promote the value of and engagement with the natural environment and support its preservation.



Priority C1 – A Welcoming and friendly city: Public art contributes to this goal by celebrating local stories, Aboriginal heritage, and the broader cultural narrative of our community.



Priority O6 – Partnerships: Partnering with artists, Aboriginal groups, and other stakeholders to co-create art that aligns with our community values and strategic directions.

Principles

These principles, alongside the City of Marion's Public Art Guidelines 2020-2028, guide the development and delivery of public art projects. They provide a framework for how council shapes and implements initiatives in collaboration with a range of internal and external stakeholders. Regardless of the project's nature, all these principles should be considered in the planning and implementation stages.

1

Quality and excellence

Utilise the skills of professional practicing artists to create high quality artwork. Best practice approaches will be utilised to develop work of artistic merit.

Supports priority O6: Partnerships

2

Integration

Incorporate public art into council projects wherever possible, including precinct planning, master planning, major projects, open space development, streetscaping, and infrastructure.

Supports priority L2: Accessible and multiuse places and spaces.

Supports priority S2: Connecting to the natural environment

3

Participation

Provide opportunities for our community to engage in public art development, both through practical, hands-on involvement and by sharing their stories.

Supports priority C1: A welcoming friendly city.

4

Partnerships

Foster partnerships with our community and other stakeholders to enhance engagement and support for public art projects. This includes collaborating with developers, government, community organisations, local businesses and education institutions.

Supports priority O6: Partnerships

5

Relevance and purpose

Public art will be relevant to our community, with a clear sense of purpose. It will focus on ideas, stories, and concepts that resonate with local residents and provide a clearly articulated value for the City of Marion.

Supports priority C1: A welcoming friendly city.

6

Capacity building

Offer mentoring and skills development opportunities for artists, and build the skills of others to create, interpret, and appreciate public art.

Supports priority O6: Partnerships



Themes

The themes outlined in this Public Art Strategy are vital as they serve as foundation shaping and curating the City of Marion's Public Art Collection. They provide a consistent framework that informs the development of public art briefs, ensuring that artworks resonate with the community and address shared priorities.

By reflecting the outcomes of extensive consultation and research, these themes represent the collective voice of the City of Marion's residents, businesses, artists, and other stakeholders. They capture the community's unique identity, honour its history, and align with the City's broader strategic goals.

“Public art humanises the built environment and invigorates public spaces and is [an] essential to bringing meaning to communities. We need more of it.”

CHEB Art and Design, 'Butterfly Fence' detail, 2016, Jervois Street Reserve, South Plympton

Storytelling

Storytelling is a central element of public art development in the City of Marion providing relevance and opportunities for interpretation. It envisions future hopes and aspirations for the city in creative, interactive and engaging ways. By celebrating our diverse heritage and culture, like the “A Place with a History and Future” textile artwork, and sharing stories of our people and place, public art can help the community connect, acknowledges our culture and identity, and contributes to shaping a Liveable, Sustainable Community.

Key focus areas include First Nations stories, multiculturalism and the narratives embodied within the landscape, built heritage, and the city’s transformation from an agricultural food bowl to a bustling suburban, industrial, and recreational hub.

Our community’s stories and experiences of what makes Marion an exciting place to live, work and play will also be central drivers in the delivery of public art projects.



Donna Gorge and community, ‘A Place with a History and a Future’, 2022, Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre, photo by Trim Photography

“Show stories of individuals [and individuals], Kaurana, agricultural settlers, brickworks, vineyards, depict what was here.”

Nature and sustainability

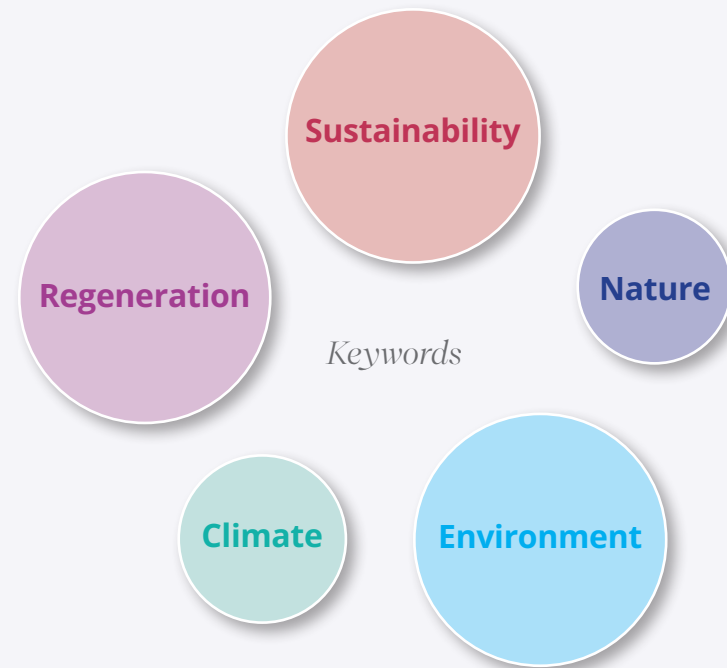
The natural environment, including the flora and fauna within the City of Marion, is highly valued by our community. “Reclaiming Sturt River”, an arts and environment public art project, explores the Sturt River, its surrounding spaces, and the social, cultural and biodiversity stories it holds.

Public art projects can acknowledge climate change, regeneration, and human connections with nature through both form and materials, as well as their location. This theme emphasises sustainability and environmental care, with a focus on areas like the Sturt River, the city’s coastline, Glenthorne National Park, and open green spaces. Public art centred around nature and sustainability also provide opportunities to educate, provoke thought, and encourage dialogue on local and global challenges.

All artworks will be delivered with consideration on minimising negative environmental impacts during material selection, installation, maintenance, renewal and decommissioning.



Ink and Ruby Studios, ‘Birds of the Flood Plain’ detail, 2021, Sturt River Linear Path, Finnis Street, Marion



“Celebrating the natural environment within our concrete jungles - anything uplifting and joyful”.

Inclusion and participation

City of Marion residents have a strong interest in actively contributing to the culture of their community, as seen in places like the Marion Cultural Centre, Marion Historic Village, library branches and local streets through the stobie pole art program.

Public art development encourages civic engagement, offering opportunities for our community to share ideas, meanings and participate in the creation of the artwork. It helps individuals connect with the collective essence of the community, inviting reflection on shared experiences, identities, and the power of community. Collaborative public art fosters community pride, increases ownership, and encourages reflection, challenging norms and inspiring creative adaptation to the environment.



Lorna Nickels, stobie pole art, 2021, Duncan Avenue, Park Holme



Moreyarti, stobie pole art, 2025, Peckham Road, Plympton Park



“Murals with themes of kindness, community, working together, be active, look after each other, celebrate our differences.”

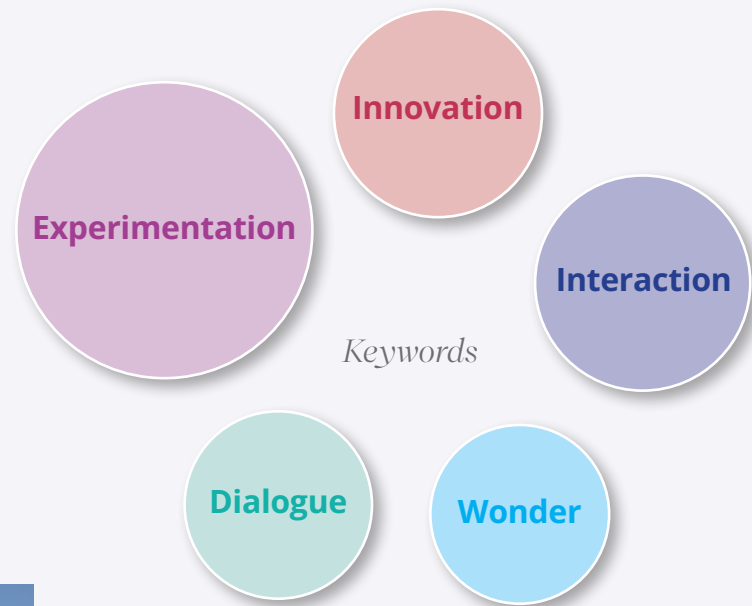
Exploration and interactivity

This theme highlights the power of creative and cultural experimentation to inspire wonder, ignite dialogue, shift perspectives, and craft compelling public art. The City of Marion, a thriving hub of retail areas like Marion Shopping Centre, industry such as Edwardstown, and innovation like Tonsley, has experienced significant transformation since the village of Marion was first mapped out in 1838. Public art in this dynamic context fosters fresh connections with ideas, emotions, and the environment.

An example of this theme is the *'Dig and Delve'* sculpture at Hendrie Street Reserve Playground. An oversized spade, symbolising local agriculture, river life and village settlement. The blade serves as a canvas for images and tactile, visual play, including integrated gongs and keys for playing tunes.



Will Cheesman, Laura Wills, *'Dig and Delve'*, 2019, Hendrie Street Reserve Playground, Park Holme



“Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a big vision for public art in Marion and to value the importance of imagination”.

Council characteristics

For this strategy, 5 key council characteristics have been identified, providing an overview that highlights the key areas within the city. The council characteristics have been developed to help identify and incorporate relevant themes for public art, as detailed in the themes section. They provide guidance in the creation of artwork that reflects the city's diverse areas, values, and priorities.



Culture and heritage

Cultural and Heritage areas include Warriparinga, Perry Barr Farm, Marion Historic Village and Glandore.



Industry

Marion features strong industrial precincts in the north and centre of the city at Edwardstown and Tonsley.



Retail

Retail precincts include Castle Plaza Shopping Centre in the north, Marion Shopping Centre at Oaklands Park, and Hallett Cove Shopping Centre in the south.



Environment

Environmental areas of significance are Glenthorne National Park, Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Coastal Walkway and the Sturt River.



Recreation

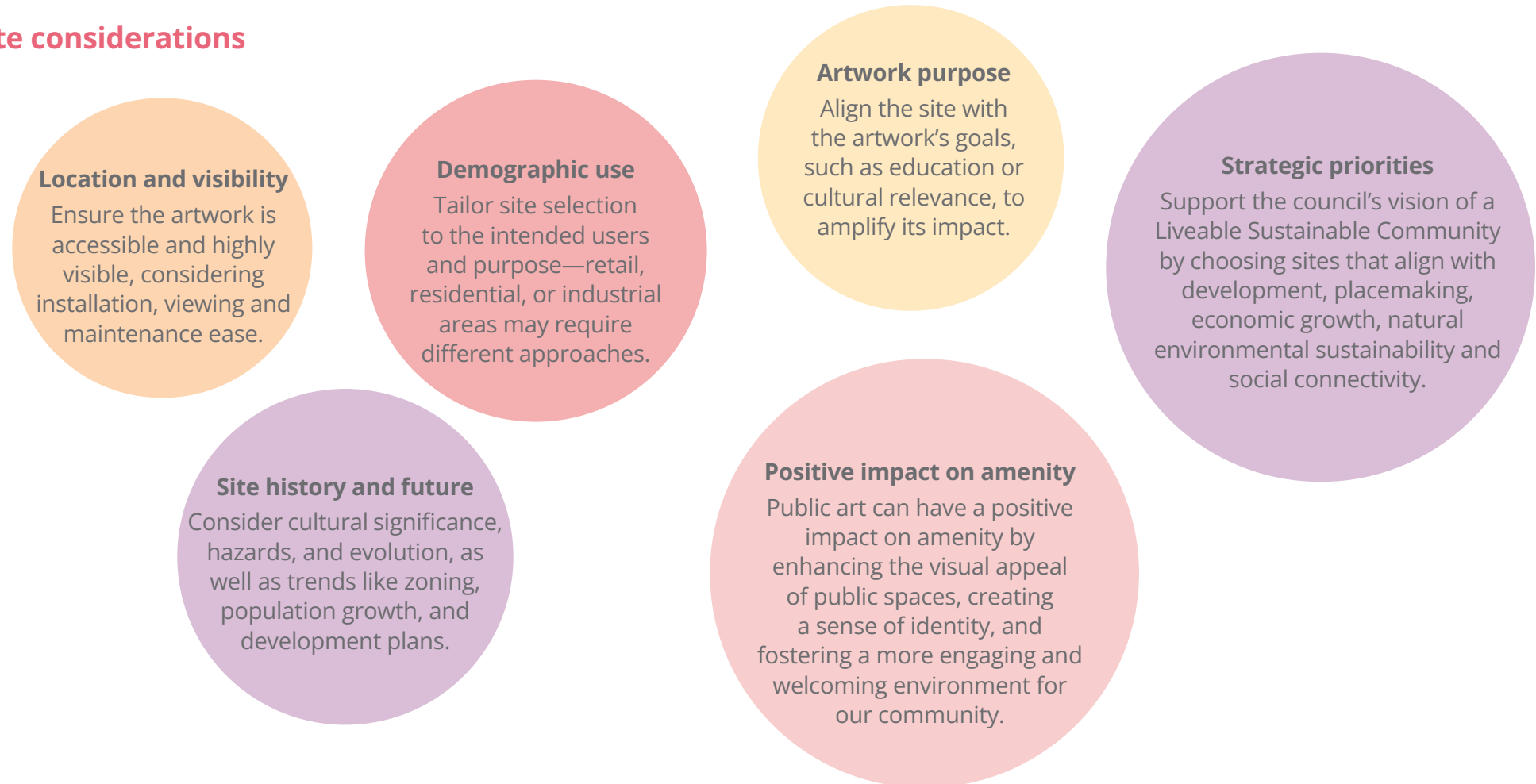
Recreational areas stretch from Majors Road in the south to Morphettville Racecourse in the north.

Hallett Cove, 2021, photo by Stellar Momentum

Site selection

The City of Marion, in collaboration with its stakeholders, selects sites for public art based on a range of considerations, and identifies these within a hierarchy that informs the scale, purpose, and nature of the artwork. This approach ensures that each piece is placed in a context that enhances its impact and relevance to the surrounding area.

Site considerations



Sites for public art

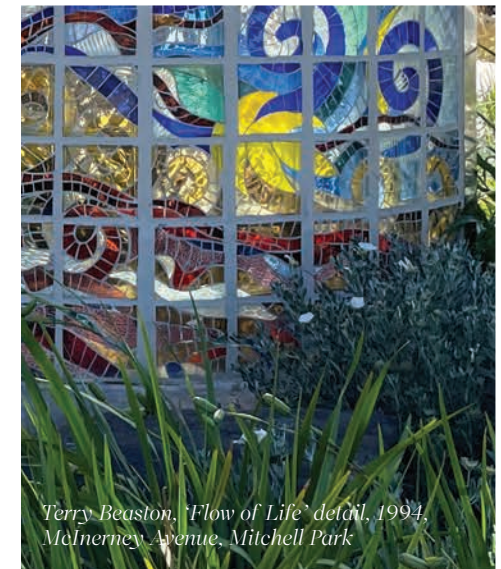
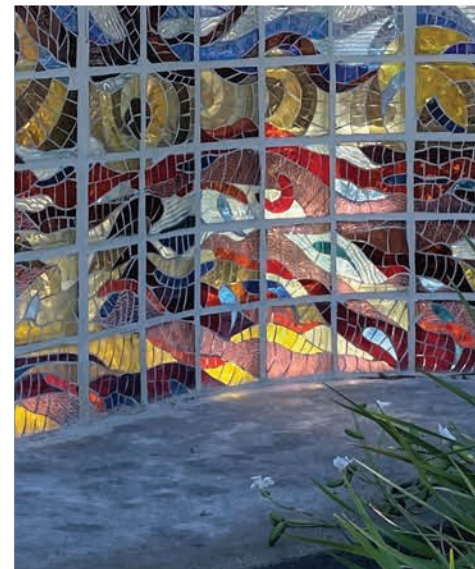
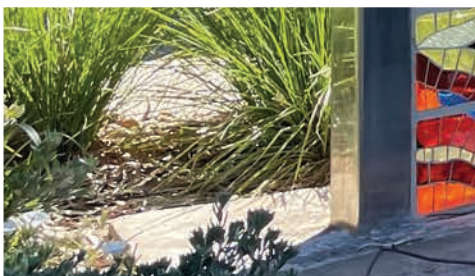
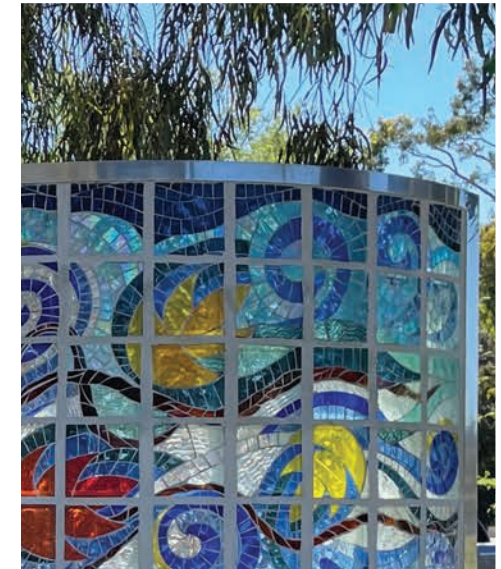
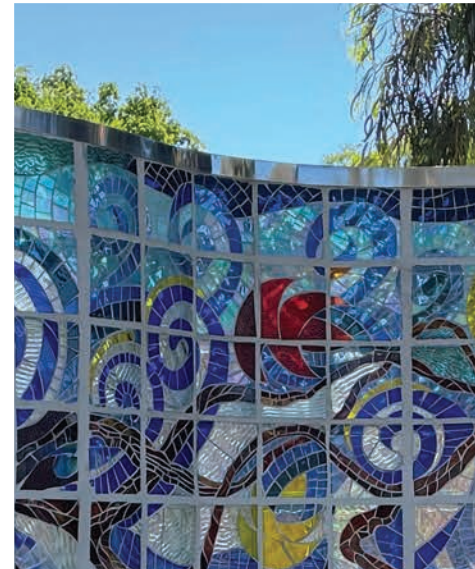
Historically, Marion was known for farming, mining, quarrying and brickmaking. Growth began in the 1880s, with significant subdivision in the 1920s. Significant residential development through the late 1940s, aided by industrial growth and public housing construction.

The City of Marion has a resident population of 98,493, with a one per cent annual growth rate and a total land area of 56.17 square kilometres. The city features conservation areas, recreation parks, rivers and a coastline.

Public art sites are categorised based on key factors. These three main categories, with their specific attributes, are articulated and can be viewed in the supporting maps.

In order to successfully deliver public art at these sites, funding and resourcing for public art projects must be practical to ensure that the intended scope, purpose, and scale of the works can be achieved in line with the Public Art Strategy.

City of Marion will always endeavour to seek external funding, partnerships and relationships to assist in the funding, creation, commissioning and delivery of this Strategy.



Terry Beaston, 'Flow of Life' detail, 1994, McInerney Avenue, Mitchell Park

Hallmark sites

Hallmark sites are prominent, high-visibility locations with significant pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic, making them ideal for large-scale public art. These sites deliver multi-layered outcomes such as urban renewal, tourism, placemaking and heritage preservation.

Example of opportunities for public art delivery at hallmark sites:*

Project	Year	Type of public art	Council contribution (pending)	External funding (Pending)
Coastal Walkway (align with Coastal Walkway Strategy)	2025-2030	Large-scale artwork	\$50,000	\$100,000
Tram Grade Separation Projects (Plympton and Morphettville)	2026	Medium scale artworks	-	TBC
Seacliff Village	2026+	Medium scale artwork	-	TBC
Marion Regional Centre	2030+	Mixed-scale artworks including the potential of a sculpture event at Marion Cultural Centre plaza.	-	TBC
Glenthorne National Park	2027+	Medium scale artwork	-	\$50,000
Glandore Precinct	2025-2026	Medium scale artwork	\$40,250	\$15,000

* all opportunities for public art delivery Council will seek, where possible, partnerships, funding contributions and approvals. Large to medium scale artworks could include significant sculptures, large murals, or integrated installations



Allan Sumner and Exhibition Studios, 'Puru Yuwanthi' (Still standing), 2020, corner Sturt Road and Main South Road, Tonsley

Connector sites

Connector sites link people to various areas or structures and are often part of precincts or specific locations like shopping centres, civic buildings, or recreational reserves. Artworks at these sites vary in scale and scope based on the site's characteristics and specific objectives.

Example of opportunities for public art delivery at connector sites*:

Project	Year	Type of public art	Council contribution (pending)	External funding (Pending)
Sturt Road Sports Precinct (Marion Basketball Stadium)	2025-2027	Medium scale artwork	\$40,250	\$15,000
Cove Sports Stage 2	2025-2030	Medium scale artwork	\$40,250	\$15,000
Majors Road Precinct	2030+	Medium scale artwork	TBC	TBC
North-South Corridor	2026-2030	Large scale artwork in collaboration with State Government	-	TBC
Marion Leisure and Fitness Centre	2025-2030	Medium scale artwork	\$40,250	\$15,000
Plympton Oval	2025-2030	Medium scale artwork	\$40,250	\$15,000

**Note: all opportunities for public art delivery Council will seek, where possible, partnerships, funding contributions and approvals. Large to medium scale artworks could include significant sculptures, large murals, or integrated installations. These projects could be aligned to and funded by the City of Marion Building Asset Strategy (CoMBAS)*



Project2Project, Oaklands Community Connections wayfinding sign, 2020, Dwyer Road Reserve, Oaklands Park

Neighbourhood sites

Neighbourhood sites are intimate locations within residential areas that connect directly with the local community and reflects the culture of the space. Found on street corners, in residential reserves, or smaller retail strips these sites are ideal for “human scale” artwork or pieces integrated into the site’s physical features. Art at neighbourhood sites fosters participation and engagement with local residents, workers, and the community.

Example of opportunities for public art delivery at neighbourhood sites*:

Project	Year	Type of public art	Council contribution (pending)	External funding (Pending)
Public Art on Utility Boxes, Stobie Poles, bus shelters, small infrastructure	Annual	Murals, small artworks	\$15,000 (Council endorsed program)	-
Cove Point	2030+		-	\$15,000
Oaklands Green	TBC		-	\$15,000
Lander Road Neighbourhood	2030+		-	\$15,000
Morphettville Neighbourhood	2030+		-	\$15,000

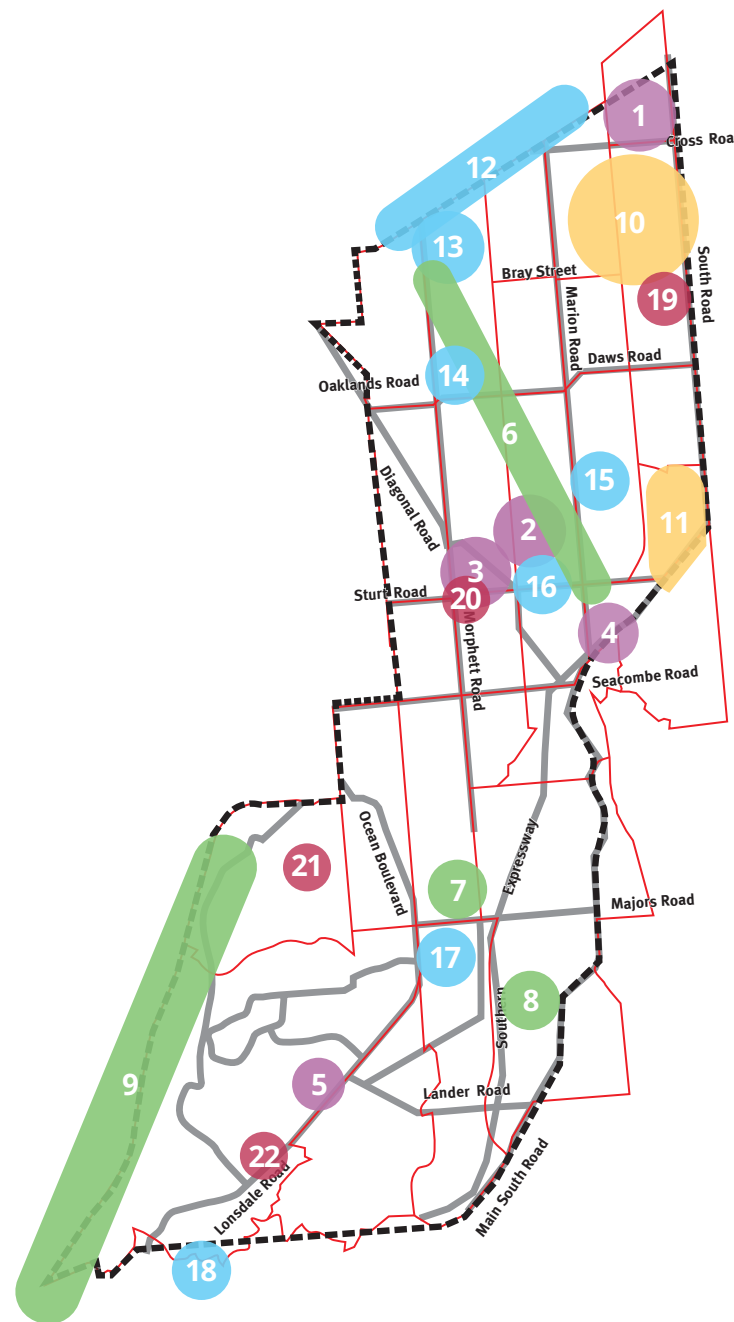
**Note: all opportunities (aside from the Council endorsed Public Art on Utility Boxes, Stobie Poles and other scale-appropriate assets program) for public art delivery Council will seek, where possible, partnerships, funding contributions and approvals. Small scale artworks could include footpath inlays, small murals, digital/light based artworks or landscaping elements.*



Lorna Nickels, stobie pole art, 2024, Hurst Street, Seaview Downs

Key council characteristics

The council characteristics have been developed to help identify and incorporate relevant themes for public art, they provide guidance in the creation of artwork that reflects the city's diverse areas, values, and priorities.



1. Glandore
2. Marion Historic Village
3. Marion Cultural and Leisure Precinct
4. Warriparinga
5. Perry Barr Farm
6. Sturt River, Oaklands Wetland
7. O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park
8. Glenthorne National Park
9. Coastal Walkway, Hallett Cove Conservation Park, Marino Conservation Park
10. Edwardstown Industrial Precinct
11. Tonsley Innovation District
12. Mike Turtur Bikeway
13. Morphettville Racecourse
14. Marion Leisure and Fitness Centre
15. Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre
16. Sturt Road Sports Precinct
17. Majors Road Precinct
18. Cove Sports and Community Club
19. Castle Plaza Shopping Centre
20. Westfield Marion
21. Seacliff Village
22. Hallett Cove Shopping Centre

Note: While certain areas may have multiple characteristics, the most dominant one has been chosen to help simplify classifications



Hallmark sites

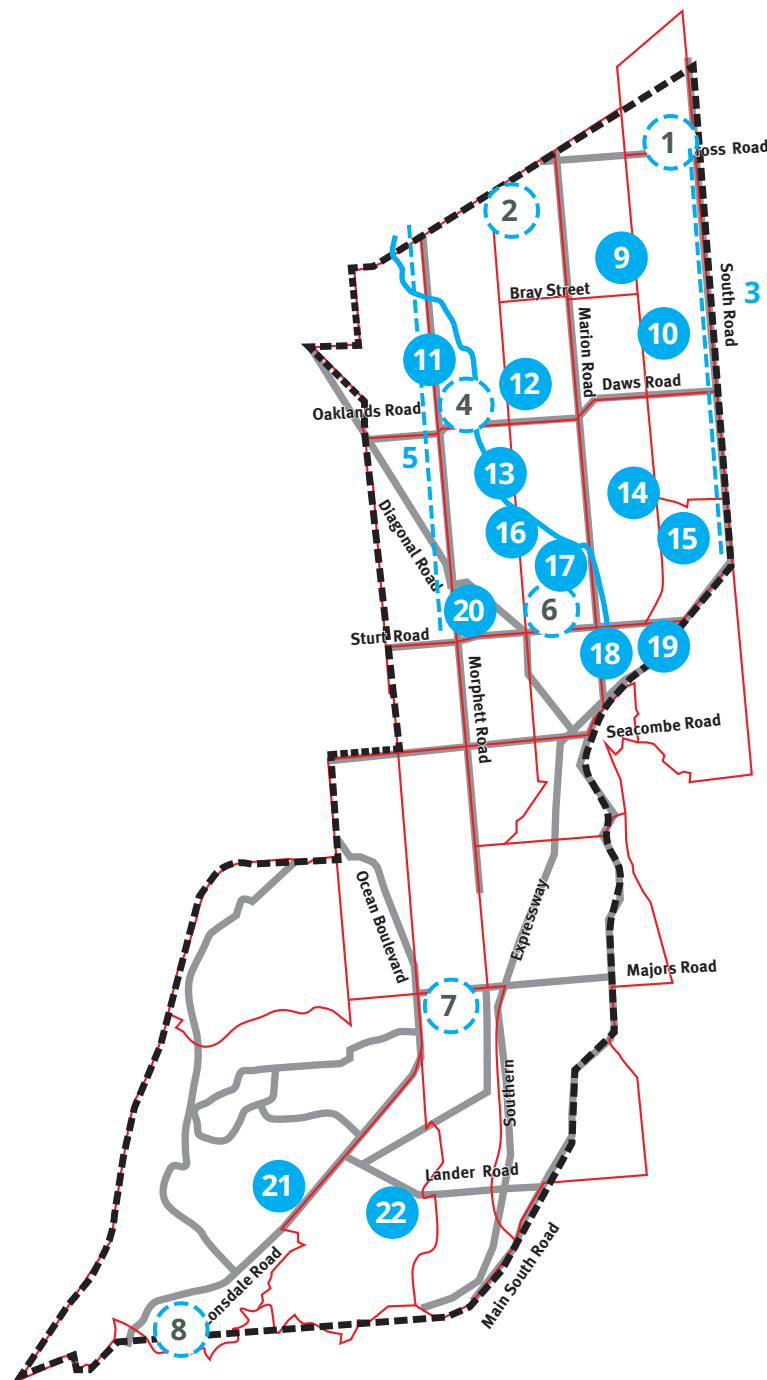
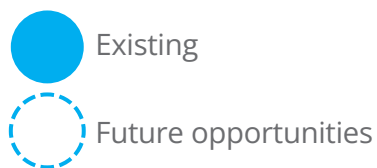
Hallmark sites are prominent, high-visibility locations with significant pedestrian and/or vehicle traffic, making them ideal for large-scale public art.

- Existing
- Future opportunities

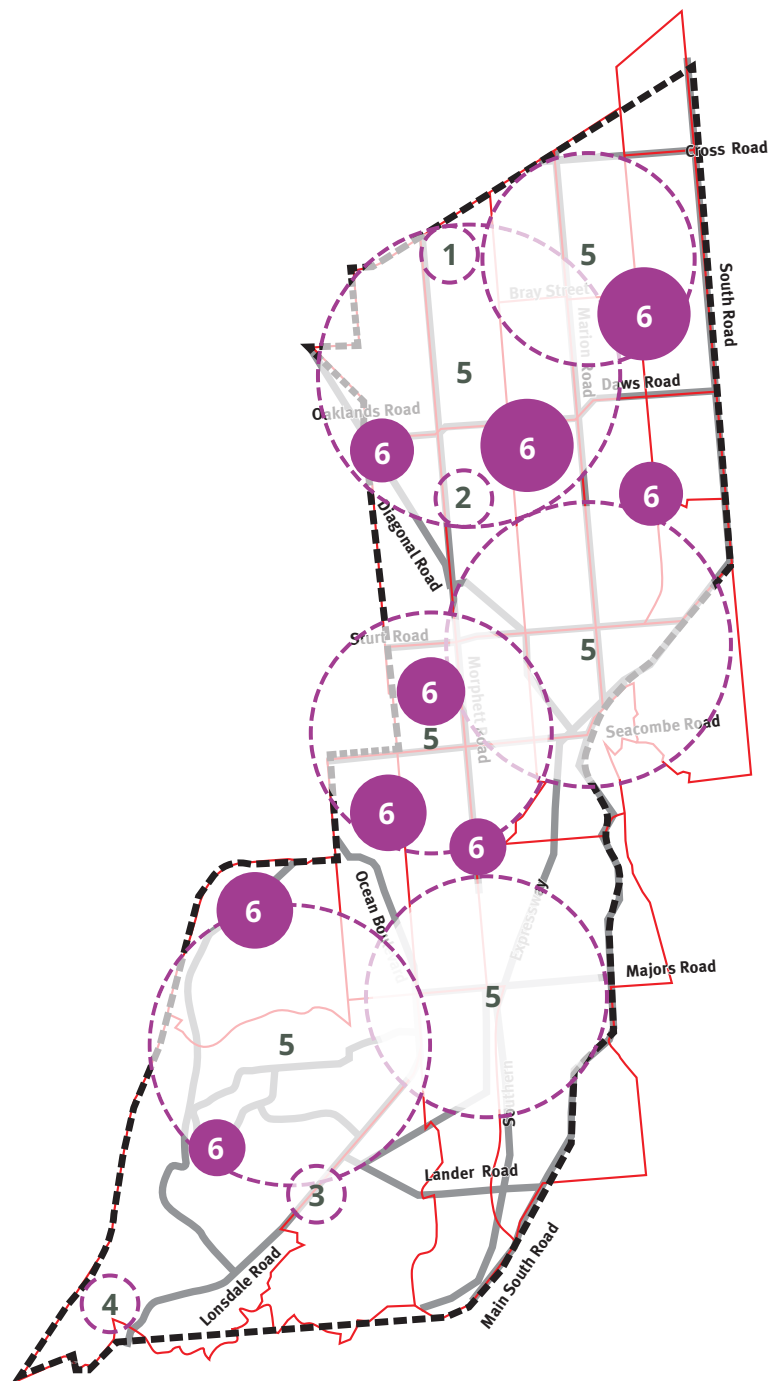
1. Tram Grade Separation Projects
2. Marion Regional Centre
3. Seacliff Village
4. Glenthorne National Park
5. Coastal Walkway
6. Warriparinga

Connector sites

Connector sites link people to various areas or structures and are often part of precincts or specific locations like shopping centres, civic buildings, or recreational reserves.



1. Glandore Precinct
2. Plympton Oval
3. North-South Corridor Project
4. Marion Fitness and Leisure Centre
5. Morphett Road Tram Crossing and Morphett Road to Sturt Road Corridor
6. Sturt Road Sports Precinct
7. Majors Road Precinct
8. Cove Sports Stage 2
9. Edwardstown Sports Memorial Recreation Ground
10. Edwardstown Industrial Precinct
11. Morphettville Parks Sports and Community Club
12. Hendrie Street Reserve Playground
13. Marion Historic Village
14. Mitchell Park Sports and Community Centre
15. Tonsley Precinct
16. Sturt River Linear Path
17. Oaklands Reserve
18. Warriparinga
19. South Road/Sturt Road Precinct
20. Marion Cultural Centre
21. Cove Civic Centre
22. Hugh Johnson Boulevard Reserve



Neighbourhood sites

Neighbourhood sites are intimate locations within residential areas that connect directly with the local community and reflects the culture of the space.

- Existing
- Future opportunities

1. Morphettville Neighbourhood
2. Oaklands Green
3. Lander Road Neighbourhood
4. Cove Point
5. Stobie Pole art, utility box art, bus shelter art installations, and other small-scale artworks
6. Stobie Pole art, utility box art, bus shelter art installations, and other small-scale artworks

Map overlay of all future opportunities



Hallmark sites

1. Tram Grade Separation Projects
2. Marion Regional Centre
3. Seacliff Village
4. Glenthorne National Park
5. Coastal Walkway



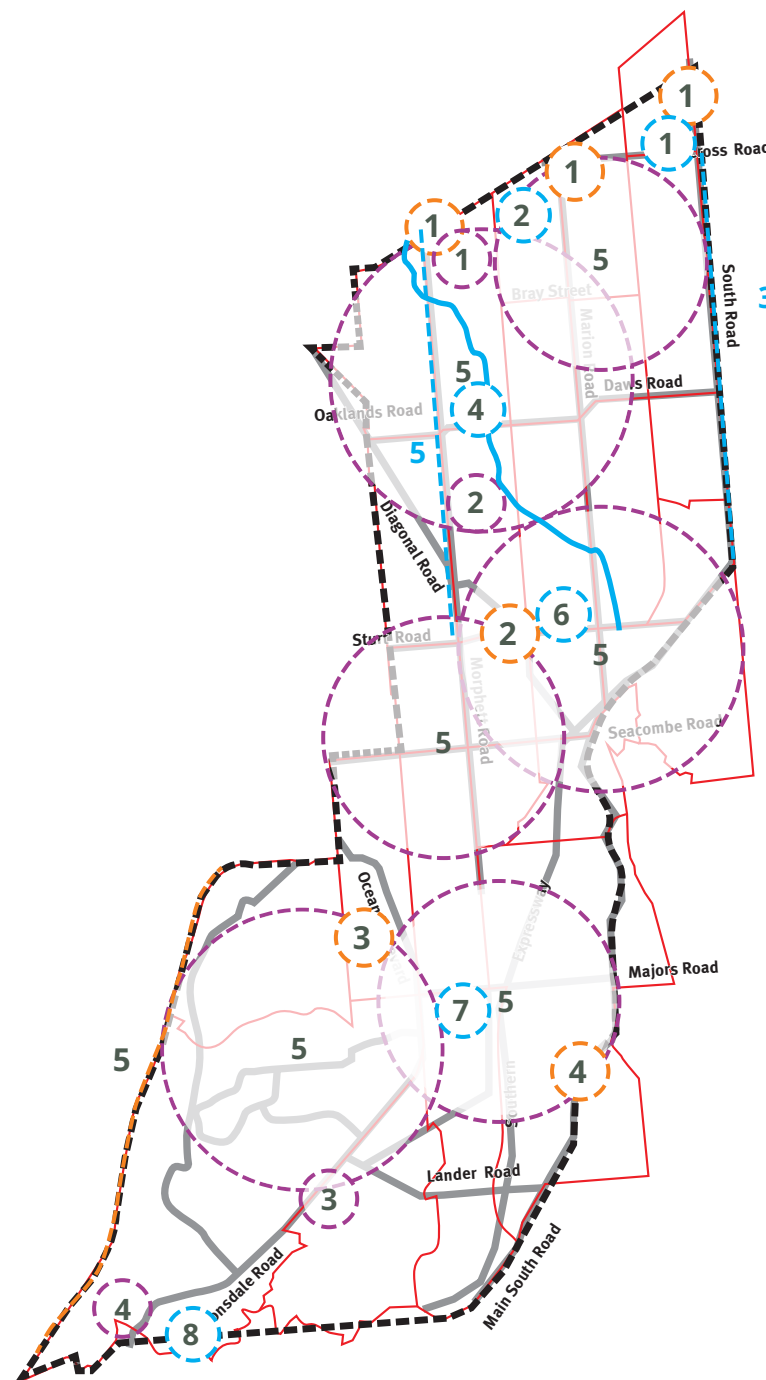
Connector sites

1. Glandore Precinct
2. Plympton Oval
3. North-South Corridor Project
4. Marion Fitness and Leisure Centre
5. Morphet Road Tram Crossing and Morphet Road to Sturt Road Corridor
6. Sturt Road Sports Precinct
7. Majors Road Precinct
8. Cove Sports Stage 2



Neighbourhood sites

1. Morphetville Neighbourhood
2. Oaklands Green
3. Lander Road Neighbourhood
4. Cove Point
5. Stobie Pole art, utility box art, bus shelter art and other small-scale artworks





Action plan

Each goal in the Public Art Strategy is supported by targeted strategies and practical actions, ensuring alignment with the City of Marion's broader vision. The timeframe indicates the expected duration for implementing or addressing each goal, strategy and action.



Strategies	Actions	Timeframe
Goal 1: Activate and transform public spaces, increasing a sense of belonging and safety		
<p>S1.1 Placemaking through art: Use art to create welcoming, vibrant spaces that foster a sense of security and community pride.</p> <p>S1.2 Art-Driven revitalisation: Focus on underutilised or unattractive areas, using art to transform and enhance their appeal.</p>	Partner with artists to design small and large-scale artworks that revitalise neglected urban areas, create landmarks, and have the potential to boost the local economy near cafés, retail hubs, and other sites (– eg murals, sculptures, installations).	Ongoing
	Implement light-based public art, such as illuminated sculptures or light shows, in dark or less-frequented areas to improve perceived safety.	Years 3-4
	Prioritise public art in high-traffic areas like in our local parks and recreation spaces such as Glenthorne National Park, Hallett Cove Foreshore, and transport hubs such as the North-South Corridor, Tram Grade Road Separation Projects, to enhance their aesthetic and functional value.	Ongoing
	Include public art in the development of all major projects such as Glandore Oval, Marion Basketball Stadium, and the Coastal Walkway.	Ongoing
	Integrate art into infrastructure, such as seating, pathways, and lighting.	Ongoing
	Program a variety of public art types across the council, including temporary, ephemeral, permanent, integrated, functional, and interactive artworks.	Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe
Goal 2: Engage community in culture and heritage through public art.		
<p>S2.1 Community engagement and participation: Involve diverse groups in the design and development of public art to ensure inclusivity and reflect the varied perspectives and needs of our community.</p> <p>S2.2 Heritage preservation: Use art to tell the stories of Marion's transformation and celebrate local culture and history.</p> <p>S2.3 Cultural celebration and storytelling: Commission works which reflect local stories and the heritage of the region.</p>	Continue delivering the Public Art on Utility Boxes, Stobie Poles and other scale appropriate assets program, providing opportunities for our community to be involved and participate in the creation of public art.	Ongoing
	Include clear expectations for community engagement and participation within all significant public art briefs to ensure artists involve our community in the creative process.	Ongoing
	Assist the development of public art projects through partnerships with schools, community groups, and other agencies to encourage collaboration and strengthen community ties.	Ongoing
	Develop complementary interpretive materials for all public art works, linking them to online resources to enhance understanding and engagement.	Years 3-4
	Collaborate with Kurna artists to create artwork that celebrate First Nations culture and heritage. Potential locations for these installations include Field River and Coastal Walkway.	Years 3-4
	Assist third party creators to acknowledge heritage, place and stories through public art. This includes reflecting on the changing nature of neighbourhoods, such as the transformation of industrial areas into housing and community spaces. Example locations for this include Cove Point, Oaklands Green and Lander Road Neighbourhood developments.	Years 1-2
	Continue to expand and promote the Art in Public Places Story Map to showcase and share the diverse public art across the city, enhancing public awareness and engagement.	Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe
Goal 3: Develop iconic works which are distinctive, interactive and situate people within the City of Marion.		
<p>S3.1 Landmark creations: Develop medium to large-scale artworks with the potential to become iconic and synonymous with the City of Marion, reflecting its identity and values.</p> <p>S3.2 Engaging public art experiences: Develop educational, interactive and digital public art initiatives to foster deeper engagement, learning, and connection with our community.</p>	Scope the development of a triennial sculpture prize, focusing on creating distinctive works at locations like the Marion Regional Centre, Coastal Walkway, Glenthorne National Park.	Year 5+
	Work with Planning team to establish a Developer Contribution Scheme/Precinct Levy to encourage developers to invest in public realm improvement and public art.	Years 1-2
	Explore how augmented reality and other digital features can be incorporated into public art projects, reviewing existing initiatives and creating at least one new augmented reality project.	Year 2
	Work with Planning and Economic Development teams and develop guidelines that highlight the benefits of public art in the larger scale developments and encourage developer involvement.	Years 1-2
	Enhance significant locations within the council area by assisting in the delivering of medium to large-scale public art at Hallmark Sites and Connector Sites.	Year 1+
	Prioritise seeking external funding and partnerships for the delivery of significant public art projects.	Ongoing
	Advocate to state agencies for the integration of iconic public art in large-scale public infrastructure projects, such as the North-South Corridor.	Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe
Goal 4: Increase the capacity of community, government and commercial stakeholders to develop public art projects, that contribute to the social and economic fabric of the City of Marion.		
<p>S4.1 Public art to achieve broader strategic goals: Develop public art projects that align with and support council's broader strategic priorities, enhancing the city's overall vision and objectives.</p> <p>S4.2 Stakeholder Empowerment: Engage a diverse range of agencies, build partnerships, and strengthen capacity to support the development and sustainability of public art projects.</p>	Work across council departments to develop both permanent and temporary public artworks that align with strategic priorities such as environmental sustainability, reconciliation, urban renewal, active ageing, and health and wellbeing.	Ongoing
	Promote the council's community grants program and the Public Art Guidelines 2020-2028 by engaging businesses, schools, and community organisations	Ongoing
	Undertake briefings for staff and other stakeholders on how public art can achieve a range of strategic aims.	Ongoing
	Assist in creating public/private partnerships to deliver a key public art project with both cultural/creative outcomes and a non-arts outcome.	Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Timeframe
Goal 5: Increase the capacity of artists within the City of Marion to develop public art and work in a community context.		
S5.1 Professional development: Increase the skills of artists to deliver and participate in public art initiatives. S5.2 Opportunities to collaborate: Foster opportunities to bring artists, arts professionals and others together.	Incorporate mentoring opportunities wherever possible within public art initiatives.	Ongoing
	Create a public art incubator program that offers artists an opportunity to better understand the processes of responding to briefs, developing a concept and leading the fabrication of work.	Years 1-2
	Engage with local artists wherever possible, and if artists are engaged from outside the council region integrate knowledge and skill sharing for local artists.	Ongoing
	Collaborate with neighbouring councils on professional development opportunities for artists in relation to public art that also fosters the growth of arts-industry networks.	Years 1-2
	Collaborate and liaise with peak arts and cultural bodies to expand opportunities for creatives working in public art (e.g. Guildhouse, Arts SA, Arts Industry Council of South Australia.)	Ongoing

Funding and resources

Funding and Resourcing for public art projects must be practical to ensure that the intended scope, purpose, and scale of the works align with the Public Art Strategy and council budgets. External funding, partnerships and collaborative relationships will be established to support the successful delivery of this Strategy.

In considering the funding of public art initiatives, council will first and foremost explore all opportunities to secure partnerships or grant funding. By prioritising external funding sources, we can maximise resources, extend the reach of public art projects, and ensure sustainable investment in creative and community-driven initiatives.

The recommendations on the right are provided to support the implementation of the Public Art Strategy and Action Plan, ensuring that as the city changes, grows and develops, its vitality, cultural engagement, and public space value will continue to evolve.

Recommendations

Incorporate public art into all **major projects** with a budget of **\$35,000+** for projects exceeding **\$4 million**, plus a public art program contribution.

Establish a **Developer Contribution Scheme/ Precinct Levy** to encourage developers to invest in public realm enhancements. This levy could be used for **commissioning public art or restoring public spaces** affected by development, such as paths, streetscapes, and open spaces.

Seek and maximise **funding and contributions** from external sources, including the private sector to support impactful public art projects and advance the goals of this strategy.

Integrate public art, where possible, into significant **capital works and open space projects** over **\$1 million**, with a budget of **\$10,000 - \$30,000** for projects valued between **\$1 million - \$4 million**.

Collaborate across council departments to **support public art initiatives**, ensuring that these projects align with and contribute to broader council objectives across multiple strategies.

Support and partner with community and not-for-profit groups to **develop artwork independently** of council.

Foster public and private partnerships that support and **enhance public art initiatives**.

Footnote: Between 2019-2024, 56 public art projects were delivered over six years. City of Marion average annual contribution was \$154,300, and grant and external source average annual contribution was \$75,300. Includes public art integrated into State Government projects, major projects, city property, engineering, open space, slobie poles, service boxes, bus shelters, business activation

Appendix

City of Marion Public Art Guidelines Definition

The City of Marion defines public art in its Public Art Guidelines 2020-2028, which provide the context for the development of this strategy. It states:

Public art may be:

- permanent and long lasting (usually a minimum of 15 years) using durable material.
- temporary, remaining for a fixed and specified time.
- ephemeral, in place for a very brief span or using non-durable materials, performative arts, projections or sound.

Public art can be stand alone and iconic or integrated into the public realm, architectural projects (both inside and outside), streetscapes, walking and cycling trails, playgrounds and reserves. It can be:

- Site specific, designed specifically for and responsive to, a particular site in regard to scale, materials, form, and concept.
- Commemorative, acknowledging a specific event or person important to the local community, tell the history of the place and connection to country.
- Functional art or design elements integrated into the built or natural environment with a practical purpose such as seating, lighting, furniture, bollards, signage, rubbish bins, landscaping elements, etc. Inside buildings these elements could include building foyers or reception desks, window treatments, door handle, flooring, signage, lighting, furniture, or façade treatments.
- Community art which provides the opportunity for the community to participate in the conceptualising and making of a work of art. This is an empowering process that can contribute to connecting

communities and individuals and give voice to and provide a sense of belonging to diverse cultural groups, children, young people, older or those disadvantaged by circumstance. Community art highly values the relationships built in shared creative processes as well as artistic outcomes. Engaging the community in the creation process, fostering connection, belonging, and empowerment, and can give voice to diverse or disadvantaged groups.

Development of this Strategy

This Strategy and Action Plan was developed through research, community consultation, and feedback from key stakeholders, along with a review of relevant documents to understand public art opportunities and expectations in the City of Marion. The following provides an overview of the process.

The following documents were reviewed for this strategy:

- City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024–2034
- City of Marion A Great Place to Play – Open Space Plan 2024–2034
- City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029
- City of Marion Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2026
- City of Marion Walking and Cycling Guidelines 2024
- City of Marion Marketing and Engagement Strategy 2022-2026
- Arts South Australia Public Art and Design Resources
- Business Growth and Engagement Plan (2023/2024, ongoing workplan)
- Artworks Culture and Heritage Asset Management Plan 2024-2034
- Public Art Guidelines 2020-2028

Before developing this strategy, several consultation activities referencing public art were conducted, including both general and targeted consultation:

General consultation

- Consultation with Marion 100, the City of Marion
- Toward 2040... Together – City of Marion Community Engagement Report 2024

Targeted consultation

The following activities were undertaken to gather specific feedback, ideas and public art priorities in the City of Marion:

- Face to face workshops, meetings, and forums with council and City of Marion staff
- Online survey distribution
- Key stakeholder workshops with heritage groups, youth, First Nations communities, and artists.
- General public workshops and library engagement
- Site familiarisation – reviewing current artworks and potential future sites.

Majority of consultation responses were positive, with strong support for public art:

- 85 per cent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that council should invest in public art.
- 96 per cent of respondents indicated that public art is good for the community.

The following provides an overview of consultation numbers and touchpoints:

- 336 community members directly consulted
- 267 written comments provided through surveys and feedback posters
- 108 surveys completed
- 6 feedback posters installed with 174 feedback comments received
- 10 workshops/meetings conducted with 54 attendees

Broader strategic alignment

Public art development aligns with a variety of strategic priorities set by the City of Marion. It serves as a powerful tool to achieve these priorities and reinforces the council's messaging in impactful ways. The following outlines how public art supports and integrates with existing strategies.

City of Marion Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2024-2026:

- The RAP highlights public art, like the Tjilbruke Gateway at Warriparinga, that honours Kaurana cultural heritage and supports reconciliation.
- It promotes the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through interpretive signage, permanent artworks, and Kaurana representation.

City of Marion Business Growth and Engagement Plan (2023/2024, ongoing workplan)

- Vibrant City: Place based engagement to support public art and placemaking to engage with local businesses to upgrade their façades and public realm through a process of co-design.

City of Marion Walking and Cycling Guidelines 2024

- Integrating public art into pathways and community spaces to enhance engagement, encourage exploration, and promote health and wellbeing through outdoor activity.

City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024–2029

- Valuing Nature: Public art can integrate nature themes to raise awareness about biodiversity and the environment.
- Aboriginal land management: Cultural installations like murals, sculptures, or interpretive art pieces can highlight traditional land management practices, celebrate Kurna heritage and support reconciliation efforts.
- Community Engagement: Public art can engage residents in discussion about biodiversity, conservation, and urban green spaces.

Alignment with Actions:

- Natural Landscaping and Biodiversity Education: Public art in parks or natural areas can feature nature-inspired design, educating the public about local biodiversity.
- Partnerships: Collaborations with local artists, schools, and Aboriginal groups can strengthen community ties and align with biodiversity goals.
- Restoration and Connectivity: Art installations in restoration areas can raise awareness of restoration efforts and showcase native species.

City of Marion Open Space Plan - A Great Place to Play 2024–2034

- Activate and Enhance Open Spaces: Public art aligns with the Plan's goal of creating vibrant, attractive open spaces.
- Cultural and Historical Reflection: Public art engages with Aboriginal culture, supports cultural and interpretive signage, and tells local stories.
- Community Engagement and Participation: Public art offers participatory opportunities, fostering community involvement in open space design.
- Environmentally Sustainable Design: Public art can highlight sustainability themes like biodiversity, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD), and natural landscaping.
- Safety and Accessibility: Public art can improve safety and create welcoming spaces, supporting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

City of Marion Marketing and Engagement Strategy 2022-2026

- Liveable: Public art enhances public spaces, making them more attractive, safe, and welcoming.
- Engaged: Public art serves as a platform for community engagement.
- Innovative: Integrating digital and interactive public art aligns with Marion's vision of being a leader in technology and innovation.
- Promoting the City of Marion: Public art contributes to Marion's branding as a vibrant, cultural destination and enhancing the city's reputation as a place to live, work, and play.

City of Marion Regional Public Health Plan 2025-2029

- Enliven places and spaces with arts and culture
- Create opportunities for people to contribute to the community, lead their own initiatives, and have a voice in council decision-making.

Alignment with Actions

Focus area 7:

- Deliver creative arts projects in public spaces that build welcoming, inspiring, and enjoyable places for people to be. Plan-for and coordinate implementation of the new Public Art Strategy and Action Plan that will guide the direction for public art across the City

Alignment with Actions:

Focus area 8:

- Make it easier for individuals, groups and businesses to navigate council processes and implement their own community initiatives. Identify and address inefficiencies in council processes and procedures that are barriers to the success of community-led initiatives, across areas such as art, and sustainability. This would initially involve identifying stakeholders and scope.

