

This Group Reports to: City of Bunbury (CoB) Council  
Key City of Bunbury Contact: Consultant CoB - Arts & Culture (Dr Michael Bianco)

## **1. Purpose of the Advisory Group**

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to consolidate industry and community expertise and involvement to:

- (i) support Council's commitment to investigate delivery of a new state of the art, world class, and purpose-built Art Gallery in the next seven years and
- (ii) to continue to provide advice on gallery operations, exhibitions, programs, council policies, and public art.

The above purpose is to be fulfilled between April 2024 to September 2025 as follows:

- (i) Development of a Gallery Construction Action Plan which identifies potential sites and architects for the new gallery.
- (ii) Development of a Gallery Capital Campaign Action Plan which identifies a strategy to fund 25% of total capital costs of the new gallery in addition to seeking funding to support ongoing gallery exhibitions and programs.
- (iii) Establishment of a BRAG Foundation to support the expansion and care of the permanent collection, to enhance public programs, and to develop major exhibitions which can both drive tourism and alternative revenue streams.
- (iv) Provision of advice to BRAG and Council on matters that affect Aboriginal exhibitions and programs at the gallery.
- (v) Provide advice to Council as to the future formation, role and purpose of the group following the completion of the strategic plan as the plan will include future clarity regarding the purpose of the group moving forward.

## **2. Representation**

### **2.1. Membership**

The BRAG advisory group will be composed of the following representatives:

- (i) Three Elected Member representatives (*as voted for by Council*)
- (ii) Up to eight regional community members (*recruitment via advertising followed by a selection panel assessment of the most suitable candidates*)
- (iii) Up to two arts industry experts (*direct appointed by the selection panel*)
- (iv) Up to three Aboriginal community members with arts expertise (*direct appointed by the selection panel*)

The selection panel will be comprised of the three Elected Members and Dr. Michael Bianco (*Consultant CoB – Culture & Arts*).

Selected individuals will be asked to disclose any conflicts of interest they may have by participating in the Advisory Group and may be rejected if it is determined that a conflict of interest exists. Beyond the core members of the Advisory Group, outside community members and industry experts may be engaged in an informal basis to help the decision-making process of the Advisory Group members.

## **2.2. Support Staff**

- Consultant CoB - Arts & Culture
- Manager Community Connection
- BRAG Team Leader
- Director Corporate and Community (As Required)
- Noongar Arts Program Coordinator (As Required)
- Community Development Officer - First Nations (As Required)

## **3. Key Activities and Outcomes**

### **3.1. Gallery Construction Action Plan**

The Gallery Construction Action Plan is proposed to include a clear pathway for delivering the new gallery in alignment with Council's commitment to deliver the project to the community within seven years of commencement. It will do this by identifying potential construction sites for the gallery within Bunbury, and by identifying internationally significant architects to design the building.

The industry experts and regional individuals on the Advisory Group will work with the City of Bunbury to prepare documents with clear outcomes based on extensive community consultation and engagement regarding the development and delivery of the new gallery

### **3.2. Gallery Capital Campaign Action Plan**

The estimated project cost for the new regional art gallery is currently estimated at \$46 million. With Council's commitment to fund 25% of total capital costs, the gallery will need to identify most of the funding for the project through commitments from both state and federal representatives, in addition to private contributions from both private individuals and corporations. This will require a thoughtful and measured approach which can identify potential funders, key fundraising target dates, vital fundraising activities, and additional strategic objectives to meet the funding goal.

### **3.3. Establishment of a BRAG Foundation**

BRAG Foundation will be established to support the expansion and care of the permanent collection, and to enhance public programs and major exhibitions. This in turn will offer the significant opportunity to drive tourism and generate alternative revenue streams for the gallery.

A BRAG Foundation will be vital to supporting the expansion and care of the permanent collection and will bring the gallery into alignment with other major peer intuitions.

**3.4. Establishment of Subcommittees (4 in total) to progress the required outcomes.**

Identification of interested Advisory Group representatives to actively participate on the following subcommittees:

*(i) New Gallery Development Sub-Committee*

Identification of potential sites to locate a new gallery in alignment with budgets, resources, and COB strategies.

*(ii) Gallery Foundation and Fundraising Sub-Committee*

Development and implementation of a Foundation to support the purchasing capacity for the permanent collection, the care of the collection, and to enhance BRAG's ability to develop exhibitions of national and international touring quality.

*(iii) Aboriginal Reference Group Sub-Committee*

Provision of advice and high-level expertise across all mediums of contemporary and traditional Aboriginal art, including museum and gallery leadership, curatorial experience, and insights into making BRAG a more culturally safe gallery.

The Aboriginal Reference Group Subcommittee will play a pivotal role in advancing the gallery's strategic objectives, bringing an invaluable wealth of high-level expertise in contemporary and traditional Aboriginal art across diverse mediums. The guidance of this group will extend to exhibitions, programs, and all facets of Aboriginal Arts, including the nuanced challenges tied to the acquisition, interpretation, and display of Aboriginal cultural material. In recognition of their indispensable role, the group will be actively involved in shaping the gallery's direction by contributing to the development of an Aboriginal cultural rights and engagement policy. This policy not only ensures adherence to national arts industry standards at BRAG but will also underscore the gallery's commitment to fostering cultural sensitivity, safety, and respect. The expertise of the Aboriginal Reference Group will become particularly valuable when the Director or other gallery staff seek their advice to navigate feedback, resolve issues, and address complaints related to matters governed by these principles. In essence, the group stands as a cornerstone, actively steering the gallery towards a culturally enriched and ethically aligned future.

*(iv) COB Policy and Public Art Sub-Committee*

Provision of advice and high-level expertise in regard to policies as they pertain to BRAG and the CoB Public Art Collection, in addition to making recommendations to the care, promotion, and commissioning of new works for Public Art in the City of Bunbury.

This also includes desktop review of existing policies that pertain to BRAG, the permanent art collection, and public art, for Council consideration and subsequent inclusion or exclusion from the strategic plans dependent on Council decision making.

**4. Advocacy**

Advocacy for BRAG, arts and culture, public art for the City of Bunbury and wider region to both Council and external stakeholders.

**5. Key Timelines**

Council have endorsed a deadline of 30 September 2025 for the Advisory Group to produce:

- 1) Gallery Construction Action Plan
- 2) Gallery Capital Campaign Action Plan
- 3) Establishment of a BRAG Foundation
- 4) BRAG Aboriginal Cultural Rights and Engagement Policy
- 5) Advice (via a report to Council prepared by support officers) as to the future of the Advisory Group on completion of action plans.

**6. Meeting and Reporting Frequency**

Advisory Group Meetings will be held with full representative attendance quarterly on the first Monday of each calendar month, with regular sub-committee meetings to be held as necessary on a week-to-week basis. Additional full representative meetings may be required to ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement is undertaken in the process of developing relevant actions plans and policies.

**7. Decision making**

The advisory group (and its sub-committees) is not a decision-making group. All findings and proposals will be reported back to Council for decision making and further action.