

BROOME CHINATOWN REVITALISATION

THE HEART AND SOUL OF BROOME

PUBLIC ART AND INTERPRETATION

Public art and interpretation plays an important role in all community developments. A public art and interpretation strategy was created as part of the Chinatown Revitalisation Project, leading to the creation of stunning sculptures and artworks incorporating Broome's multicultural history within the precinct.

An artistically rich and diverse team of public artists, local Broome historians and cultural advisors collaborated to deliver new artworks and interpretive pieces in stage one, and will be working on new standalone works in Stage Two to complement the existing pieces throughout Chinatown. The Shire will collaborate with key Chinatown stakeholders on the specific nature and location of the artworks.

The projects include:

Entry Statement Sculpture – UNDERWAY

The sculpture will be an iconic, prominent artwork that visually articulates the uniqueness of Chinatown, situated in the main access and approach area to Chinatown in the Napier Terrace / Carnarvon Street roundabout. It is currently being fabricated and is due to be installed later in the year.

Carnarvon Street Shopkeepers Artwork – COMPLETED

This interpretive artwork pays tribute to the shopkeepers of old Chinatown and represents the unique selection of shops and the people who ran them. WA artist Nic Compton created the design, which utilises the abacus as a universal symbol of commercial exchange as a basis for the interactive sculpture. Carvings on the beads depict the diverse range of shopkeepers in the new and old world Chinatown.

Jila Artwork – COMPLETED

This is an artwork created with sandstone cobbles by Yawuru artist Martha Lee, identifying the locations of the freshwater soaks in town, including at Sun Pictures, and has been installed outside the cinema on Carnarvon Street.

Interpretive Trail – COMPLETED

This is a series of small items that represent the theme of “Everyday Life in Chinatown” and shares the historical stories of the multicultural town. It was developed by the Chinatown Interpretation Team, which consisted of the Historical Society, Nyamba Buru Yawuru and the Broome Chinese Community Inc, in conjunction with old Broome families, and elements of local Chinese, Japanese, Malay and Aboriginal history.



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Street Furniture and Lighting – COMPLETED

Artwork has been integrated into benches and lights on both Carnarvon Street and Dampier Terrace. The design was informed by historical, environment and cultural content. It was created by the Broome Chinese Community Inc (Carnarvon Street) and Nagula Jarndu Designs (Dampier Terrace).

Dampier Terrace Pearling Timeline – UNDERWAY

An interpretive timeline tells the pearling story down Dampier Terrace, and incorporates the Three Wise Men bronze statues formerly located on Carnarvon Street. The timeline will commence with a sculpture by Yawuru artist Michael Torres to depict the start of the pearling story and represent Yawuru's traditional and ongoing connection to pearl shell. The bronze plaques of the timeline were installed in Stage One, and work on the sculpture is included in the Stage Two works.

Multi-cultural Signage – COMPLETED

Based on the old signs that were once in Chinatown, new street signage has been installed on Carnarvon Street in English, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Yawuru.

Divers Quarters and the Boat Building Industry - UNDERWAY

A sculpture taking inspiration from the Malay and Japanese diver's accommodation quarters, boat building shed and shell sorting sheds where they used to line the area of the Bay.

Sam Male - UNDERWAY

A statue of Sam Male acknowledging the historic pearling, business and political contributions he and his family made to the town of Broome.

The Tram - UNDERWAY

Integrated artwork depicting the tram from the 'Old Jetty' which brought goods into Chinatown. Inspired by the tram line controllers.

The Japanese in Broome - UNDERWAY

An integrated artwork inspired by the colourful patterns of the Japanese kimonos, highlighting the important role the Japanese community had in Chinatown.

The \$29.3 million Chinatown Revitalisation Project is being delivered by the State Government and the Shire of Broome, with \$22.6 million in funding from the State Government and \$6.7 million from the Shire.

The project is being delivered in two stages, with 10 sub-projects comprising the \$13.8 million Stage One works completed in 2019. Stage Two is currently progressing and includes another nine sub-projects, with construction expected to commence in the last 2020 quarter through to mid 2021.

The aim of the sub-projects is to make the Chinatown precinct more attractive to locals, visitors and businesses, and encourage activity and long-term investment into the heart and soul of Broome.