Key findings:
Trends and issues affecting young people in Brisbane

Council wants all young people to experience Brisbane as a subtropical city with effective growth management and a well-designed and responsive built environment. In 2014-2019, our strategic priorities for achieving this will respond to two key findings.

**01** Young people are keen to be involved in shaping the city. In recent years Council has engaged young people in more creative community consultation processes, and they have responded enthusiastically. Many are active citizens who really want to be involved in making a difference.

**02** Young people are frequent users of public space. Diverse groups have a keen interest in ensuring designs for subtropical lifestyles are reflective of all abilities, cultures and subcultures. As users of social and digital media, young people frequently access international examples of innovative design solutions and are able to quickly share, promote and action these to meet local needs.
How young people are contributing to a well-designed, subtropical Brisbane

Young people have a lot to contribute towards the design of our city.

- Early adopters of high-density lifestyles are redefining the idea of ‘neighbourhood’ through their lifestyle choices and support of Council’s Neighbourhood Planning.

- Innovative, eco-friendly tenants, home owners and designers are shaping the next wave of property trends in Brisbane.

- Fun-loving socialisers are working with Council to organise events in public spaces that bring friends and family to enjoy the city’s subtropical lifestyle.

Ongoing Council programs and initiatives

Council will continue to deliver existing policies, services and programs that help make Brisbane a well-designed, subtropical city that young people enjoy. These will continue under Youth Strategy 2014-2019.

- **Vibrant Laneways.** Transforming laneways and hidden spaces in Brisbane’s CBD into creative, edgy spaces enjoyed by young people. This program also provides opportunities for young people to be involved in the design and activation of these spaces.

- **Living City urban design program.** Developed in response to the absence of youth voices in the discourse of planning, Living City is a collaboration between Council, universities, urban designers and high schools that values young people as agents for change and validates their ideas in relation to public space design and development. Each year a group of high school students participates in a program where students, designers and planners work together to explore issues and potential opportunities of specific sites across Brisbane. They address issues they feel are important to the site and its users, including young people. More than 270 high school students from 36 schools have participated in 10 Living City urban design projects at different sites in Brisbane since 1999. Young people are supported to maintain an ongoing role in activating the spaces that they commonly use.
• **Artforce** is a community art project that enables local artists to paint their original works on traffic signal boxes around Brisbane suburbs. Traffic signal boxes are the metal boxes at traffic light intersections that house traffic light electronics. Artforce provides residents of all ages and artistic backgrounds an opportunity to design and paint an artwork on a traffic signal box. You can help decorate Brisbane’s busy streets and be part of Brisbane’s ‘drive-through gallery’.

• **Neighbourhood Planning youth engagement.** Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities across Brisbane opportunities to have a say in the future of their area. When we are preparing Neighbourhood Plans in areas where there is a significant population of young people, we organise creative, targeted engagement processes to get their input.

• **Engaging young people in planning and design.** When we are planning improvements to public infrastructure, parks and outdoor spaces, we consult with young people through a range of engagement activities, including intercept surveys, vox pops, and design workshops to get the input of young people who use the spaces and facilities. We often use a peer-to-peer approach, working with groups of young people to engage other young people.

### How we are going to get there

**Strategy 7.1**

Provide opportunities for young people to contribute to innovative subtropical design and sustainable planning initiatives. Facilitate young people’s involvement in planning and design to ensure the development of innovative subtropical design and sustainable planning initiatives.

**Strategy 7.2**

Foster a new generation of young designers and planners. Foster a new generation of young designers and planners at the cutting edge of their profession who will excel in the design of climate-adaptive, accessible buildings and mixed-use centres.

### Where we want to be

There are two outcomes we want young people to experience.

• Everyone enjoys streetscapes, energy-efficient buildings and suburbs that have been designed by creative young professionals who understand Brisbane’s vibrant, subtropical lifestyle.

• Brisbane’s young people are active participants in innovative planning and design that maintains our quality of life for our growing population.
Extensions to Council programs

- Inclusive Brisbane Board. The Inclusive Brisbane Board is an advisory board addressing community issues associated with development planning. The board provides advice on community issues related to the future development of Brisbane, identifies emerging social inclusion issues and shares information, ideas and research to address issues.

Extension

» Youth representative on the Inclusive Brisbane Board. We will seek nominations from members of the broader youth sector that can represent young people and their needs as an active member of the Inclusive Brisbane Board.

270 high school students from 36 schools have participated in 10 ‘Living City’ urban design projects at different sites in Brisbane since 1999.
Featured program: Vibrant Laneways

The Vibrant Laneways program transforms laneways and hidden spaces to deliver a new dimension to the Brisbane CBD experience. The sense of discovery delivered through the hidden spaces of the city provides opportunity for rich, engaging and interactive pedestrian, retail and commercial experiences.

Young people are some of the key beneficiaries of these spaces. Over the life of the program they have participated directly and indirectly in design processes, artworks, performances, pop-up markets, recreation and music events to animate these spaces.

Council will continue to convert and activate these spaces in partnership with local businesses.

Burnett Lane, located in the city centre behind the Queen Street Mall, is a unique and creative destination. This space was bought to life with temporary creative lighting, public artwork and the installation of a street-print spanning the entire length of the lane. Burnett Lane was also the launch site of the first BrisAsia Festival in 2013.

Market Street’s transformation created an outdoor, pedestrian-friendly meeting place. Featuring twig-inspired outdoor furniture, improved landscaping and pedestrian amenities, and upgraded signage and lighting.

Jacob’s Ladder provides a critical pedestrian link between the city centre and Spring Hill. Its transformation has seen the creation of a new plaza and other enhancements including new artwork, lighting and landscaping.

Little Roma Street underneath Turbot Street flyover is a little piece of Brisbane that has been transformed into a subtropical urban oasis. Little Roma Street now boasts the installation of the Rhyl Hinwood Fountain, subtropical landscaping and public art entitled Freshwater Lens by Judy Watson.
Profile: Amy Saunders – Vibrant Places

Amy’s aim in life is to make a positive impact on her community and the world. She founded Vibrant Places in 2010 to fulfil this.

Vibrant Places’ first project was Games Night, which encourages interactions between people of different generations, backgrounds and cultures.

Games Night @ King George Square is funded by Council and has become a regular event, held on the last Thursday of the month, inviting everyone to play giant and normal-sized games for free in a public space. For more information, visit www.games-at-event.com

Amy also co-founded Lazy Sunday Cycle in Brisbane, which inspired other similar community rides in Sydney and North Queensland. She is the co-host of Brisbane’s Diner en Blanc, a pop-up, Parisian-inspired dining event. One thousand people attended the first event, and there were thousands on the waiting list. Amy is a co-founding leader of the not-for-profit U.R{BNE} Collective and leads the U.R{BNE} Festival in May.

In 2012 Amy was recognised with a Lord Mayor’s Australia Day Award for her commitment to positive, social events in Brisbane and named Emerging Designer of the Year by the Queensland Design Council. In early 2013, Amy was listed as one of The Sunday Mail U on Sunday magazine’s ‘Top 50 Queensland List: Kind and compassionate people who bring a world of joy to others’.

For more information, visit www.vibrantplaces.org