

Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations

Ukrainian Arts Council

The Council's core purpose is to advance, support, and promote Ukrainian arts and cultural heritage across Australia, serving as a creative hub and sector advocate within the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations. Its main aim is to foster artistic excellence, community connection, cultural diversity, and public appreciation of Ukrainian art.

Core Purpose

- Champion Ukrainian art and culture, amplifying its visibility and impact nationally.
- Support artists, organisations, and projects that celebrate and innovate Ukrainian creative expression.
- Strengthen cultural identity and facilitate meaningful engagement between Ukrainian and broader Australian communities.

Strategic Objectives

- **Artistic Excellence:** Enable high-quality artistic programs, cultural events, and exhibits that elevate Ukrainian arts in Australia.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in professional development, partnerships, and resources for Ukrainian artists and cultural practitioners.
- **Community Engagement:** Design and deliver inclusive outreach and education initiatives to engage diverse audiences.
- **Policy & Advocacy:** Advise the AFUO and stakeholders on matters of arts policy, sector development, and strategy.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Support archival, documentation, and research efforts to protect and share Ukrainian heritage.
- **Innovation & Collaboration:** Foster partnerships with allied organisations, government bodies, and multicultural communities to multiply impact.
- **Governance & Accountability:** Uphold transparent reporting, ethical conduct, and responsible resource management in line with AFUO priorities.

Charter

1. Purpose

The Ukrainian Arts Council (“the Council”) is established to promote, support, and advocate for Ukrainian arts and cultural heritage in Australia. It operates as a standing committee reporting to the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO), contributing to the cultural vitality and community well-being of Ukrainian Australians.

2. Functions

- Promote artistic excellence and cultural heritage through programs, grants, and events for the Ukrainian-Australian community.
- Advise the AFUO and national stakeholders on Ukrainian arts policy, initiatives, and representation.
- Facilitate cross-cultural engagement, professional development opportunities, and public outreach.
- Encourage collaboration with cultural institutions, artists, and communities across Australia.
- Support research, documentation, and preservation of Ukrainian cultural expression.

3. Governance

- The Council shall operate as a standing committee under the governance structure of the AFUO, with a formal Terms of Reference and delegated authority agreed by the AFUO Board.
- The Director of Cultural Affairs will serve as Chair of the Council, reporting directly to the Office of Cultural Affairs and the AFUO Board.
- Membership shall comprise appointed representatives of the Ukrainian arts community and other invited professionals, with terms defined in the Council’s governance documents.

4. Autonomy and Delegated Authority

- The Council has decision-making autonomy for artistic programming, project delivery, and community initiatives within annually approved budget and policy guidelines.
- The Council is authorised to form working groups, recommend grants and allocate resources, subject to AFUO policy and risk management oversight.
- Major financial, legal, and strategic decisions, including partnerships exceeding set thresholds, require prior approval from the AFUO Board.
- Authority to collaborate with other public agencies and cultural organisations.

5. Accountability and Reporting

- The Council will submit annual work plans, budgets, and progress reports to the AFUO Board, detailing outcomes, spend, and alignment with AFUO strategic objectives.
- Meetings shall be minuted and all resolutions and conflicts declared and recorded.
- The Council is subject to annual review and audit by AFUO-appointed officers per umbrella governance guidelines.

6. Amendment and Review

- Changes to this Charter require majority Council approval and ratification by the AFUO Board.
- The Charter shall be reviewed every two years, or as required by AFUO policy.

7. Compliance

- The Council and its members shall conduct operations ethically and in accordance with AFUO codes of conduct, statutory requirements, and sector best practices.
- Procedures for managing conflict of interest, grievances, and risk shall be documented and enforced.

Committee Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

To provide oversight, guidance and expert advice on matters related to Ukrainian Arts & Culture supporting the objectives of AFUO.

2. Membership & Quorum

- The Committee shall consist of 9 voting members, appointed for 2 years.
- Quorum: The minimum number of members present for valid decision-making shall be half of appointed members plus one (e.g., for 8 members, quorum = 5).
- Ex officio and co-opted members may attend but may be excluded from quorum and/or voting, as defined.

2.1 Membership Categories

- **Ordinary Member:** Ukrainian artists, cultural practitioners, or representatives actively involved in the sector and supporting the Council's purpose.

- **Associate Member:** Supporters, volunteers, or non-voting affiliates who engage in Council activities but do not meet full member criteria.
- **Ex Officio Member:** Office bearers appointed by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (e.g., Director of Cultural Affairs, serving as Chair).
- **Life Member:** Individuals recognised for distinguished, long-term service, granted by majority Council vote following a nomination process.

2.2 Eligibility

- Applicants must support the Council's core purpose and strategic objectives.
- Ordinary members require demonstrable artistic or cultural engagement, residency in Australia, and endorsement from at least one current member.
- Associate members must demonstrate genuine interest or voluntary commitment.
- Ex officio membership is determined by holding specified offices within AFUO.
- Life membership requires sustained, meritorious service and endorsement according to nomination procedures.

2.3 Term Lengths

- Ordinary and Associate members are appointed for a two-year term, renewable by application or election.
- Ex officio membership lasts for the duration of the office-holder's tenure within the AFUO (e.g., Director's service period).
- Life members hold the category indefinitely unless removed for cause according to Council or AFUO policies.
- Membership expires if fees (if applicable) are not paid on time, or if members fail to renew or uphold Council values.

3. Decision-Making Limits

- The Committee may make operational decisions on programs and initiatives within approved annual budgets and policy provisions.
- Major financial decisions and strategic changes (including new programs or amendments to terms of reference) require approval from the AFUO Board.
- Decisions are made by simple majority; in case of a tie, the chair holds the casting vote.
- Proxies may be allowed; if allowed, proxy votes count toward quorum.

3.1 Decision-Making Authority

- The Council may make binding decisions on artistic programming, grants, project plans, partnerships, and community initiatives within its approved budget and strategic remit.
- Delegated authority includes day-to-day management and approval of expenditure up to a threshold set by Federation policy (e.g., maximum per-project or annual cap).
- Decisions by the Council are made by majority vote (with quorum present), and recorded in meeting minutes for accountability.
- Major contracts, asset disposition, amendments to governance documents, or financial commitments exceeding the threshold must be escalated to the Federation Board for approval.
- All decisions must adhere to Council's charter, sector codes of conduct, and statutory requirements.

3.2 Delegation Authorities

- The Council may delegate operational functions—such as project delivery, event management, or supervision of working groups—to subcommittees or designated officers, with responsibilities and limits set by written instrument.
- Delegations must be documented, reviewed annually, and cannot be sub-delegated unless AFUO policy permits.
- The Chair (Director of Cultural Affairs) or nominated Council officers are authorised to represent and act on behalf of the Council for approved business, except for reserved matters subject to Board endorsement.
- All exercise of delegated powers must be transparently logged (delegation register) and reviewed by the Council and AFUO at least yearly.

4. Meetings & Voting

- The Committee meets at least monthly with agenda circulated in advance.
- Minutes are recorded, including decisions, objections, and conflict disclosures.
- Decisions may be made outside meetings via electronic approval and ratified at the next meeting.

5. Reporting

- The Committee reports outcomes, recommendations, and key decisions to the AFUO board after every meeting.
- Annual summary submitted as part of AFUO's formal reporting cycle.

6. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

- Members must maintain confidentiality of sensitive information.

- Conflict of interest declarations are required at each meeting, with affected members recusing themselves from related decisions.

7. Review & Amendment

- These Terms of Reference are reviewed annually and may be amended by majority Committee vote, subject to AFUO Board ratification.