



October 2022

Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

We acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation
as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

Contents

Introduction	3
Purpose	6
Principles, priorities, and actions	7
Community consultation and feedback	19

Cover photograph: C.Moore Hardy, courtesy City of Sydney Archives.
Gay and Lesbian protest rally, Oxford Street, winter 1994.

Introduction

Our iconic Oxford Street is the heart of the LGBTIQA+ community in Sydney. As Oxford Street evolves, new investment and planning changes support the opportunity to revive and bring fresh life into the local area. However, our community wants to feel confident that changes along Oxford Street won't impact on the important connection this place has to LGBTIQA+ people and culture, and that the history and character of the street will continue. The community want to strengthen the identity of Oxford Street by celebrating the past and building upon this legacy for a vibrant and inclusive future.

We have worked with and listened to feedback from the LGBTIQA+ community, local businesses, and key stakeholders to identify aspirations, concerns and opportunities for Oxford Street. This engagement and feedback informed the priorities and actions within this LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy (Place Strategy).

This Place Strategy articulates our approach to recognising and preserving the LGBTIQA+ history of Oxford Street, maintaining contemporary LGBTIQA+ character, increasing visibility and spaces for LGBTIQA+ culture, and keeping the community connected and safe.

The actions within this Place Strategy are to be delivered by the City of Sydney in collaboration with community, local businesses and key stakeholders and agencies. These actions build on and complement activity already undertaken by the community over many years, and the program of work initiated by Sydney WorldPride 2023.

An inclusive Place Strategy for a diverse community

LGBTIQA+ is an evolving acronym that stands for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual** and other ways people of diverse sexualities and genders might identify. This Place Strategy aims to represent all members of this community and any future evolutions of the acronym used to describe the community. The Place Strategy also notes the importance of recognising intersections of identity within the community, and that cultural heritage, faith, First Nations communities and people of colour bring unique perspectives to LGBTIQA+ identity. This Place Strategy aims to represent the diversity and breadth of the LGBTIQA+ community and the extraordinary contribution it has made to many aspects of life in Sydney.

The history of Oxford Street and the LGBTIQA+ community

Oxford Street runs along an elevated walking track used by Gadigal people to connect to sources of food and sites for ceremony. British colonists built upon the track to connect South Head to the city, and along with this roadway came the emergence of Darlinghurst and Paddington.

In 1875, it was named Oxford Street, and like its London namesake, it became a centre for shopping. In the 1960s, a scattering of nightclubs catering to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender crowds began to emerge. Over the following decades, more bars, clubs, restaurants, saunas and shops appeared giving the strip its celebratory name, 'The Golden Mile'. In the 1980s and 1990s, as the HIV/AIDS crisis gripped the community, nearby St Vincent's hospital was at the heart of Australia's response, and community action groups were founded and forged in venues on Oxford Street. In the surrounding neighbourhoods, a once hidden community burst into vibrant and visible life – surviving and thriving. An annual

protest march evolved into Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, the world's biggest and brightest celebration of contemporary LGBTIQA+ identity and an important platform for social progress. A global beacon for pride, diversity and solidarity, Oxford Street is synonymous with LGBTIQA+ life in Sydney, and the LGBTIQA+ community is now central to Sydney's social and cultural identity.

As the community evolves, so does its connection to place, with LGBTIQA+ venues and communities integrating and dispersing across the city. This, and the changing face of retail, nightlife and inner-city living is having an impact on Oxford Street. Like other large, inclusive cities around the world, Sydney needs to think, plan and act to maintain the LGBTIQA+ character and culture of Oxford Street that brings great benefits to our communities, even as our iconic precinct changes.

The future of Oxford Street

There are several projects planned for the Oxford Street Precinct over the coming years. These initiatives will contribute to the transformation of Oxford Street and encourage a more lively, welcoming, and inclusive precinct.

Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision outlines transformative project ideas to build our global city status. Project ideas include revitalisation work around the National Art School that will create more open space and better connections through the area positioning it as a major cultural destination.

The green avenues project reclaims spaces in Oxford and Flinders streets for trees, people and businesses. The project aims to calm traffic and create more space for entertainment, and outdoor dining. A two-way bike lane will connect the city centre and Hyde Park to Centennial Park and the eastern suburbs. Footpaths can be widened, creating more space for trees, people and public life.

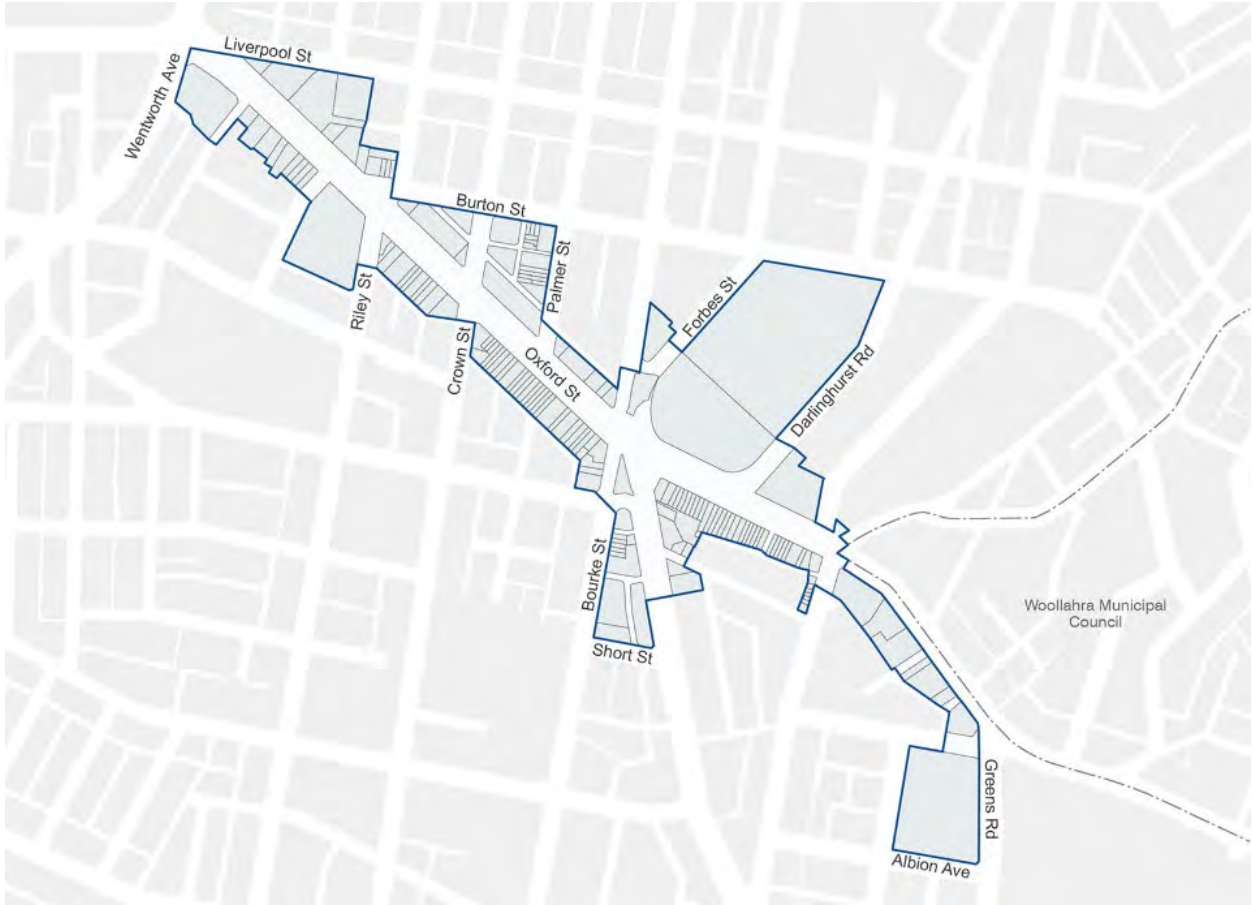
Oxford Street Cultural and Creative Precinct

Oxford Street is identified as a key cultural centre in the City's Local Strategic Planning Statement (City Plan 2036). In this precinct, planning controls have been amended to encourage cultural uses and creative industries as a driver of enterprise, a source of job creation and place-making, capitalising on the proximity to two major arts schools and a late night entertainment precinct. The planning controls protect heritage items, architectural character and existing cultural spaces, while allowing for greater height and floor space in exchange for building new creative spaces.

Defining the Precinct

The idea of Oxford Street has different boundaries in the minds of many people and extends to include parts of Surry Hills and Darlinghurst. When we refer to the Oxford Street Precinct in this Place Strategy, we mean the stretch of the street from Whitlam Square in the North to Greens Road in the South, including adjacent blocks, the National Art School and UNSW Art and Design Campus. This is the area governed by the Oxford Street Creative Precinct planning controls. However, some of the actions and initiatives within this Place Strategy may include or deliver benefits to areas outside of this defined Precinct. The following map provides an outline of the areas governed by the Oxford Street Creative Precinct planning controls.

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy



Purpose

A LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy for Oxford Street

We know how important Oxford Street is to Sydney's identity, particularly to LGBTIQA+ communities. For us to preserve the character and history of Oxford Street that is valued by the community, we need to act to maintain social and cultural connection to the place.

The recently endorsed planning controls for Oxford Street and related community feedback as well as preparations for Sydney WorldPride 2023 presented timely opportunities to explore the protection, preservation and strengthening of Oxford Street as a focal point for LGBTIQA+ history, community life and culture.

In October 2021, a Minute by the Lord Mayor asked Council to:

...investigate developing an LGBTIQA+ Cultural and Social Place Strategy for Oxford Street, similar to those developed in other cities, in consultation with WorldPride 2023, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Pride History Group, QTopia, BuildingPride and other LGBTIQA+ community organisations...

The Resolution of Council also noted that a Place Strategy builds upon the work already undertaken by the community and the City to support our LGBTIQA+ places and communities.

Sydney WorldPride 2023

In February and March 2023, Sydney will welcome the world to celebrate Sydney WorldPride 2023. This festival will span three weeks and be one of the largest events in Sydney since the 2000 Olympics. It will showcase our city globally and bring together LGBTIQA+ communities, friends, and allies. Sydney WorldPride 2023 will celebrate connection and belonging and aim to promote and advocate for LGBTIQA+ human rights while building the capability and capacity of the pride movement. Sydney WorldPride 2023 will demonstrate that Sydney is a welcoming and inclusive city for all.

Oxford Street and the surrounding neighbourhoods are long recognised as the heart and home of Sydney's LGBTIQA+ communities. Oxford Street will be a major focal point for celebration during the festival, with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and other events and activations taking place at the same time.

The City recognises the importance of Sydney WorldPride 2023 and the opportunities this event brings to Australia. This Place Strategy will therefore aim to complement and build on the events, programs and initiatives that Sydney WorldPride 2023, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and other community organisations are undertaking as part of the festival. It will be an opportunity for the City to work with community organisations and local businesses to highlight the history and future of Oxford Street and the LGBTIQA+ community.

Principles, priorities, and actions

Principles

Oxford Street is on Gadigal Land. The significant connection that the LGBTIQA+ community has with Oxford Street is interwoven with tens of thousands of years of cultural connection to place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Oxford Street Creative Precinct Planning Controls seek to maintain and improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural space in the precinct. This Place Strategy should also prioritise opportunities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and businesses.

Community led, City supported: Our approach to this Place Strategy is that the priorities and actions for the future of Oxford Street's LGBTIQA+ identity be delivered in collaboration between the City and the community. The City's primary role is to listen, articulate and support the delivery of the community's aspirations.

Responsibility for actions: The delivery of actions within this Strategy will be mostly led by the City, however collaboration with the local community and businesses and advocacy to other levels of government are also key to delivering the priorities. Through ongoing consultation and input from community, this strategy may inspire community solutions, local collaboration and investment from property owners, businesses and other levels of government, resulting in further actions delivered by other parties.

Inclusive language and community: The term LGBTIQA+ refers to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and other people of diverse sexualities and genders. This Strategy may also refer to Lesbian, Gay and Queer when relevant to a historical movement or place or group of people who use that terminology.

Priorities

Five key priorities have been identified as part of the Place Strategy:

1. Recognising historic LGBTIQA+ places and spaces
 2. Reflecting the contemporary LGBTIQA+ community within local businesses and venues
 3. Increasing LGBTIQA+ cultural and social spaces
 4. Increasing LGBTIQA+ visibility and identity throughout the Precinct
 5. Ensuring the local community is safe and supported.
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Actions

Actions have been identified under each priority area. Each action includes a timeframe for delivery (short, medium, and ongoing) and outlines the City's role (lead, collaborate and advocate). The City will lead on the majority of the actions and work closely with the community, local businesses and key organisations and agencies to deliver them. It is

intended that these actions will complement the work already undertaken by the community and align with and support initiatives and projects being implemented for Sydney WorldPride 2023.

Key:

Timeframes:

Short term: actions to commence within 2022-2023 , and mostly prior to Sydney WorldPride 2023.

Medium term: actions to commence within 2022-2025.

Ongoing: actions that are currently business as usual or will become businesses as usual once implemented.

The City's role:

Lead: the City will take the lead to deliver the action.

Collaborate: the City will partner and work with the local community, key community organisations and businesses to deliver the action.

Advocate: the City will advocate to other levels of government, private landholders, businesses and/or the community to deliver the action.

Priority 1: Recognise and remember historic LGBTIQA+ places and spaces

The LGBTIQA+ community want to see the history of Oxford Street recognised and remembered. Generally, people feel Oxford Street needs renewal, but they don't want to see redevelopment erase the tangible connection the community has to its history.

To help achieve this goal, the City's heritage planners, historians and archivists will work with the community to identify important sites of significance to LGBTIQA+ people. We will work to update the heritage inventories for these sites so that their statements of significance include these histories.

For important sites not currently registered as a heritage item, we will aim to list those sites on the grounds of their social and cultural significance to the LGBTIQA+ community.

The City will review the wealth of photography in the City's archives that documents the Gay and Lesbian rights movement, the rise of Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, queer activism, arts and culture. We will work towards a diverse public catalogue of photography and ephemera that can be used by the community for cultural projects, heritage interpretations and artworks in the Precinct.

We will recognise the important social role that sex on premise venues have played, particularly in gay male culture and in sexual health awareness. We will update the character statement for the precinct in our planning controls to note that sex on premise venues contribute to local character.

1. Recognise significant social, cultural and historical LGBTIQA+ places and spaces in Heritage Inventories

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
1.1	Conduct an audit of existing heritage items in the Oxford Street Precinct to identify places of LGBTIQA+ social, cultural and historical significance.	Short	X		
1.2	Identify places and spaces of LGBTIQA+ social, cultural and historical significance currently not listed as heritage items. Conduct heritage assessments and where appropriate, propose the places and spaces for inclusion in the Local Environmental Plan as additional heritage items.	Medium	X		

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
1.3	Review and update the inventory sheet for the Oxford Street Heritage Conservation Area including the Statement of Significance to include buildings identified as socially, culturally and/or historically significant to the LGBTIQA+ community.	Medium	X		
1.4	Review and update the inventory sheets for identified heritage items to include or strengthen references to LGBTIQA+ social significance in their Statements of Significance.	Medium	X		
1.5	Collaborate with the NSW Heritage Council State Heritage Register LGBTIQA+ Working Group to progress a State Heritage listing at Taylor Square which tells the story and evolution of Sydney's Mardi Gras, including a section of Oxford Street and the former Darlinghurst Police Station.	Short		X	
1.6	Work with the LGBTIQA+ community to provide a publicly accessible catalogue of photographs documenting the gay and lesbian rights movement, queer arts and activism, and other LGBTIQA+ histories across the Precinct.	Ongoing	X	X	

2. Celebrate the social and cultural history of the Oxford Street Precinct

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
2.1	Explore opportunities to acknowledge, recognise and reflect the culture of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Precinct, particularly in the public domain.	Ongoing	X	X	X
2.2	Require new developments to deliver heritage interpretation which acknowledges significant LGBTIQA+ places and spaces, for example through interpretative artworks, plaques on buildings or in the pavement.	Ongoing	X		

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
2.3	Continue to collect and share oral histories and stories related to LGBTIQA+ places and spaces within the Precinct. Explore opportunities to connect these oral histories to physical locations within the precinct through on-site promotion of online content.	Ongoing	X	X	
2.4	Review and update the City of Sydney's Culture Walks walking tours to include LGBTIQA+ content, especially around the Precinct.	Short	X		
2.5	Explore options for signage and wayfinding that connects the AIDS memorial in Green Park, Darlinghurst to Oxford Street, including promotion of online content relating to the memorial.	Short	X		

3. Acknowledge the social significance of sex on premises venues

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
3.1	Review and update the Locality Statement in the Development Control Plan to include sex on premise venues in the description of character for the Precinct.	Short	X		

Priority 2: Retain the local character of Oxford Street through contemporary LGBTIQA+ venues and businesses

The community deeply values the LGBTIQA+ businesses and venues on Oxford Street and recognises their role in sustaining the local character. It is the flavour of the neighbourhood that is created by the people, their attitudes, and behaviours that the community most want to see maintained, even through the renewal of physical spaces. The primary focus of this strategy is to maintain the local queer culture of Oxford Street even as tenancies and ownership of spaces transfer, properties are redeveloped, and retail industries change.

The Place Strategy pursues a two-pronged approach to maintaining Oxford Street's character.

The first approach is through Plans of Management. Plans of Management are part of development consent for late trading venues. They are compliance documents that are enforceable by the City and the police. We will introduce mandatory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQA+ inclusion guidelines for all businesses in the Precinct who are required to have Plans of Management. Inclusion guidelines will set standards by which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and LGBTIQA+ customers and community are welcomed and respected in businesses in the area.

The second approach is the development of a Precinct Business Charter. Businesses who choose to opt-in to the Charter will agree to a set of expectations around promoting the LGBTIQA+ character of Oxford Street. This may include targets for the employment of LGBTIQA+ people, diversity and inclusion training for customer service and security staff, the provision of non-gendered bathrooms and other inclusive facilities or messaging, and a commitment to coordinated efforts across the precinct to address and reduce anti-LGBTIQA+ behaviour or sentiment.

The City will facilitate the development of the Charter, but the content of the Charter will be led by the community and local businesses. Once implemented, the City will look to provide support to promote the initiative and assist businesses to meet their obligations under the Charter.

We hope, through these actions, to actively work towards maintaining local character and grow the Precinct's renowned, inclusive brand and identity, which will drive visitation, loyal customers, and connection to place.

4. Monitor current and emerging LGBTIQA+ businesses and venues

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
4.1	Conduct an audit of all businesses within the Precinct and identify those which are LGBTIQA+ when required.	Medium	X		

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

5. Encourage businesses in the Oxford Street Precinct to celebrate and support the LGBTIQA+ community and culture

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
5.1	Implement a requirement for all late trading businesses within the Precinct to include Diversity and Inclusion (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQA+) principles and guidelines within their Plans of Management.	Short	X		
5.2	Support the development of an opt-in LGBTIQA+ Precinct Business Charter for Oxford Street. The Charter may include initiatives to increase employment opportunities for LGBTIQA+ people, a commitment to providing inclusion and diversity training to venue staff and security, the provision of non-gendered bathrooms and other inclusive facilities, coordinated efforts to address and reduce anti-LGBTIQA+ behaviour or sentiment.	Short	X	X	
5.3	Explore opportunities to support businesses to meet the responsibilities of the LGBTIQA+ Precinct Business Charter.	Short	X		
5.4	Continue to provide grant funding to venues and businesses to produce and program LGBTIQA+ themed social and cultural activity across the Precinct.	Ongoing	X		
5.5	Deliver an Oxford Street landing page on the City of Sydney Council website that includes information on local businesses, grant opportunities, important places and spaces, events and the history of Oxford Street.	Short	X		

Priority 3: Increase LGBTIQA+ cultural and social space within the Oxford Street Precinct

There is strong community support for more cultural and social space on Oxford Street. Our creative precinct planning controls will help increase the amount of cultural space available for creative industries and cultural activities in the Precinct – spaces like galleries, small theatres, cabaret restaurants, music venues and nightclubs. These spaces also become a catalyst for greater economic diversity and growth. This Strategy explores how the City, landholders and the community can work together to ensure that these spaces have a distinctly queer flavour and revitalise this 24 hour Precinct with inclusive and diverse offerings for the spectrum of the LGBTIQA+ community including First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and all gender identities.

The City will investigate a matching service that will connect LGBTIQA+ organisations and businesses with available floorspace and start-up grants to help new ventures establish in the Precinct. We are also supporting the delivery of a LGBTIQA+ Museum within the Precinct.

6. Increase LGBTIQA+ cultural and social space across the Oxford Street Precinct

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
6.1	Support Qtopia to establish a LGBTIQA+ museum and community space within the Precinct through grant funding and advocacy to relevant property owners and other levels of government. .	Short		X	X
6.2	Support the development and delivery of a First Nations Queer Cultural Space through grant funding and advocacy to relevant property owners and levels of government.	Short		X	X
6.3	Explore opportunities to re-purpose the toilet block and substation on Taylor Square (North) for social and/or cultural use.	Medium	X		
6.4	Support the delivery of a "matching service" that will connect cultural operators, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and LGBTIQA+ operators, with vacant commercial space or new floorspace generated through the Oxford Street Creative Precinct Planning Controls.	Short	X	X	
6.5	Explore a Cultural Spaces Start-Up Grant to assist new LGBTIQA+ cultural and creative businesses to establish in the Precinct.	Medium	X		

Priority 4: Increase the visibility and reflect the identity of the LGBTIQA+ community across the Oxford Street Precinct

We have heard from the community that there needs to be more visual elements along Oxford Street that reflect the identity of the LGBTIQA+ community – an increase in rainbows, artworks, and opportunities to see LGBTIQA+ culture and communities reflected across Precinct. This not only creates a vibrant and welcoming destination, but it is also symbolic of what Oxford Street is known for globally. The community have provided many suggestions for how we can increase LGBTIQA+ visibility across the Precinct. This Strategy seeks to explore and support public art, positive messaging, flags, banners and other creative interventions in the public domain.

7. Increase LGBTIQA+ visibility and identity across the Oxford Street Precinct

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
7.1	Continue to fly the Progress Pride Flag at Taylor Square and Sydney Town Hall.	Ongoing	X		
7.2	Continue to fly the Progress Pride Flag City banners across the Precinct during key events and at key times throughout the year.	Ongoing	X		
7.3	Refresh the Rainbow Crossing at Taylor Square.	Short	X		
7.4	Through the Art and About Program, commission local artists to deliver street murals that celebrate local LGBTIQA+ icons.	Short	X	X	
7.5	Ensure that hoarding treatments throughout the Precinct reflect LGBTIQA+ history and artists, including as a priority the 2022 Site Works suite of hoardings artworks.	Short	X	X	
7.6	Through the development application process, explore opportunities for public art to be produced by LGBTIQA+ identified artists.	Ongoing	X		
7.7	Investigate the introduction of creative lighting fixtures that reflect the LGBTIQA+ community on smart poles along Oxford Street.	Short	X		

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
7.8	Explore opportunities to reflect the Progress Pride design through lighting of the fountain at Taylor Square.	Short	X		
7.9	Explore opportunities to reflect the LGBTIQA+ community through the City's Living Colour Displays and other floral arrangements.	Short	X		
7.10	Explore opportunities to install signage identifying Taylor Square and its historical connection to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.	Medium	X		
7.11	Explore opportunities for additional rainbow crossings throughout the Precinct.	Medium	X		

Priority 5: The local community is safe and supported

For Oxford Street to continue to thrive as a global LGBTIQA+ destination, our local community needs to feel safe and supported.

The City is collaborating with the Surry Hills Police Area Command to develop a precinct safety plan. Through our role on the NSW Police LGBTIQA+ Stakeholder Committee, we will continue to advocate for open and transparent conversations between the police and the community, to build trust and ensure that LGBTIQA+ people feel safe and supported when seeking assistance from police.

The City will continue to promote a harm minimisation approach to addressing adverse impacts of drug use and will work with NSW Health to implement strategies, safe spaces and improved access to health services. The City will advocate for opportunities to improve access to relevant programs, services and safe spaces for young LGBTIQA+ people, transgender and gender diverse people and older members of the community. We will also explore opportunities to improve connections with support and outreach services for our vulnerable communities.

8. Improve access to support services and programs for the LGBTIQA+ community across the Oxford Street Precinct

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
8.1	Continue to connect outreach services and programs to vulnerable communities within the Precinct, including people sleeping rough, people experiencing mental ill-health and people who use drugs.	Ongoing	X	X	X
8.2	Identify opportunities to advocate for diverse and affordable housing and accommodation options for LGBTIQA+ people near the Precinct.	Ongoing			X
8.3	Explore opportunities to increase services and programs within the Precinct that support Transgender and gender diverse people, and older members of the LGBTIQA+ community.	Ongoing	X	X	X

9. Deliver a safe, welcoming and connected environment across the Precinct

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
9.1	Develop and maintain an Oxford Street Precinct Safety Plan in collaboration with NSW Police and community, to increase awareness of safety issues for LGBTIQA+ people and improve safety in the area, at day and night.	Short		X	

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

#	Action	Timeframe	Lead	Collaborate	Advocate
9.2	Work with the NSW Police LGBTIQA+ Stakeholder Committee to continue to build community confidence, trust and engagement with police.	Ongoing		X	
9.3	Work with the NSW Police, NSW Health local health district and LGBTIQA+ organisations to continue to implement harm minimisation approaches to regulating drug use and to improve access to health services.	Ongoing		X	
9.4	Explore opportunities to implement LGBTIQA+ inclusive and supportive messaging across the Precinct, through City owned street furniture, signage, and creative lighting or artworks.	Short	X		
9.5	Advocate to the NSW Government through the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner to increase affordable and late night public transport options to the Precinct from across Greater Sydney.	Short			X

Community consultation and feedback

Developing the draft LGBTIQA+ Place Strategy

In 2020, we asked the community to consider opportunities to revitalise Oxford Street as a cultural and creative precinct. This feedback informed a review of the planning controls that now guide how property in the area can be used and redeveloped.

This feedback also captured the community's love for Oxford Street, the significant role the precinct has played in the lives of LGBTIQA+ people, its role in the history of the LGBTIQA+ community and its influence on contemporary culture. The community strongly indicated their wish for this connection to be recognised, maintained, and celebrated.

Alongside this detailed community feedback, we also worked closely with key LGBTIQA+ stakeholders from community organisations and businesses, to identify aspirations and goals for Oxford Street. These stakeholders included:

- Sydney WorldPride 2023
- Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras
- Pride History Group
- Building Pride
- QTopia
- ACON
- Twenty10
- Darlinghurst Business Partnership.

We then considered how the City can enable these aspirations to be achieved and proposed a series of draft priorities and actions for a LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy for Oxford Street.

Public Exhibition of the draft LGBTIQA+ Place Strategy

In April and May 2022, the draft LGBTIQA+ social and cultural Place Strategy for Oxford Street was placed on public exhibition for the community to provide feedback.

The public exhibition engagement activities included an online survey, online information sessions, in-person forums with community groups, and direct conversations with community members and organisations.

Oxford Street
LGBTIQA+ Social and Cultural Place Strategy

A diverse range of people, businesses and key organisations provided feedback. A total of 173 submissions were received, including 167 survey submissions and 6 emailed submissions.

The survey results and submissions were reviewed and informed key updates to the Place Strategy. Overall, there was significant support for the vision, priorities and actions of the Place Strategy. Key themes from the submissions included:

- A Place Strategy that is inclusive of everyone, recognises intersectionality and prioritises under-represented parts of the community
- The continued need for safe spaces and places for LGBTIQA+ community members to meet, socialise and build relationships
- Increase the support for local business, nightlife and the activation of outdoor spaces
- Better transport to and around the Oxford Street Precinct
- Beautify and improve the cleanliness of the streets.

A detailed engagement report summarising community feedback and key findings can be found on the City of Sydney website.

The updated Place Strategy was adopted by Council on 31 October 2022.

