

Minutes



Cultural and Creative Arts

Monday 21 August 2023

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| Location: | Microsoft Teams |
| Chair: | Paul McDonald |
| Attendees: | Members: Steve Lockwood, Annette Brown, Debra Player, Richard Bennett, Meredith Melville-Jones; Sarah Penicka-Smith, Jing Han Staff: Juliet Rosser (Arts and Events Manager), Adam Booth (Council & Corporate Support Officer), Bushra Salam (Governance Administration Officer) |
| Apologies/absent: | Members: Rod Herbert |
| Guests | Councillor Robert Samuel |

Agenda items

| Item | Topic / Discussion | Action |
|------|--|--------|
| 1 | Welcome: The meeting was declared open at 4:32 pm. The meeting was held online via Teams. | |
| | Acknowledgement of Country Adam Booth, Council & Corporate Support Officer, acknowledged country on behalf of Council, stating: <i>Willoughby City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Gamaragal People, and their connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those who may be in attendance today.</i> | |
| | Apologies Members: Rod Herbert | |
| | Declarations of interest No declarations of interest were made. | |
| 2 | Appointment of Chair Pursuant to clause 5.2 of the Committee's terms of Reference, the Committee elected Paul McDonald as the ongoing Chairperson of the Committee, with the term of service requiring confirmation in 12 | |

months.

Jing Han nominated Paul McDonald

Paul McDonald nominated Jing Han

Election of the Chair occurred by closed ballot (by email to Adam Booth).

3 Confirmation of Minutes – 19 June 2023

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2023 were circulated electronically to the Committee for comments and no comments were received. The Committee confirmed and adopted the minutes.

4 Actions from Previous Meetings

The Committee unanimously resolved to note the actions of previous meetings contained in the agenda, noting 3 of the 4 in progress actions have been completed since distribution of the agenda.

The Committee requested a person be assigned at the meeting for each action in future.

5 Strategic Activities

NSW Government – A New Look at Culture Discussion Paper

Towards the State's first Arts, Culture & Creative Industries Policy

The Committee was requested to give their input to inform a Willoughby City Council submission. They discussed the following questions posed in the Discussion Paper.

1. A new look at people:

How can we create better, more inclusive pathways and support for practitioners in the arts, culture and creative industries?

Juliet Rosser, Arts and Events Manager, gave a background of the Discussion Paper and informed the Committee that this discussion will be in regards to the Willoughby Council area.

The Committee proposed the following:

- Connectivity between artist interest groups.
- Keeping in view language & availability. Address all areas to imposing barriers in access pathways.
- More career's advice, mentoring, availability of spaces. Support for young emerging artists. Job networks, connecting business advice with artists.
- More people to people connections.

- Financial support for new artists, for freelancers, Skills development, subsidised technical advice. Creating networks within LG area.
- Supportive networking environment using real language.
- Multimedia and website hubs, but not to replace face-to face mentoring.

2. A new look at infrastructure:

How can we create and improve sustainable access to spaces, programs and other support for all aspects of artistic and cultural activity?

The Committee emphasised community consultation is a priority. Some funding or subsidised available space & infrastructure for emerging young artists will be great. Networking public spaces (including the provision of artistic spaces in ground floors of newly developed commercial buildings), paid internships for local artists, funding exhibitions and programs and art prizes & awards.

3. A new look at audiences:

How can we grow local, national and international audiences for cultural experiences, for the benefit of our community and the broader economy?

The Committee discussed the importance of marketing and perceptions of how funding applications that prioritise marketing are received by funding bodies. Ideas of integration with different NSW services, such as Destination NSW, Transport for NSW and NSW Health were shared. Mechanisms to encourage philanthropy were also discussed.

4. Where should the NSW Government focus greatest effort and resources?

The Committee agreed that NSW Government is doing a good job at supporting arts in central Sydney - they can expand this work throughout NSW. There was in depth discussion regarding how to best connect artistic work with audiences, such as apps, websites and transport initiatives.

5. What barriers can the NSW Government remove to unlock the full potential of arts, culture and the creative industries?

The Committee discussed funding application bureaucracy (including unnecessary levels of content and detail) and planning laws that negatively affect the arts, or benefit everything but the arts.

6. What does NSW do well?

The Committee reinforced NSW attracts audiences to iconic places very well.

7. What can NSW do better?

The Committee suggested NSW can tap into what they do well for iconic places for all of NSW. Not just promoting beaches but the cultural richness of Sydney. Centralised information where audiences can discover what's happening. Make it more about NSW, not just about Sydney.

8. What's your big idea?

Ms Rosser briefed the Committee that Chatswood is a 'neon grid node' in the NSW Government's 24 hour economy strategy. There could be a corresponding ambition to make all neon grid nodes centres of artistic excellence. Allocating public spaces, removing state bureaucratic hurdles, reducing state level difficulties.

The Committee proposed to encourage everyone, organisations, and individuals on the North Shore to make separate submissions to the discussion paper. The more submissions by number, the more attention will be directed to a geographic area.

6 Other Business

4.3 Next Meeting

Date: 16 October from 4:30 pm 6:00 pm.

Agenda Items: To be advised.

The meeting closed: 6:00 pm
