

# Minutes



Cultural and Creative Arts

Monday 16 October 2023

<b>Location:</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Chair:</b>	Paul McDonald
<b>Attendees:</b>	Members: Steve Lockwood, Annette Brown, Debra Player, Richard Bennett, Meredith Melville-Jones; Sarah Penicka-Smith, Staff: Juliet Rosser (Arts and Events Manager), Bushra Salam (Governance Administration Officer)
<b>Apologies/absent:</b>	Members: Jing Han, Rod Herbert
<b>Guests</b>	

## Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	<b>Welcome:</b> The meeting was declared open at 4:33 pm. The meeting was held online via Teams.	
	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> Bushra Salam, Governance Administration 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>	
	<b>Apologies</b> Jing Han, Rod Herbert	
	<b>Declarations of interest</b> A link to the Disclosure of interest by Committee Members form was circulated with the Agenda. No declarations of interest were made.	

## 2 Confirmation of Minutes – 21 August 2023

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 August 2023 were circulated electronically to the Committee for comments. No comments were received. The Committee confirmed and adopted the minutes.

Unanimously carried.

## 4 Actions from Previous Minutes

NIL

## 5 Strategic Activities

In the context of creating a Cultural Strategy that addresses *Our Future Willoughby 2028 (Community Strategic Plan – CSP)*, the Arts and Events Manager, requested advice and suggestions on items within the CSP that have an impact on Culture and Creative Arts.

The committee discussed the following:

### **Outcome 2 - A city that is connected and inclusive.**

#### **CSP 2:2 Respect and celebrate our history and heritage sites**

- Committee requested a list of heritage sites
- The Committee suggested that some kind of mapping using QR codes or adding in other elements like music e.g. Brisbane City Map
- Activate unusual spaces, create socially engaged artworks telling local history/stories
- Engaging schools, having competitions, storytelling can be useful to bring history to life
- We can really focus on sorting out the pitching avenues. We have this amazing orchestra that we have a very useful resource. They have bunch of different ideas where they can engage the community. Young people can be pitched to share their stories there.

**List of heritage sites to be shared with the committee.**

#### **CSP 2.3 Celebrate and encourage our diversity**

- The Committee suggested it should be ongoing commitment to diversity

- Activating spaces with diverse artists and diverse curators and mentoring people in those spaces.
- Finding or partnering with organizations to broaden inclusivity e.g. Fringe Festival Advertise safe spaces for everybody, promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Encourage inclusivity through using language appropriate for different communities in marketing.
- To make safe spaces, encourage participation through advertising. Art brings people together. They bring their family & friends with them, so don't feel so marginalised. There are precedents of such spaces, not just for queer community but for all the marginalised communities.

The Arts & Events manager- reiterated that WCC motto is City of Diversity and we celebrate the diversity of our people and provide opportunities to connect through activities, and places.

### **Outcome 3: A city that is liveable**

#### **CSP 3.6 Activate local spaces in creative ways**

- The Committee discussed that Willoughby used to have artists, open studio trails. As Chatswood is so close to the city, it would be beneficial to promote to visitors. We can have all the local studio listed, every weekend, there could be a specific area with open instead of doing it once in a year.
- The committee suggested activating more safe spaces and
- Develop a public arts strategy.

### **Outcome 4: A City that is prosperous and vibrant**

#### **CSP 4.2 Build and support a night-time economy**

- The committee suggested exploring industrial areas as possible locations like the Camelot Lounge in Marrickville They have a unique atmosphere, no noise restrictions because of the industrial area, but attract visitors and have parking. There are no such

lounges here on this side of the bridge

- To be able to activate new venues red tape needs to be made easier e.g. Licensing and insurance
- Providing free activities at night, will help build a night time economy.
- Provide information about events and surrounding places to eat will encourage a “night out” experience. Advertising, publicising, food businesses which is very important to encourage visitation to night events, as the food is so good in Chatswood.

The Arts and Events Manager, shared a link <https://www.visit chatswood.com.au/Eat-and-drink> with the Committee members. Council engage food bloggers annually to write articles about food in Chatswood. This should be promoted more broadly to attract visitors.

#### **CSP 4.5 Diversify our economy including creative and innovative industries**

- The committee suggested offering subsidized spaces to create art and also provide support/mentoring for young artists about financing, grants etc. to support their early stage careers. Dougherty Centre does offer subsidized hire for hourly rentals for non-profits. There are currently no subsidised long term spaces for art practice.
- Liaising with local tertiary institutions like Macquarie University, to discover what the new students need from innovation point of view in the next 10 years.

The Arts and Events Manager, advised that there is a creative industries in Willoughby report. The software industry is the creative industry with the most residents. The creative classifications are Federal Government standards and are currently under review.

#### **CSP 4.6 Facilitate the viability and vibrancy of our village centre**

- Our City has lively village centres and a strong Central Business District (CBD). Discussion on recent newspaper article about closing main roads on a regular basis e.g. Sunday morning. This could activate spaces in different ways, encourage activities, like walking dogs, music pop ups.
- Encourage local public art into local shops.
- Provide clear pathways for neighbourhoods to co-

**The Arts and Events Manager to share the report on the creative industries.**

design spaces pitch to Council what they would like to do so that Council does not need to do everything.

- Something like what City of Sydney is doing with the Sydney Streets project, post covid in Pyrmont, Chinatown etc. Local businesses get funding from the council to show the unique local artists, performers from their area. The Council closes the streets and makes outdoor dining simple.
- Providing pods, on the roads enough for car space. All pods can be designed by local artists for public display.

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## 6 Other Business

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### Next Meeting

**Date:** Monday, 12 February 2024 from 4:00-5:30 pm

**Agenda Items:** To be advised

The meeting closed: 6:07 pm

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**The next meeting to be in person**