

# YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAARTS)

**6:00pm – 8:00pm 5 August 2021**  
**Online Microsoft Teams**

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attending:

Cr Gabrielle de Vietri, Cr Claudia Nguyen, Eyal Chipkiewicz, Angela Conquet, Claire Leporati, Jane Scott, Miranda Hill (joined late), Siu Chan, Brona Keenan.

Apologies: Simon Bedford

**Item 1 Acknowledgement of Country (Chair: Cr Nguyen)**  
**Introductions**

**Item 2 Confirmation of previous minutes.**

- Minutes approved by committee

**Item 3 Arts and Culture Strategy Progress Update**

- Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 community workshops taking place
- Arts practitioner Joel Stern has been facilitating the workshops responding to the four priority areas. Dr Katya Johanson has been supporting the workshops and will be collating feedback for the strategy development
- Dr Johanson delivered presentation looking at some emerging themes and actions.
- Priority 1 - panel suggestion linking in with Fitzroy youth
- Priority 3 - something that is an overarching theme that should go across all priority areas
- Priority 4 – discussion that this should include artists and organisations address climate action as themes in their work but need to be careful this doesn't turn into tokenistic content
- Artistic community need support to know what to do to achieve zero emissions target
- Using grant application forms to provide information eg questions which ask if applicant has considered doing something in a way that produces less emissions and give examples.
- General discussion by panel
- Need to ensure community know support is available across different artforms and practices
- Strategy should recognise and cultivate innovation, bring people together for this purpose. Council can play role to bring people together, facilitate networks. Need to add nuancing as to what this means.
- (Dr Johanson left meeting).
- Discussion about a bold statement for strategy
- Reflection on arts as part of everyday life and achieving this through collaboration across council and offering arts as a solution eg carbon emissions target

- Support embedding arts in all sectors of work and society and recognising immense potential of arts.
- Though need to not position art as a 'silver bullet' – it can't solve everything.
- Strategy working for what is needed now but question about identifying longer term goals –room for more aspirational goals
- Arts as everyday experience a long term goal which should endure, and support artists to make art for themselves

#### **Item 4 Arts Grants Discussion**

Feedback from panel on Creative and Engage Grants assessments

- Process was large time commitment and payment/honourarium is standard – something Yarra Council does not provide and needs to do better
- Making recommendations very hard and all panel effected by the selection process – strong field
- No individuals recommended – suggestion this should be its own stream or weighted differently so they are not competing with organisations. Organisations are more supported because of their reach. Individual under-resourced compared to orgs.
- Funding individuals for two year is important – making art takes time.
- Could use different lexicon for individual artists eg fellowship.
- Is there space for base line operational funding, longer, ongoing for orgs that have worked in Yarra for many years. Support opportunities for operational support.
- Hard when program applications against operational applications
- Arts investment of council needs to align with demographics of Yarra and density of arts organisations. Not viable to not have a mechanism to respond to. Recognise the cultural capital asset Yarra has.
- A lot of pressure placed on local government to fill the gap created by reduced Federal Government support of the arts. Financial growth a challenge.
- Discussion around private sector funding, offering matched funding to flagship orgs, incentivise fundraising. Lack of fundraising noted in C and E grant applications but some orgs have more capacity to fundraise.
- Council needs to be careful of terrain which may prove problematic – expectation of funders/sponsors.
- Suggestion for additional process during assessment of annual grants to assist with the meeting, ranking the applications and identifying obvious 'yes' and 'no' projects.
- Good feedback is still required for successful and unsuccessful applications.
- Information given on key dates for Annual Grants assessment process. Panel meeting date still TBC.

**ACTION** – idea of own stream for individuals for consideration in future Annual Grants

**ACTION** – for October meeting – Arts team to look at current grants programs together and identify what is process for introducing special measures and what will need to go back to Council.

**ACTION** – set up additional ranking process for grants meeting to assist with focussing the meeting.

**ACTION** – determine date for Annual Grants assessment panel meeting – provide options to panel

#### **Item 5 Working Groups Update**

**No sub panel meetings since last YAARTs but updates given on the following:**

## Visual Arts

- Black Lives Matter mural on Peel Street Park building – original artist needed to withdraw from project due to personal reasons. An alternative proposal taken to the BLM working group is being considered.
- There are 4 new developments around Yarra that will be developing public art as part of their permit process so the Visual Art Panel will be reviewing these plans
- EOI's are open for the City of Yarra 2022 Exhibition Program at Richmond Town Hall, Bargoonga Ngangin, Fitzroy Library and Carlton Light Boxes.

## Room to Create

- About to review the next stage of the 3 year Collingwood Yards RTC studio program – partnership with the Council through the RTC program and Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- EOI's for Artist-in-Residency x 3 - North Carlton childcare centre, Florence Peel, Studio 1 Richmond (old gtv9 site) now closed – assessment happening shortly and announced early September
- Council received \$100k through the State Government Creative Neighbourhoods Partnerships and Pilots program for repurposing vacant heritage sites to deliver a secure, affordable creative workspace. This is a pilot project for two years and an EOI will be opened later this year for this project to take place at 12-16 Peel Street Collingwood.

## **Item 6            Other items for discussion**

**Action: Change October date for meeting**

## **Item 7            Forward meeting schedule.**

Confirmation of upcoming meetings:

- September (date TBC) – Annual Grants Assessment
- Thursday 21 October – now to be changed

**End of meeting**