

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – YAARTS MINUTES

Thursday 3 March 2022

6.00-8.00pm

Online: Microsoft Teams

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

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 and to their Elders past, present and future.

Item 1

Attendees: Cr Sophie Wade, Simon Bedford, Eyal Chipkiewicz, Angela Conquet, Claire Leporati, Siu Chan, Brona Keenan, Miranda Hill (arrived 6:30pm). Sam Green (Climate Emergency Coordinator) presented to the panel and attended (6:30-7:10pm)

Apologies: Cr Gabrielle de Vietri

Item 2

Confirmation of previous minutes and actions by the panel.

Item 3

Rapid Activation/Rapid Implementation Projects

- Council received a substantial State Government grant through the COVID Outdoor Rapid Activation Fund, leading to a range of arts centered projects which are in progress.
- The Rapid Implementation Plan which seeks to promote outdoor activation, outdoor hospitality and entertainment, received funding for outdoor activations in activity centres and open spaces to promote our traders, hospitality businesses, and the arts and culture sector.
- The Precinct Establishment Plan focuses on more permanent infrastructure to support longer term outcomes for industries. Funding was received to provide safety infrastructure for outdoor dining; upgrade outdoor signage at Fairfield Amphitheatre to display dynamic event information; and investment in event equipment such as projectors, signage and lighting, for ongoing use in outdoor activations and public art displays across Yarra.

- Outcomes completed and planned: largescale installations (December), outdoor performances (December to March), Record Store Day (April), Garden State Festival (April-May), Aboriginal Arts and Culture Festival (June)
- Two infrastructure projects to be delivered: digital signage –Fairfield Amphitheatre and purchase/programming of large scale projectors
- Infrastructure (projectors) useful for communities – suggestion that streaming from other areas of Australia could be facilitated.

Item 4

The panel noted Climate Action as topic to further explore. Sam Green, Climate Emergency Coordinator, will talk about the Take Climate Action campaign and opportunities for creatives to be engaged in Climate Action.

- SG provided presentation with overview of Climate Emergency work to date and new project for workshops in the second part of the year.
- Artists help people connect in an emotional way and help people respond to the climate emergency – we need creative solutions
- Important that artists are involved in the strategy and process – not just implementation
- Noted that the drive of many projects is big, mass reach – as many people as possible. But with art, better to have a small switched-on group to communicate.
- CE team already done a lot of conversation with artists across Yarra and conversations across the community in many ways.
- New territory - slowly in paradigm shift, eg shift in ways we develop a project – might have a theme but have an environmental direction in the brief for the project.
- No preconceived ideas of what the arts contribution might look like but open. We want meaningful and sustained climate action, not a prescribed idea.
- Action – YAARTS to be updated with opportunities to contribute to/participate/suggest participants to workshops later in the year
- Action - investigate opportunity for representative from Climate Action team to be involved in grant information sessions for upcoming grants.
- Action – send links from presentation

Item 5

The new Arts Strategy is now active. Update on Year 1 actions.

- Overview of Year 1 Action plan given.
- Plan is a combination of ongoing programs and new actions. Many actions involve working with colleagues across council to develop and realise.
- Many actions in progress but of note: Year 1 Creative Neighbourhoods Partnerships Pilot program activating 12-16 Peel Street for creative purposes – new tenant KIN Fashion; Review Yarra’s arts grants scheme commencing to identify ways to increase accessibility to the program and encourage collaboration between applicants with shared goals.
- Action – send Year 1 Action Plan out to panel

Item 6

Working group updates

- These groups are yet to meet for 2022, but noting some future agenda items.

Visual Arts Panel

- Substantial donation or artworks from the Hartley's – approx. 50 works
- Process of documentation, research, consideration against our Collection Policy, valuation by external valuers, provenance, to create a report for the panel to review and consider.
- First time for a donation this size – it will potentially bring new works to the collection and grow the collection at a time when we don't have a specific acquisition budget. Collection is also growing through our percent for art scheme.
- New panel member from YAARTS needed due to Jane Scott resignation.

- Action: Claire Leporati has volunteered to be the new YAARTS rep on Visual Arts Panel working group (position vacated by Jane Scott).

Room to Create Panel

- A key discussion for this panel will be the consideration of the Collingwood Yards RTC studio and continuation of support to this project. Jointly supported by RTC and Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation. Current commitment is 3 years, up to end of June 2023.
- There may be other opportunities that arise through new developments in the City of Yarra – working with our colleagues in statutory planning, strategic planning.
- Fundraising – how we continue to grow the corpus of the fund to reach 1 mill by 2030 we are at \$485k

Item 7

- Discussion about items tabled by panel members.
- Panel Councillors will both be present on YAARTS committee but will split working group panels (Cr Wade for Room to Create and Cr de Vietri for Visual Arts Panel)

- Action – request ideas from panel for future meeting topics.

End of meeting 8:00pm