

AGENDA

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group will be held on

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020

Beginning at 6:00pm for the purpose of considering matters included in this agenda.

Committee Members

Cr Kylie Ferguson (Chair)

Cr Candy Bingham

Cr Penny Philpott

Cr Sarah Grattan

Tamzin Lee

Roslyn Marsh

Simon Moriarty

Michelle Povah

Diane Robbins

Julie Williams

Samuel Wilkins

Community Representative, Arts, Culture & Youth

Avalon Preservation Association, Arts & Culture

Community Representative, Curl Curl Ward

Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency

Lifeline Representative

Community Representative - Narrabeen Ward

Community Representative - Forest Ward, Youth, Arts & Culture

Maria-Elena Chidzey

Community Northern Beaches Inc. (CNB), Multi-Cultural

Cathy Hockey

Community Representative, Disability

Dan Giles

Easylink

Margaret Shonk

Community representative - Manly Ward, Mental Health

Justene Gordon

Burdekin Association

Council Officer Contacts

David Kerr

Director, Community and Belonging

Kylie Walshe

Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture

Ximena Von Oven

Governance Officer

Quorum

A majority of members including the Chair or one of the elected Councillors.

**Agenda for Community and Belonging
Strategic Reference Group Meeting
to be held on Wednesday 13 May 2020
Commencing at 6:00pm**

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NEXT MEETING Wednesday 12 August 2020

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

All members are expected to attend the meetings or otherwise tender their apologies to the Chair and Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members should disclose any "**pecuniary**" or "**non-pecuniary**" interests in matters included in the agenda. The [Northern Beaches Council Code of Conduct](#) (the Code) provides guidance on managing conflicts of interests.

A **pecuniary interest** is defined in Section 4 of the Code as:

A pecuniary interest is an interest that you have in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to you or a person referred to in clause 4.3.

A **non-pecuniary conflict of interest** is defined in Section 5 of the Code as:

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you required further information or guidance about disclosing an interest please contact Governance at councilmeetings@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held 12 February 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 6.1	COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2020/21
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
TRIM FILE REF	2020/246538
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Community Grants Program 2020/21 and seek representatives for the Grants Assessment Panels.

BACKGROUND

Northern Beaches Council implemented the Community, Arts & Culture Grants Program in 2018/19. Following a review, the 2020/21 program has been renamed the Community Grants Program. It has also been split into two distinct streams; Arts & Creativity and Community Development (\$240,000 funding total). Applicants are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000.

A new Environmental Grants stream has also been added, with an additional \$50,000 allocation. Each stream will have distinct application questions, assessment criteria and assessment panels, with skills and experience in the relevant sector.

Various changes have been made to the 2020/21 Community Grants Program in light of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

REPORT

Community Grants 2020/21

The Community Grants Program objective is *'to support projects and initiatives that deliver direct benefit to the local people, communities and environment of the Northern Beaches Local Government Area.'*

This year for-profit organisations are eligible to apply due to influences with the National Disability Insurance Scheme and My Aged Care seeing a level playing field for organisations of all entity types. For-profit organisations must demonstrate that the project is non-profit, are encouraged to make some financial contribution to the projects and to collaborate with a local community group or nonprofit organisation in the delivery of their initiative.

For the Arts and Creativity stream, non-local artists and practitioners must demonstrate tangible benefits to the Northern Beaches community.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has made several changes to the Community Grants Program for 2020/21 to support applicants. These changes apply to the Arts and Creativity, Community Development and Environmental grants streams including:

- Extending the application closing date to 30 June 2020 (from 30 April 2020).
- Extending the delivery date for projects funded in the 2020/21 program to 31 December 2021.
- Applicants consider alternate delivery methods other than face-to-face in the event that social distancing and meeting restrictions remain in place into the later part of 2020.

As a result of the new application closing date, it is planned that Council will now consider recommendations for funding in September. Grant funding to successful recipients will be available in early October 2020. All eligible applications will be assessed by an expert assessment panel for each grants stream.

Arts and Creativity grant applications will be assessed by a panel including community representatives that will include a Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group member, and Council staff with relevant expertise.

Community Development grant applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of Council officers and members selected from the Council's Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group and/or the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

The assessment process will involve a review of panel recommendations by the Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture, Manager Arts & Culture and Manager Community Development to determine the allocation of \$240,000 grant funding across the two streams, prior to being presented to Council for determination.

Council is seeking representatives from the Community & Belonging Strategic Reference Group for:

- The Community Development Assessment Panel (two members)
- The Arts and Creativity Assessment Panel (one member).

Please send expressions of interest by email to communitydevelopment@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Friday 29 May 2020.

Panel Members will be required to individually assess all applications in their stream over approximately 3 weeks in July, using the assessment criteria and scoring tools in the SmartyGrants software. It is difficult to estimate how much time this will take, as the number of applications is unknown. In addition, the Community and Arts grants have been split into two streams. As an indicator of time required 83 applications were received for the combined 2019/20 grants, with each taking around 15 to 20 minutes to assess. An estimate would be around 25 to 45 applications in each stream. Panel Members will then convene for a 3 to 4 hour (approx.) meeting in August, to discuss final recommendations. For further grant information please see <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/grants>

CONSULTATION

Consultation with the Community & Belonging Strategic Reference Groups was undertaken in October 2019.

TIMING

Applications for the Community Grants Program close on 30 June 2020.

The Assessment Panel commence individual assessments over three weeks in July before convening an Assessment Panel meeting in late July to make recommendations for funding.

A report with recommendations will go to the September Council meeting, with funds being dispensed in early October 2020 to successful grant recipients.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the information be received and noted.
 2. That members nominate for the Community Development and Arts and Creativity Grants Assessment Panels by email to communitydevelopment@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Friday 29 May 2020.
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ITEM 6.2	ARTS AND CULTURE UPDATE
REPORTING OFFICER	MANAGER ARTS AND CULTURE
TRIM FILE REF	2020/239645
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Arts and Culture Update Presentation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To present Council's response to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the arts and creative community, provide an update on the implementation of the Arts and Creativity Strategy and seek input from the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group.

SUMMARY

As the arts and creative sector has been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis Council has prepared a range of initiatives to support the local arts and cultural sector. In addition, Council has commenced implementation of the Arts and Creativity Strategy with a cultural audit of the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group:

1. Note the Arts and Culture Update presentation.
2. Provide feedback and identify other opportunities for partnerships and collaborations for the post-pandemic recovery and rebuilding phases.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

As the arts and creative sector has been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis Council has prepared a range of initiatives to support the local arts and cultural sector.

In mid-April 2020, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) revealed that approximately 53% of the arts and recreation sectors are no longer functioning. A range of short and longer-term initiatives will support art making, creative development and professional development across all art forms, to enable the sector to exist through the immediate crisis period, enabling better recovery in the period following.

Council's Arts and Creativity Strategy Connected Through Creativity 2029 recognises the fundamental importance of the arts and creativity to the Northern Beaches way of life and the wellbeing of its community. Participation in arts and cultural activities is increasingly recognised for its importance in mental health, belonging and community resilience.

The economic importance of the arts and cultural sector on the Northern Beaches also warrants consideration. id the Population Experts has provided Council with Northern Beaches LGA economic cultural data (drawn from 2018/2019 ABS and NIEIR data). See <https://www.ideconomicinsights.com/northern-beaches-cultural-creative> for more detail on this data.

Key points are as follows:

- There were 7,050 Cultural and Creative jobs in the Northern Beaches LGA, generating \$1,634m in output and \$790m in value added. This represented 6.5% of all the local economy's jobs and 6.4% of total value added.
- The share of the economy generated by this Sector was greater than that for the Greater Sydney region as a whole (5.5% of total jobs and 5.0% of total value added).
- Northern Beaches is a dominant residence base for Creative and Cultural Sector workers. In 2018/19, it is estimated that 13,207 residents worked in the sector (8.5% of total employed residents).
- Northern Beaches has the 2nd largest number of jobs in NSW in Specialised Design Service and Arts Education; and the 3rd largest number of jobs in NSW in Architectural Services and Creative Artists, Musicians, Writers and Performers.

The Northern Beaches arts and cultural sector is a mobile and in-demand group that works across Sydney, nationally and internationally, as well as in the local area.

On the Northern Beaches, the closure of venues, organisations and cancellation of activities will have a serious impact on the 7050 jobs and 2583 creative businesses. In particular, many of these workers – including actors, designers, film-makers, musicians, technicians, visual artists, and writers - make their incomes from contract and casual employment. As a result, many are unable to meet the threshold requirements for JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments. These impacts will have major local flow-on effects economically and socially in terms of tourism, hospitality, small business as well as for local culture and wellbeing.

Northern Beaches culture data (id the Population experts) shows that the top two industry sectors for workforce casualisation in 2018 were Accommodation and Food, and Arts and Recreation Services, based on national data. Comparison of this data with full-time or part-time employment status (ABS) for cultural industries and the Northern Beaches, indicates worker groups that are more likely to be subject to reduced hours of employment.

It is likely that the most highly impacts are creative artists and performers; and creative retail workers as these areas have high part-time and casual workers. Segments such as professional photography are likely to be experiencing major effects while other segments such as advertising and architecture are likely to be less impacted in comparison.

A number of local Councils, State Government arts agencies and peak bodies such as Create NSW and the Australia Council for the Arts have adopted or are currently developing specific support packages for the sector, in recognition of its vital social and economic importance.

While the State or Federal stimulus plans and bank offers of rent rebates and credit interest relief to small businesses are helpful, it is highly likely that it will not sufficiently address the workforce crisis for creatives who are contractors and sole traders. While Create NSW and the Australia Council for the Arts have grants available to Northern Beaches' residents, it is not anticipated that large amounts of funding will come into the local area but staff will monitor and provide updates.

Understanding the local arts and creative communities is important for understanding how to assist the community traverse the pandemic but also to understand longer-term program development to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the sector. To this end, as part of the implementation of Connected Through Creativity 2029, a Culture Audit of the Northern Beaches has commenced. The results of the audit will be presented as the Northern Beaches Culture Audit report that will be presented to Council for endorsement for public exhibition in 2020. Once endorsed by Council, the Audit will form a resource for evidence-based planning, programming and decision-making.

1. Arts and Cultural Initiatives in response to Covid-19

The initiatives listed below are intended to address the short-term resilience and long-term recovery and sustainability of the Northern Beaches' arts and cultural sector.

1. Short term support for local artists and organisations

Due to the public health orders in relation to social distancing a range of programs and initiatives planned to be conducted by Council since March have been cancelled. This includes exhibitions and public programs scheduled at the Manly Art Gallery & Museum and the Creative Space.

In order to continue support of artists during a time that has had an adverse impact on the creative sector, the funds allocated to these programs could be diverted to small grants of up to \$3,000 for individual artists or small arts organisations/groups. The intention of these grants will be for the digital presentation of works and community programs whilst social distancing measures are in place. This will ensure that Northern Beaches arts and creative workers are able to continue operating through the extent of the pandemic. This program seeks to address the following Outcomes of the Arts & Creativity Strategy:

Outcome 2: Innovative and creative industries

- 1. Enable creative sector vitality*
- 2. Collaborate to innovate*

This allocation of funds differ from the existing Arts and Creativity Grants program as they will be allocated with minimal turn-around time and support the arts during the Covid-19 crisis and time of social distancing.

2. Public art commissions

Council will continue to commission public art works, providing employment to artists and a range of associated subcontractors and specialists including engineers, tradespeople, fabricators, landscapers, as follows:

- Coast Walk:
 - Aboriginal Art and Storytelling project – at various locations along the Coast Walk as determined through engagement with the local Aboriginal community
 - McKillop Park, Freshwater
 - Robert Dunn Reserve, Mona Vale
- St David Avenue Park, Dee Why
- Herminie's Landing, Palm Beach
- Parks and Recreation Capital works projects: a number of opportunities have been identified for the incorporation of public art over the next four years.

3. Arts and Culture Programs

The Manly Art Gallery & Museum (MAG&M) has developed MAG&M Online (<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/arts-and-culture/manly-art-gallery-museum/magam-online>) and MAG&M Art Windows, while also developing its Instagram and Facebook feeds to better engage the local community in its continuing program of exhibitions.

The 2020 Northern Beaches Art Prize and Manly Arts Festival have been reviewed in regard to current public health orders. As a result, the Manly Arts Festival will not take place this year and the 2020 Art Prize will be offered online as '*Postcards from Home*'. Artists and designers will be invited to submit digital artwork that explores the concept of home during Covid-19 in postcard size. The emphasis will be on community accessibility and fun. An exhibition of the postcards on Council's website will take place from late July to September 2020. A short-run of postcard packs of the winners will also be for sale online.

The North Curl Curl Creative Space Studios have remained open to support artists to continue to produce work.

Staff are also actively supporting the newly formed Northside Aboriginal Artists Program to develop an exhibition and community program. Originally scheduled for September/October 2020, the dates will be adjusted as required.

4. Communication and Local Engagement

Communicating and engaging with local creative sector is essential at this time, when most are isolated and many have lost their employment. Council's website has been updated to provide the local arts and culture community with a curated list of resources, grants and opportunities, and regular updates will continue to be provided through the Creative News E-newsletter and social media. See <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/supporting-arts-and-culture> for the list of resources for the arts and culture sector.

2. Implementation of Connected Through Creativity 2029 – Culture Audit project

Connected Through Creativity 2029 identifies a cultural mapping and needs analysis as a key action (p39):

We will:

Build a deeper understanding of the creative sector through cultural mapping and needs analysis

In terms of understanding what Council would map or audit, the Cultural Policy, draws its definition from the 2001 UNESCO, Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and states:

Culture is considered as an inclusive term incorporating creativity, community, diversity, knowledge, heritage and expressed imagination that creates the way of life unique to the Northern Beaches.

Creative industries include a range of businesses that use creativity and knowledge as their primary source of economic generation. This may include:

- *Aboriginal arts*
- *Advertising*
- *Audio-visual*
- *Craft*
- *Cultural heritage*
- *Design, including architecture, fashion and graphic, industrial and interior design*
- *Radio, film and television*
- *Makers*
- *Media and digital media music*
- *Publishing*
- *Performing arts*
- *Visual arts*

Cultural mapping is a planning tool that uses multiple data sources and community engagement to document a community's cultural assets or resources. The process of mapping or auditing a community's cultural resources often focuses on mapping two key areas:

- Resources, such as tangible assets in place
- Identity, such as intangible elements that reflect for example stories and collective memory that create a sense of identity.

The objective of the audit is to build a deeper understanding of Northern Beaches' cultural resources to identify barriers, and understand how to build capacity and sustainability across the sector. This will be achieved through the creation of an evidence-base to inform future planning, decision-making and program development.

The process for this project is as follows:

1. Desktop research on best practice approaches to cultural auditing
2. Setting up an internal cross-Council project working group to work collaboratively and deliver better integration
3. Development of a cultural resources framework, ie the categories or classification of resources

4. Collection, collation and review of existing data including economic cultural data, local artists and creatives, organisations and businesses, community cultural organisations, places and spaces
5. Data analysis to identify niches, opportunities, gaps and needs
6. Presentation of a final Culture Audit report to Council for endorsement for public exhibition, and then adoption.

Conclusion

With the introduction of the initiatives listed above Council will be supporting the local arts and creativity sector during the Covid-19 crisis and in the recovery phases, while also contributing to overall community wellbeing. The Culture Audit forms an important part of this work by helping to understand potential opportunities. Plans to engage the community in creative activities post Covid-19 are also under development, aiming to bring the community together when it is safe to do so.

CONSULTATION

Council is may use some target surveys with community groups as required for additional data collection. The draft Northern Beaches Culture Audit will be reported to Council for public exhibition and community feedback, with the final document reported to Council in 2020 for endorsement.

TIMING

The Culture Audit commenced in March 2020 will be completed by December 2020.

Arts & Culture Update

Community & Belonging Strategic Reference Group

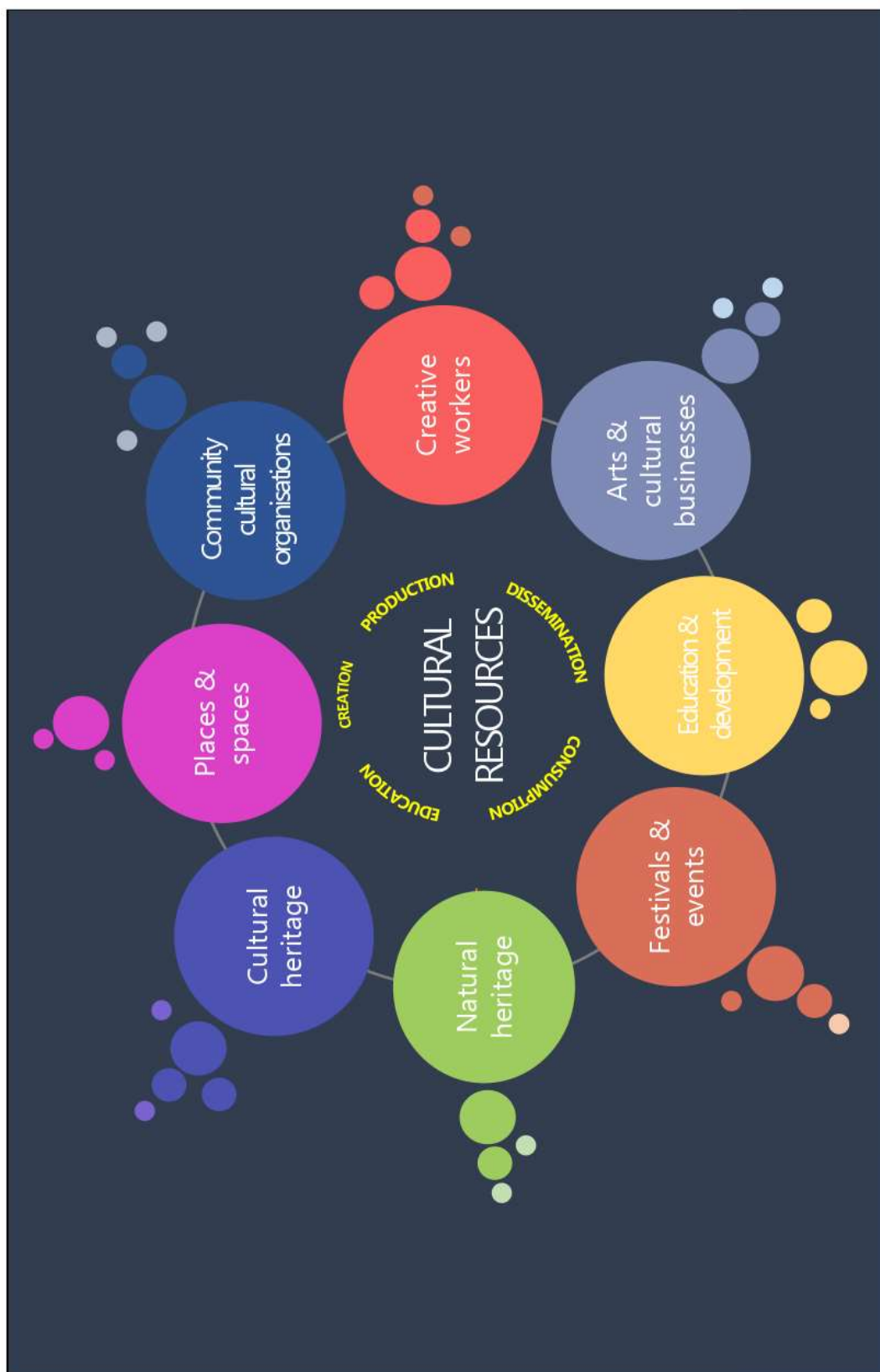
13 May 2020

Current Arts & Culture Initiatives

Includes:

1. Support for local artists and organisations
2. Public Art commissions for the Coast Walk, Dee Why and Mona Vale town centres, and parks
3. MAGM Online and MAG&M Art Windows
4. 2020 Art Prize online – ‘Postcards from Home’
5. Online resources for artists and creatives

Culture Audit Framework



Framework subcategories

PLACES AND SPACES: galleries, theatres, museums, libraries, churches, town halls, studios, residencies, digital networks

COMMUNITY CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS: artist run initiatives, ATSI, CALD organisations, surf lifesaving clubs, historical societies, community gardens, landscape groups

CREATIVE WORKERS: visual artists, musicians, writers, actors

ARTS & CULTURAL BUSINESSES: commercial galleries, venues, cinemas, design studios, creative print, audio visual and digital media, creative enterprise and retailing

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT: schools, maker spaces, music schools, art schools, dance schools, film and theatre schools, rehearsal spaces

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS: markets, festivals, events and activations

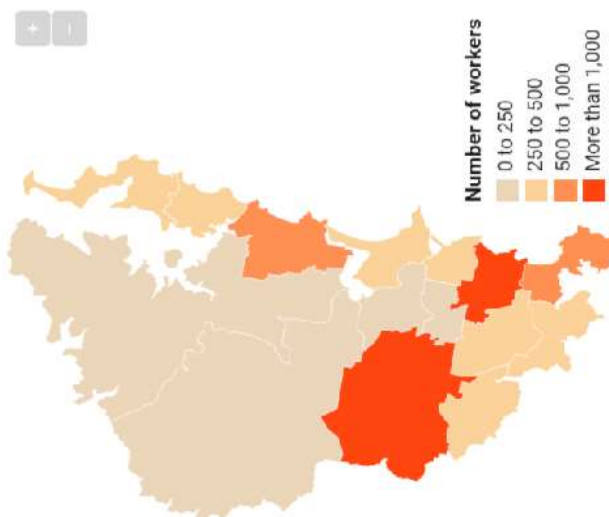
NATURAL HERITAGE: beaches, headlands, aquatic and surfing reserves, significant parks and bushlands

CULTURAL HERITAGE: Aboriginal sites and stories, monuments and memorials, rockpools, walking tracks, heritage-listed items and areas, cultural collections, public art

Cultural & Creative Sector Data

Location of Cultural and Creative Sector Jobs - 2016

Worker estimates by SA2 geography



The Cultural and Creative Sector generated **\$1.6 billion in output** and **\$790 million in value added** in 2018/19, **6.5% of the total Northern Beaches economy**.

This represented **4.2% of Greater Sydney's total Cultural and Creative Sector value**.



Cultural & Creative Sector Data

View full economic cultural data on Council's website:

<https://www.ideconomicinsights.com/northern-beaches-cultural-creative>

ITEM 6.3	COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING AND POST COVID-19
REPORTING OFFICER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY, ARTS AND CULTURE
TRIM FILE REF	2020/234040
ATTACHMENTS	1 Community Support during and post Covid-19 - Presentation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To present Council's initial response to the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, seek input from the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group on this response and workshop other opportunities.

SUMMARY

The Covid-19 crisis is having a major impact on how we all live our lives; from how we interact with each other to the businesses we can visit and recreational activities we can participate in. Council is responding to the potential impact of COVID-19 on the local economy and the whole community through a Community Care Package.

The Community Care Package aims to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the community at a time of increased anxiety, social isolation and increasing financial hardship. It aims to address the impacts of social distancing and bans on gatherings on all members of the Northern Beaches community and minimise the impacts to the most vulnerable members of our community. It is important that our whole community, especially the vulnerable, elderly and isolated individuals, feel supported at this time.

This item will consist of a presentation, Attachment 1, and a workshop.

In preparation for the workshop please consider the following in relation to how programs, projects and partnerships could assist community organisations and engagement of the Northern Beaches community post Covid-19:

Community Organisations

1. Ideas for programs and projects to support community organisations?
2. What partnerships and collaborations may assist?

Community Engagement

1. Ideas for programs and projects to encourage community engagement?
2. What partnerships and collaborations may assist community engagement?

RECOMMENDATION

That the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group:

1. Note the presentation of the Community Care Package
 2. Participate in a workshop, exploring opportunities for programs, events and partnerships post the Covid-19 pandemic.
-

REPORT

The Covid-19 crisis is having a major impact on how we all live our lives; from how we interact with each other to the businesses we can visit and recreational activities we can participate in. Council is responding to the potential impact of COVID-19 on the community through Community Care Package. Within this support package are a range of measures, including partnerships with a range of organisations and amended and new programs.

Community Care Package

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen numerous impacts across the Northern Beaches community, including:

- Wide spread anxiety and worry, with the community looking to Council for leadership and advice
- limited access to essential food, medication and hygiene items, particularly for older, people with disability and our most vulnerable community members
- social isolation, especially for people who may already have minimal social contact and limited use of online platforms
- loss or reduction in employment, and the impacts of this on mental health and homelessness
- increasing financial hardship.

The Community Care Package aims to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the community at a time of increased anxiety, social isolation and increasing financial hardship. It will also alleviate the impacts of social distancing and minimise the risk to our community by maintaining access to much needed community and social support services.

The key features of the package are; measures to maintain social connection for the community, modified delivery of essential Council services and coordination of local community service organisations and agencies providing essential services and support to the community.

1. Connecting community

With the cancellation/ postponement of community gatherings and events and the closure of community and cultural facilities, including the Manly Art Gallery & Museum, Glen Street Theatre, community centres and libraries, the community is at risk of becoming disconnected. To address this social isolation, measures within the Community Care Package are:

- Implementation of the “hello neighbour” campaign to stay connected. Over 80,000 leaflets were delivered to letterboxes of all residents from 16 April 2020.
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/council/news/check-on-your-neighbour-and-stay-connected>
- New initiatives in the Library Service, including:
 - Library 2U. All members are able to get a delivery of books, through the submission of an online form to request a book delivery. This commenced on 23 March, with over 22,000 loans as of 1 May 2020.
 - Promotion of library membership and the large amount of material on-line available through the website. Any community member can join the library on-line and have access to resources covering many interests and topics. Library membership has increased significantly over the past two months.

- Increasing the level of content available to customers on ePlatforms. This includes increasing the number of simultaneous titles available that customers can access with no wait times.
- Making it easier to borrow items, with an extension of the loan period from three to six weeks, an increased cap on accumulated fines before borrowing ceases, and the continuation of the courier service between branches, ensuring customers have access to the full library collection.
- Promoting volunteer opportunities through a page on Council's website that provides information and referral to community groups looking for volunteers.
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/volunteering>
- Exploring new ways of connecting with special interest communities, such as the arts and environmental communities, including on-line chat forums, on-line galleries, webinars and dissemination of information of interest to the specific group. Actions include:
 - The UnderProof series of youth music industry training programs was moved online (very successfully)
 - Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, renowned psychologist, will be presenting online to young people and their families. The subject has been changed to reflect the current stresses on families around stay home study.
 - The annual Northern Composure Unplugged music series will be moved to an online format.
 - Big Ideas is planned to go on as a webinar in July to explore the impacts of Covid-19 and what it means to society moving forward.
 - Development of a supporting arts and culture webpage on Council's website, with links to assist artists and the community. <https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/supporting-arts-and-culture>
- Distribution of information via Council's numerous networks and inter-agencies.
- Use of social media, mailing lists and e-newsletters to promote valid information and legitimate advice, such as information from the Department of Health and other state or federal agencies.
- Publishing of information on community service programs and support available to the community on our website, in areas such as mental health, meal services, essential services and financial support. All services have modified their services and service delivery models to reflect social distancing regulations and safety concerns.
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/community-support>
- Supporting groups that can no longer meet in person to implement online and video conferencing so they can still meet e.g. youth groups. GLAM (LGBTIQA+) Group and Council's Youth Advisory Group are meeting more frequently and online.
- Promote Council as an information and referral service for relevant community services. This service has increased markedly with staff responding to increased calls and enquiries.
- Continuation of Council's committees and consultation groups in modified formats; e.g. Suicide Response Steering Group, Community Safety Committee, Youth Advisory Group and Strategic Reference Group meetings.

2. Essential Council Community Services

Council delivers some direct community services, with modifications required to our current delivery models and practices to ensure the safety of staff and the community.

- **Meals on Wheels.** This service targets the most vulnerable in our community, including older people, people with dementia and people with disability. The demand for this service has increased and the service is prepared to increase the service threefold from the previous level of service. Demand to date has seen an increase of 50%.
- **Adolescent & Family Counselling Service.** This service has moved to phone and online counselling sessions. It is essential it continue in some form as these are very vulnerable young people and families, and overall community stress is adding to that vulnerability.
- **Children's Services.** We continue to provide Council delivered long day care, pre-school, family day care and vacation care to our community to support workforce participation. There are a number of children with additional needs and from vulnerable families who will continue to be supported across Council's childcare services.

3. Coordination and Support of Community Services

As the impact of the COVID-19 virus evolves, demands on community service providers has increased, particularly in light of reduced employment, increasing financial hardship and social isolation.

Council is supporting local services and identifying any service gaps that will best assist our community at this time. An internal working party has been established to coordinate outreach to not-for-profit and charity organisations that provide direct community services and support for the community. Staff have contacted local agencies to discuss their response to the pandemic, how Council might assist with that response, identify any gaps in current service delivery, and how services might be coordinated to fill those gaps.

Service providers that have been contacted over the past 2 months include providers that provide and/or support:

- meal and essential support services
- social housing and crisis accommodation
- services for victims of domestic violence
- homelessness services
- mental health support
- youth and family support services
- services for seniors and people with disabilities
- services for new migrants
- services for vulnerable community members
- employment and financial support services.

The working party is keeping in touch with these organisations and is also obtaining information to coordinate strategic responses to new emerging needs, such as grief and loss support as well as social connection programs.

Key actions undertaken to date include:

- The establishment of a food and essential good distribution centre, working with local community organisations to distribute fresh produce on a daily basis. This started with the donation of 100 boxes of produce per day from Harris Farms, and has grown with the community providing non-perishable items for distribution through established charities and community organisations.
- The use of online training and webinars for the Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training and forums. It is vital that Council continues this program, and trains as many community members as possible.
- Continued promotion of the annual Community Grants program as this program assists community organisations to provide much needed services and programs. The face-to-face briefings have been cancelled, with direct phone calls to all known applicants to discuss grant guidelines and support the organisations in applying for this valuable financial support. The closing date has been extended to end of June 2020, with projects deliverable up until the end of 2021.
- 2019/20 Community Grant Program recipients have been assisted by extending their delivery deadline until September, changing their project to go online, or to return the funds to Council with no penalty for future grants applications.
- Coordination of the distribution of needed supplies from a major hardware chain who are very keen to provide support to local charities through donations of goods and materials from their stores.
- The use of hot showers at Manly Oval, under supervision, has been negotiated with a local homeless outreach service, as the only similar service closed its doors due to COVID fears. There has been a marked increase in the number of reports of homelessness, particularly 'rough sleepers'. Many existing services have had to reduce or cease face to face delivery, leading to further disconnection.

The Community Care Package is a live document, with amendments made when required. This will ensure Council continues to support and assist the community sector to provide essential services to the Northern Beaches community and mitigate the impact of social isolation.

CONSULTATION

Council has liaised with key community service providers to develop the Community Care Package. To date, staff have been in contact with a large number of community organisations. These include Community Northern Beaches, Northern Beaches Community Connect, Community Care Northern Beaches, Easylink Transport, Manly Warringah Womens' Resource Centre, Northern Beaches Womens' Shelter, Mission Australia, Salvation Army, One Meal, The Link Food Care, Grace City Church Community Food Care and the Community Pantry.

Contact with community organisations will continue on a regular basis, with amendments made when required to continue to support and assist the community sector to provide essential services to the Northern Beaches community.

Community input to the plan will be sought through input from Councils existing customers and the large number of community organisations that staff are in contact with on a regular basis.

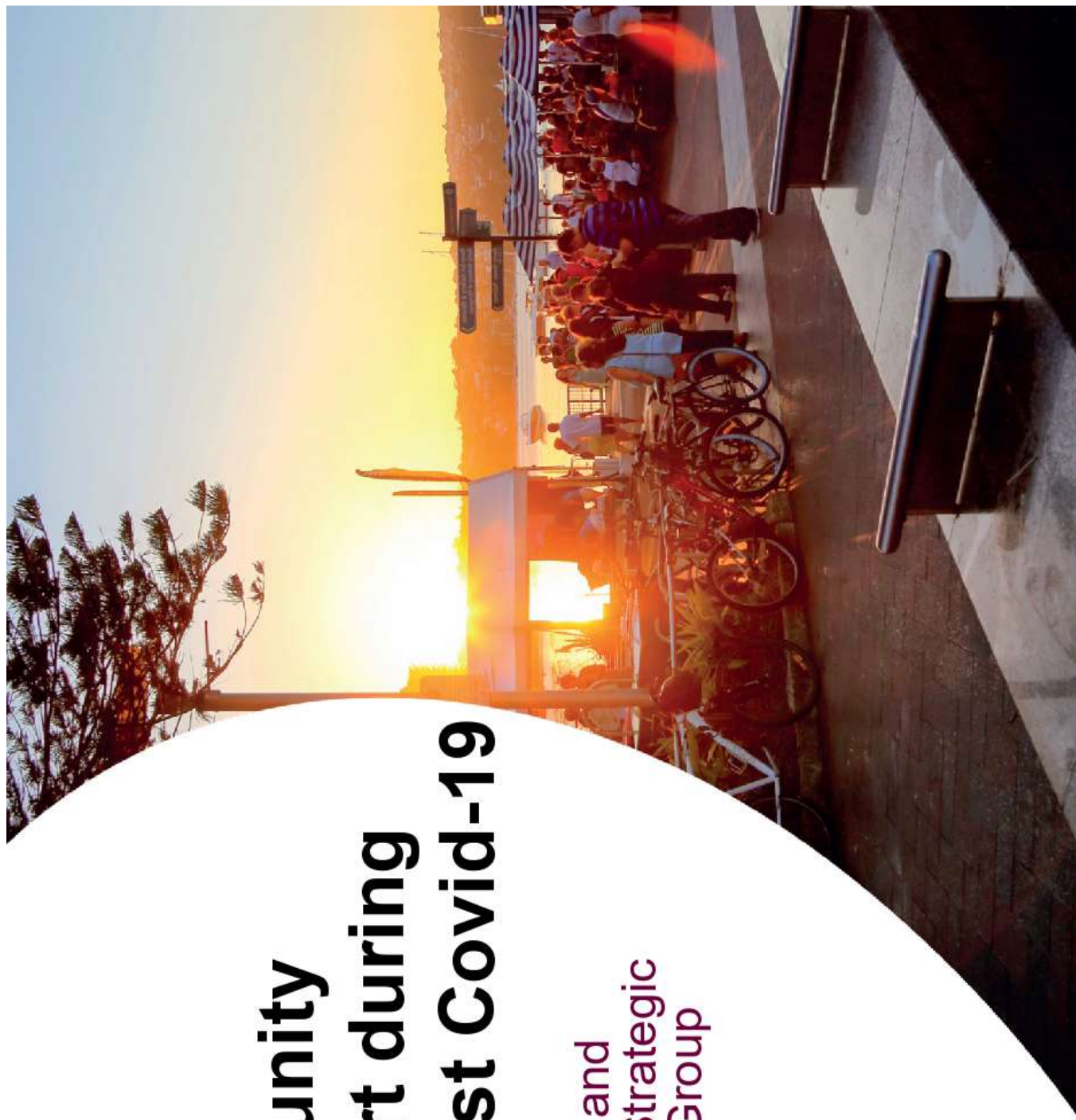
TIMING

The Community Care Package commenced implementation on 25 March 2020 and actions will continue as long as they are required to support the Northern Beaches community.

Community Support during and post Covid-19

Community and
Belonging Strategic
Reference Group

13 May 2020



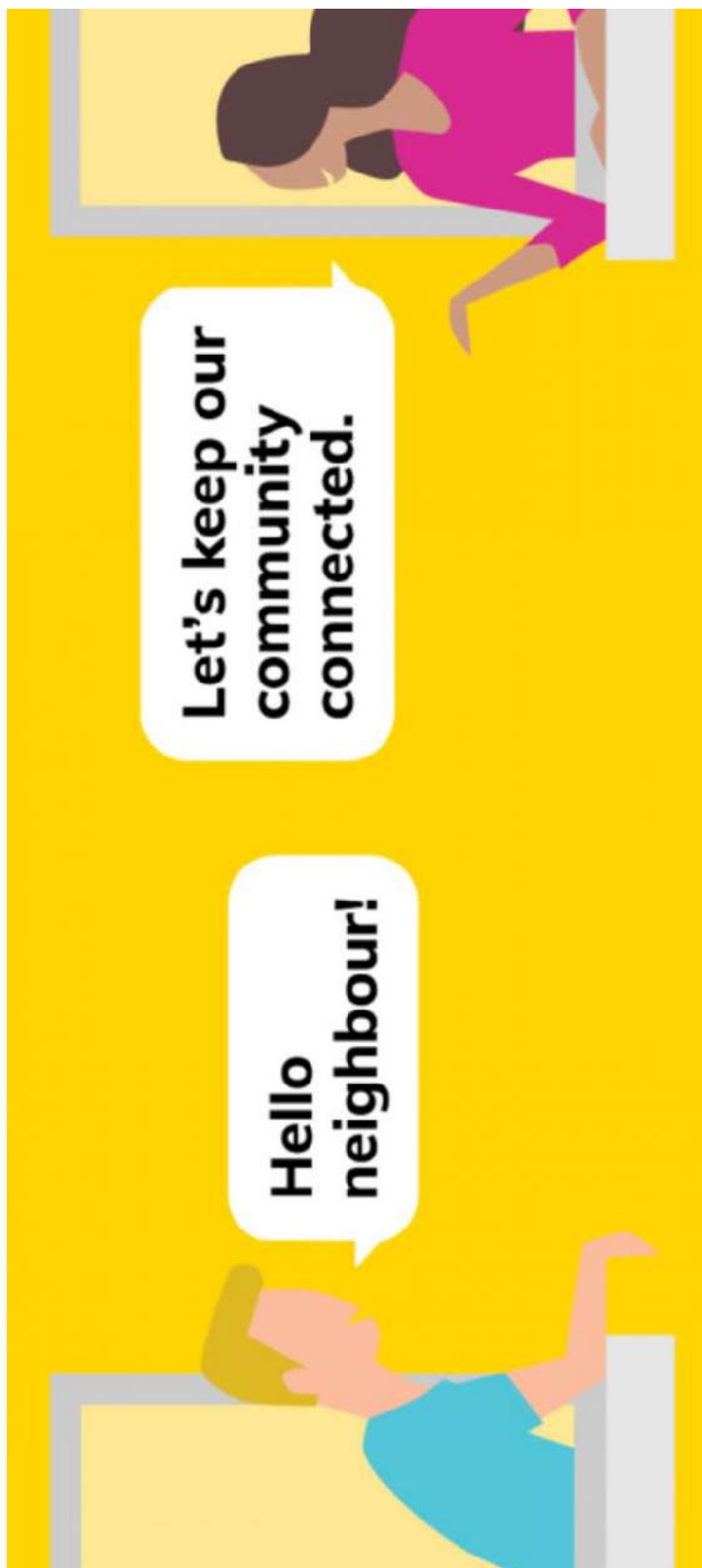
Community Care Package

Three components:

- Connecting Community
- Essential Council community services
- Coordination and support of community services

Community Care Package

Connecting Community



Community Care Package

Connecting Community

- Neighbour Support – *Hello neighbour*
 - *80,000 cards delivered to all households from 16 April*
- Library Services:
 - *Library 2U service, over 22,000 resources delivered to over 10,000 residents since 6 April*
 - *Increased use of E-Resources*
- Volunteering Opportunities



Community Care Package

Connecting Community

- Connecting with special interest communities, some examples:
 - The UnderProof series of youth music industry training programs was moved online
 - Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, presenting online to young people and their families.
 - The annual Northern Composure Unplugged music series will be moved online
 - Big Ideas webinar in July
 - Supporting arts and culture webpage on Council's website
- Connecting via website, EDM, social media



Community Care Package

Essential Council community services

- Meals on Wheels
 - *Increased demand, able to meet threefold increase (up to 150 meals per day)*
- Adolescent and Family Counselling
 - *Demand is steady, may increase over time*
- Children's Services
 - *Continuing to operate under new funding arrangements*

Community Care Package

Coordination & support of community services

- Contact with over 50 local not-for-profit, charitable and community organisations
- Revised Community Grants Program
- Food & essential goods distribution
- Volunteer Coordination
- Information and Referral
- Rough sleepers/ crisis accommodation

Community organisations post Covid-19

(once social distancing measures are lifted)

1. Ideas for programs and projects to support community and cultural organisations?

2. What partnerships and collaborations may assist?

This will be conducted as a workshop, please document your ideas to these questions prior to the meeting, in preparation to share and discuss ideas

Community engagement post Covid-19

(once social distancing measures are lifted)

3. Ideas for programs and projects to encourage community engagement?

4. What partnerships and collaborations may assist?

This will be conducted as a workshop, please document your ideas to these questions prior to the meeting, in preparation to share and discuss ideas

Questions?

Thank you