

MINUTES

PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP

held in the Flannel Flower Room, Dee Why on:

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020

Minutes of the Public Art Working Group Meeting

held on Thursday 5 March 2020

in the Flannel Flower Room,

Dee Why

Commencing at 6pm

ATTENDANCE:

Working Group Members

Cr Penny Philpott (Chair) Cr Sue Heins

Cr Kylie Ferguson

Billie Routledge, Community member

Penny Polkinghorne, Community member

Marissa Bateman, Community member

Council Officers

David Kerr, Director Community and Belonging

Kylie Walshe, Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture

Kath McKenzie, Executive Manager, Community Engagement & Communications

Josephine Bennett, Manager Arts & Culture

Christiane Statham, Public Art Coordinator

1.0 WELCOME / APOLOGIES

Cr Penny Philpott welcomed members to the third meeting of the Public Art Working Group (the Working Group) and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

David Kerr, Director Community and Belonging; Kath McKenzie, Executive Manager, Community Engagement and Communications, and Christiane Statham, Public Art Coordinator were introduced.

Apologies were received from:

- Aunty Clair Jackson, Community member
- Ashley McDonald, Community member
- Simon Barrett, Community member
- John Pearson, Community member

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Public Art Working Group meeting held 5 December 2019, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings of that meeting by those members in attendance.

3.0 COAST WALK PUBLIC ART

3.1 Vision / Mission

DISCUSSION

Staff outlined the outcomes of the Council meeting on 25 February 2020 with regards to public art and the Northern Beaches Coast Walk. It was resolved:

That Council:

1. *Notes the draft minutes of the Public Art Working Group meetings held on 31 October 2019 and 5 December 2019.*
2. *Further develop with the Public Art Working Group at the 5 March 2020 meeting, a vision that expresses the unique opportunity that the Coast walk presents to create a journey through the use of public art including artworks, wayfinding and connection with our cultural heritage and the environment.*
3. *Endorses the following five sites to be prioritised for the commissioning and delivery of artwork along the Coast Walk, with the first four sites to commence in 2020:*
 - A. *McKillop Park (viewing platform), Freshwater*
 - B. *Governor Phillip Park, Palm Beach (northern end)*
 - C. *Robert Dunn Reserve, Mona Vale Headland (south)*
 - D. *Dee Why Beach (southern end)*
 - E. *Freshwater Beach (southern end).*

The Vision developed by the Working Group at its last meeting in December 2019 was:

The Coast Walk connects people with our extraordinary environment through art, culture and creativity.

Members of the Working Group discussed the importance of the Vision including concepts of diversity, shared history and heritage, connectivity, accessibility and the Coast Walk as a unique and extraordinary experience.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommend that:

- The vision statement in the Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan be amended to:

The Coast Walk is a unique experience that unlocks the extraordinary environment through art, creativity and cultural heritage

- These amendments be reported to Council for endorsement along with the Working Group Meeting Minutes.

3.2 Coast Walk themes and first commissions

DISCUSSION

Staff presented a recap of key outcomes from the Coast Walk Public Art Strategy Community Engagement and the Principles of the Strategic Plan. Staff also presented on the broader context of the Coast Walk brand, and the development of key themes for the Coast Walk. These three key themes will guide the further development of the artist briefs and the marketing of the Coast Walk in future. The themes are:

1. Exploring Aboriginal heritage through story
2. Celebrate nature
3. Experience the extraordinary

Staff provided best practice examples of public artworks that explore the ideas and concepts associated with each theme. The Working Group explored the themes in relation to specific sites and opportunities on the Coast Walk and discussed procurement, artist selection and community engagement methodologies.

Staff read out comments from John Pearson regarding project budgets, an enquiry to panel member Marissa Bateman, and the artist brief.

A working group member provided a contextual overview of budget sizes for outdoor sculptures. They will also provide Council with some documents from UAP, including an artist brief for the Kurnell project and indicative costs for permanent outdoor sculpture works UAP has recently commissioned.

Applying the three themes to three projects, the Working Group agreed to move forward with the following commissions and sites:

1. Aboriginal artwork and interpretation project (integrated along the Coast Walk and at sites to be selected with key local Aboriginal stakeholders) - \$400,000
2. Open Commission – McKillop Park, Freshwater - \$400,000-\$500,000
3. Public Art Artist Panel – Robert Dunn Reserve, Mona Vale Headland - \$200,000

The Working Group agreed to discuss other sites for a permanent or temporary public art project at its next meeting.

Staff presented an indicative timeline and the artist brief template.

The Working Group discussed the artist brief template and agreed it would be further developed by Council staff, as specifically required for each project. The Artist Briefs will also incorporate any recommendations made by Working Group members before the end of March, when the first meeting of the Public Art Selection Panel will be convened by Council.

The Artist Briefs will be evaluated by the Selection Panel before Expressions of Interest open in May.

RECOMMENDATION

Council staff incorporate any comments made by the Working Group on the Artist Briefs before the end of March 2020.

4.0 Offer of Donation

DISCUSSION

Staff presented a potential sculpture donation by artist Ruth Downes. The sculpture is an 8-metre long wrought iron and steel sculpture of an eel, created in 1995, which will be decommissioned by the City of Parramatta as part of the Charles Street Wharf precinct redevelopment.

The Working Group discussed the eligibility criteria for donations to the Northern Beaches Cultural Collection in its Cultural Collection Management and Gifts Guidelines, the Public Art Policy and Public Art Guidelines, namely:

- Demonstrable significance for the Northern Beaches community
- Appropriateness of the artwork to the context of its site
- No artworks, objects or cultural material will be acquired that relate to Aboriginal heritage on the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION

The Working Group recommended that the artist be thanked for the donation offer, but is referred to another collecting institution.

5.0 Dee Why Art Walk

DISCUSSION

The Dee Why Art Walk is a collection of painted panels that were installed along Dee Why Strand, leading to the Dee Why ocean swimming pools, by Warringah Council in 2015. Originally, these works were planned to be rotated every 12 to 18 months.

Staff propose to replace these panels with an aluminium print of Dee Why beach taken in c1920s, to be printed and installed by Council. This material will be durable and the photographic print, from the collection of the State Library of NSW, will connect passersby to the history of the place.

RECOMMENDATION

The Working Group were in agreement with this proposal.

6.0 2020 Meeting Schedule

Staff thanked Working Group members for their contributions and confirmed the 2020 Meeting Schedule for the Public Art Working Group.

Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled for:

- 4 June 2020, 6-8pm – Guringai Room, Civic Centre Dee Why
- 3 September 2020, 6-8pm – Guringai Room, Civic Centre Dee Why
- 19 November 2020, 6-8pm – Flannel Flower Room, Civic Centre Dee Why

7.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

Additional Meeting called for Thursday 2 April 2020, 6-8pm – to be confirmed.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
3.1	Prepare a Recommendation for Council to amend the vision statement included in the adopted Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan as per the Working Group recommendation.	Josephine Bennett	31 March 2020
5.1	Prepare site and budget-specific public art project briefs as per the Working Group recommendation.	Christiane Statham	May 2020

The meeting concluded at 8pm

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 6 pages numbered 1 to 6 of the Public Art Working Group meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020.