



northern
beaches
council

MEETING NOTES

PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP

Held via email and phone call due to Covid-19:

THURSDAY 2 APRIL – THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2020

Meeting Notes of the Public Art Working Group

Meeting held via email and phone calls Thursday

2 April to Thursday 9 April 2020

CONTACTED:

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

Aunty Clair Jackson, Community member

Ashley McDonald, Community member

Simon Barrett, Community member

John Pearson, Community member

Council Officers

Kylie Walshe, Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture

Josephine Bennett, Manager Arts & Culture

Christiane Statham, Public Art Coordinator

1.0 WELCOME / APOLOGIES

Arts & Culture Manager, Josephine Bennett, sent the Working Group an introductory email that explained the process and provided instructions for the virtual meeting. Draft Minutes of 5 March 2020 and a PDF of the Agenda items were attached.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Public Art Working Group confirmed the Minutes of the previous meeting.

3.0 COAST WALK PUBLIC ART TRAIL

3.1 Project Summaries

DISCUSSION

Council staff presented project summaries and budgets for the first three commissions on the Coast Walk.

These are:

Aboriginal Artwork and Storytelling

A project that aims to acknowledge, respect and share the stories of the Northern Beaches First Nations people through a series of inter-related public artworks and markers along the Coast Walk, using a range of media and techniques.

Budget: \$400,000 (\$200k Club Grants + \$200k Council matched)

McKillop Park, Freshwater

An opportunity for a major Open Commission (open to Australian and international artists). This will be a landmark artwork, which will respond to the site's natural landscape, environmental conditions and local history.

Budget: \$400,000 - \$500,000

South Mona Vale Headland (Robert Dunn Reserve)

An opportunity for an integrated artwork, responding to the particulars of this site and landscape, and open to members of the Public Art Artist Panel.

Budget: \$200,000

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommend that:

- The project summaries and budgets are supported
- Both emerging and established artists and organisations are approached for the Aboriginal project.
- That artist/s engaged for South Mona Vale Headland / Robert Dunn Reserve from the Public Art Artist Panel are capable of delivering a major integrated artwork.
- That Council staff explore supplementary funding through government agencies such as Create NSW.

- That the community are actively engaged in the Aboriginal Artwork and Storytelling project.
- That the Freshwater community and Harbord Diggers are actively engaged in the McKillop Park project.

3.2 Herminie's Landing

DISCUSSION

Staff presented a concept for an embedded artwork to commemorate former Palm Beach resident and community advocate, Herminie Swainston, at a recently landscaped area at Observation Point. This potential project developed from a request from the Palm Beach and Whale Beach Association, who will donate \$3,500-\$4,500 towards the project.

As per Council policy, Council's Parks department will report to Council the request that the site be renamed Herminie's Landing in mid-2020 (TBC). The proposal for renaming would be placed on public exhibition for one month, with a report to Council to follow. After this, if endorsed, the procurement of an artwork could proceed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommend that this proposal is supported.

3.3 Dee Why Panels

This project is on hold due to restrictions on site visits and meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group noted the project update.

4.0 Offer of Donation – Chime Projects

DISCUSSION

The Public Art Working Group responded to the proposal from Chime Projects for a potential donation of a public artwork.

The Public Art Working Group felt that the proposed artwork would not be suitable at either of the nominated sites (Manly and Clontarf), as the proposed work would be inappropriate due the current usage of those sites by community. Members felt the work may potentially be better suited to locations on the Northern Beaches that have stronger connections with live music, such as Narrabeen and Collaroy.

Public Art Working Group members suggested that there were more suitable venues, such as the Hordern Pavilion at Fox Studios, the ICC in Darling Harbour or the Qudos Bank Arena at Sydney Olympic Park. They also mentioned that other members of the group had connections to the Northern Beaches, and a tribute to the entire band might be more suitable.

Members also responded that the proposal was problematic in that the artwork would require ongoing and expensive maintenance, incurring major costs for Council in the future. The artwork could also attract vandalism, and its remediation and protection from vandalism could also incur further costs for Council.

Noise restrictions in the public domain would also be an issue for this project in its proposed form. Public Art Working Group members suggested that there may be a way to pay tribute to the artist through the support of live music venues, interactive musical playgrounds or other forms of embedded public art in the public domain that give back to the community and blend with the landscape.

The proposed sculpture is as a memorial, despite being described as a tribute. A tribute is an act, a statement or gift acknowledging gratitude, respect or admiration - whilst a memorial is a built structure, such as a monument, intended to celebrate the memory of a person or event. A figurative, life-sized bronze sculpture of a deceased person will be read by the public as a memorial.

The Public Art Working Group came to a consensus that:

- The proposal needs further development in order to align with Council policies and guidelines, including the Public Art Policy and Guidelines, and the Cultural Collection Management and Gifts Policy and Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommend that Council Staff provide feedback to Chime Projects on the above issues and requirements.

5.0 St David Ave Park, Dee Why

The Working Group were generally in agreement with this proposal, although some felt that the budget as stated was too low for a good outcome. There was also a concern that the artwork not be disruptive at night to residents or traffic, as this is a high density and high transit area. There is an opportunity to highlight nearby developments such as the Lighthouse Apartments, Dee Why.

Other members felt that this was an opportunity to respond to the culturally diverse Dee Why community.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommend that this proposal is supported.

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.

Depending on the development of the Covid-19 situation, meetings will be held on Thursday evenings and are scheduled for:

- 4 June 2020, 6-8pm – Online via Teams
- 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

Meeting called for Thursday 4 June 2020, 6-8pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
3.1	Explore supplementary funding through Create NSW	Josephine Bennett	30 May 2020
4	Staff write to Chime Projects.	Christiane Statham	30 June 2020

This is the final page of the Notes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Public Art Working Group meeting held via email and phone between 2 and 9 April, 2020.