

MINUTES

PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP

held as an online meeting on

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

Minutes of the Public Art Working Group
held on Thursday 3 September 2020
as an online meeting
Commencing at 6:00PM

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Penny Philpott	Chairperson
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Ashley McDonald	Community member
John Pearson	Community member
Marissa Bateman	Community member
Penny Polkinghorne	Community member
Simon Barrett	Community member

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture
Josephine Bennett	Manager Arts & Culture
Christiane Statham	Public Art Coordinator

Visitors

Dr Emma Hicks	Community member representing Aunty Clair Jackson
Eilis O'Beirne	Chime Projects
Sharonne Broderick	Chime Projects
Rhett Hutchence	Chime Projects

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair, Councillor Penny Philpott, acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

Councillor Philpott also welcomed Dr Emma Hicks, who appeared as a representative of Aunty Clair Jackson. Dr Hicks also gave an Acknowledgement of Country, partly in Gamilaraay language.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Aunty Clair Jackson, community member
- Billie Routledge, community member

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF PUBLIC ART WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD 4 JUNE 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Public Art Working Group meeting held 4 June 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

Nil

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 CHIME PROJECTS PROPOSAL - UPDATE

PRESENTATION

Chime Projects presented to the Public Art Working Group their proposal for *Michael – A Tribute*.

The project is a proposed donation to Council of a sculptural tribute to Michael Hutchence, which was originally presented to the Public Art Working Group on 2 April 2020. The Public Art Working Group's recommendation from that meeting was:

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.

Chime Projects responded to the feedback of the Public Art Working Group via the Mayor, and requested the opportunity to present their Addendum to *Michael – A Tribute* directly to the Public Art Working Group. The group presented to the Public Art Working Group at their meeting on 3 September 2020..

DISCUSSION

Following the presentation, Chime projects invited questions from the Public Art Working Group. Questions raised included:

1. Maintenance: What is the proposed financial component of the donation to Council for maintenance of the sculpture during its lifetime?
2. Site specificity: What is the relevance of the sculpture to this particular site (Manly Cove) beyond the Hutchence family connection?
3. Noise Mitigation: What is the potential for mitigating noise complaints from local residents?
4. Policy Framework: How does the proposed donation respond to Council's curatorial framework, as contained in its Public Art Policy and Guidelines?
5. Procurement: How would an artist be procured? What involvement would Council have in this procurement process? Who are the three artists you are currently in negotiations with?
6. Project Management: Who would manage the project? What skills and experience do they have in successfully delivering similar public art works in the public domain? What involvement is anticipated from Council?
7. Accessibility: What are the accessibility needs of the local community?
8. Funding: How is the project to be funded and is this funding confirmed?
9. Technology: How do Chime Projects propose to address the future obsolescence of technical components of the work?
10. Timeline: Can you please confirm the timeline for the project?

Chime Projects requested that the Working Group's questions be documented and forwarded to Chime for response.

Chime Projects left the meeting.

The Public Art Working Group continued their discussion of the project and provided the following feedback:

- They did not consider that their feedback from the meeting on 2 April 2020 had been adequately addressed by Chime Projects in the project addendum or in their presentation.
- The selected site (Manly Cove) is not relevant to or appropriate for this work. This is a site with high exposure and usage by the public. There is no pressing need to increase tourism to this site. There is also often alcohol-related anti-social behavior in this area, which may increase the likelihood of the sculpture being damaged. The Chime Projects response that this site would be protected by passive surveillance and private CCTV surveillance is not sufficiently dependable for a work of this nature.
- The preferred site is a site of great significance to Aboriginal Australians and also contains a number of public artworks already.
- The work does not correspond to Council's curatorial framework, as evidenced by its Public Art Policy and Guidelines.
- It is unclear what the ongoing maintenance costs would be for Council.
- The method of procurement of an artist is unclear, and as this would not be undertaken by Council, this lack of clarity is problematic.
- It is unclear how noise mitigation would be undertaken or managed.
- The technology included in the work may become obsolete quickly, rendering the sculpture non-interactive.
- Michael Hutchence is famous all over Australia and the world, and this type of tribute would be better suited to a site where live music is created and performed.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommended that staff collate the above questions, distribute them to the Working Group for feedback/amendments/additions, and then provide to Chime Projects for a response, to be considered by the Public Art Working Group at their next meeting.

6.2 COAST WALK PUBLIC ART - PROJECT UPDATES

DISCUSSION

Staff presented an update on the Coast Walk Public Art projects.

The Aboriginal Art & Storytelling Project is the first public art project for the Coast Walk. A meeting with key Aboriginal stakeholders was held on 2 September and staff received positive feedback at this meeting. This feedback will be incorporated into the Artist Brief for the Aboriginal Art & Storytelling Project, which will then be provided to the group for feedback on 16 September.

Staff have met recently with the Australian Museum, who have offered access to their collections for the selected Aboriginal artist's team for this project.

Council has received correspondence from the Co-Founder and a Trustee of the Manly Freshwater World Surfing Reserve, registering a request to be consulted as part of community engagement as the McKillop Park project moves forward.

Staff also updated the Public Art Working Group on the creation of a Commissioning Agreement for Council's public art program, which is now complete.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group noted that Covid-19 had caused delays to the Coast walk Public Art program and recommended that staff progress these projects as a priority. The Group requested a timeline of projects be presented by staff to the Group at its next meeting.

6.3 BUNGAN LANE MURAL PROJECT

DISCUSSION

Staff presented an update on the completed Bungan Lane Mural Project, as the first project in Council's new Street Art Program. The street art program comprises an expression of interest and selection process, community engagement and the involvement of young people for skills development.

The Public Art Working Group provided positive feedback on this project, and passed on numerous positive comments from community members. The Group were keen to see more street art on the Northern Beaches, particularly projects that involve young people.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommended that staff continue with implementation of the Street Art Program currently being developed.

6.4 OTHER PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

DISCUSSION

Staff presented updates on other public art projects, including:

- St David Avenue Park, Dee Why
- Dee Why Art Panels
- Newport Sewer Pumping Station
- Freshwater Community Bank Youth Art Prize
- Herminie's Landing

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommended that staff continue to progress with these projects.

6.5 FUNDRAISING PLAN - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

DISCUSSION

Staff presented an update on the development of a fundraising plan for the Coast Walk Public Art program, as resolved by Council.

Staff have met with a number of cultural organisations and funding bodies, including Creative Partnerships Australia and the Australian Museum, to explore options for fundraising.. Council has also engaged specialist lawyers to provide advice regarding the funding mechanisms available to Council, including the extension if its existing DGR status for the Manly Art Gallery and Museum.

Staff summarised these conversations, and, within the context of achieving the vision of the adopted Coast Walk Public Art Strategic Plan, requested feedback on a fundraising target in the vicinity of \$20 million. The Working Group agreed that this amount was reasonable to properly implement the strategy and deliver tourism and other outcomes for the community. The Group discussed the Sydney Modern project, as a successful exemplar project.

The Working Group felt that the first few major Coast Walk Public Art projects will be integral to raising community support and will increase the fundraising capacity for the project.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Working Group recommended that members provide further contacts and that staff continue with their research.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Staff requested that the Group consider their proposal to record Public Art Working Group meetings that are held online via Teams, and will raise this query again at the next meeting.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	That the questions from the Group are distributed to the Group for feedback and provided to Chime Projects for response, and for consideration the next Public Art Working Group meeting.	Manager Arts and Culture	30 September 2020
6.2	That staff present a timeline of projects to the Group at its next meeting on 19 November.	Public Art Coordinator	19 November 2020

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Public Art Working Group meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2020 and confirmed on 19 November 2020.