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ARTS AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 at 6pm in Melton Library and Learning Hub

Present: Cr Turner, City of Melton
Cr Carli, City of Melton
A. Savage, Community representative
S. Pelly, Community representative
A. Parsons, Community representative
C. Meeson, Community representative
T. Watson, Manager Libraries
S. Prestney, Coordinator Library Activation and Engagement
M. McClelland, Arts Engagement and Development Officer

Chairperson: Cr Turner, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Cr Turner opened the meeting at 6.05pm. Cr Turner welcomed the new community representatives that have joined the committee in 2019.

2. Apologies

Cr Mendes
A. Patel

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

That the committee adopts the minutes of the meeting of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 December 2018.

Cr Carli / T Watson

5. Business arising

5.1 Further details of the summary recommendations of the Public Art Maintenance Plan, including photos of the art works and identified maintenance requirements, will be presented at the first Arts and Culture Advisory meeting of 2019 – referred to item 6.7.

6. General Business

6.1 New committee induction to Terms of Reference and Council values

T Watson provided an overview of the Committee Terms of Reference, including the responsibilities of the committee and expectations of members. An excerpt of Council's governance charter was circulated, and an overview was provided with reference to Council values and behaviours and positive culture expectations.

Action:

Distribute a copy of Council's Governance Charter to committee members via email.

6.2 Arts program overview

M McClelland provided a broad overview of the current arts program, including exhibitions, arts engagement and learning, artist in residence program, public art program.

6.3 Libraries and Arts Strategy engagement

T Watson provided an overview of Council's intention to develop a strategy for Arts and Libraries. S Prestney provided an overview of the Cultural Development Network outcomes schema for measuring cultural activity. An example was circulated demonstrating how City of Casey has utilised the cultural development outcomes to develop an Arts and Cultural Development strategy. There is the opportunity to partner with the Cultural Development Network by participating in a pilot of the evaluation measures across the arts and libraries. This requires incorporating the cultural development outcomes in the new strategy, and the committee was supportive of this.

Committee members were advised that a community workshop is anticipated to be held in early May to gain input into the development of the strategy, and this will include an invitation to committee members, artists and community groups.

Actions:

Include Cultural Development Network outcomes as measurable outcomes in the development of the arts and libraries strategy.

When details are confirmed, provide an invitation to committee members to a community workshop to inform the development of the arts and libraries strategy.

Distribute a copy of the Council and Wellbeing Plan to committee members via email.

6.4 Summer of Street Art report

M McClelland provided an overview of the eight recently completed powerboxes which were developed by artists in consultation with community groups. Cr Carli commended the program and suggested this continue in the future. T Watson advised that a street art component has been factored in to preliminary budgets process through Council and will be subject to deliberations of Council. There was committee discussion on evaluation of the program, and potential to consider the number of artists involved to make it a more manageable project in future. There was feedback to look at the timing of the project to make it more accessible. M McClelland advised that an evaluation of sites, timing and locations will take place prior to commencement of the next round of this program. It was noted there was a Minister launch of the State Government Graffiti Prevention program on 13 March at the Melton Town Centre mural location, which demonstrated recognition by the State Government of the success of previous project outcomes.



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6.5 Home Sewn: Makers of Melton report

M McClelland provided an overview of upcoming exhibitions, events and public art as part of this project including the development of a temporary textile Batik artwork which will be displayed in the Melton Library and Learning Hub windows. Previous accomplishments of this project were outlined. The project is funded through a Creative Victoria Grant. An exhibition of textile works is to take place from 28 June to 11 August, with expressions of interest now complete. Nine exhibitors have been selected, and the existing four Home Sewn Artists in Residence have also been invited to contribute work for the exhibition. A final temporary public artwork will be determined through a submission of concept by the four resident artists who have participated in the project.

6.6 Appoint Public Art Review Subcommittee

Per the Public Art Policy, M McClelland called for Committee members to nominate to be part of a Public Art Review Subcommittee for the Home Sewn public artwork. It is expected the review will take place in June, in advance of the next committee meeting. This requires two community representatives and one Councillor from the committee. Cr Carli, A Parsons and S Pelly expressed interest, however it was acknowledged that M Mohr (not present) may be interested due to her previous interest in this project. It was determined to approach M Mohr to seek interest first. A Parsons agreed to withdraw her interest if M Mohr was interested.

Action:

M McClelland to contact M Mohr. If M Mohr available, the subcommittee membership will include: Cr Carli, M Mohr and S Pelly. If M Mohr not available, the subcommittee will include Cr Carli, S Pelly and A Parsons.

6.7 Public Art Maintenance Plan recommendations

M McClelland provided an overview of the recent maintenance and condition review of 52 public art works across the municipality, which included creating a public art register format, categorising works in terms of significance and developing a maintenance plan and conservation costs. T Watson advised that a public art maintenance component has been factored in to preliminary budgets process through Council and will be subject to deliberations of Council. The allocation if approved will provide capacity for required maintenance to nine artworks, de-accessioning of two artworks, and engineering review of a further three artworks.

There was committee discussion about the importance of property developers to consider the community in development of high quality public art, and that distribution of public art across the municipality is uneven. Further work on identifying new sites and creation of developer guidelines will assist with this.

Action:

M McClelland to provide an overview of each of the abovementioned public art pieces requiring maintenance and de-accessioning at a future committee meeting.

6.8 Exhibitions program

M McClelland provided an overview of the upcoming exhibitions, including Faces of Melton by Tamirat Gebremariam opening on Thursday 21 March 2019 at CS Gallery, current youth photo display, the 'Diversity Wave Wall' at Melton Library and Learning Hub, and upcoming exhibitions in May and June including Djiwarr by Wayne Quilliam and Freedom by Shahana Kiran.

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T Watson advised that a motion was carried at the 4 March 2019 ordinary meeting of Council, that 'Officers identify an appropriate wall space within an existing civic building to be dedicated to local exhibitions'. It was noted that the current exhibition program incorporates local artists throughout the year across CS Gallery, Melton Library and Learning Hub and the Civic Centre, and an expression of interest process exists. This was opened for discussion with the Committee and discussion included that first-time artists may not feel comfortable in submitting through an EOI process, possible monthly opportunities, or utilising a space in a community centre. Approach to managing such a space would need to be considered, as officers are at full capacity managing the current exhibitions program.

Action:

Officers to look at options for wall space dedicated to local exhibitions and bring this to a future committee meeting.

6.9 Arts and Craft Show

T Watson advised that a motion was carried at the 4 March 2019 ordinary meeting of Council, that 'Council's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee consider the resources required to reinstate an annual Arts and Craft show, for recommendation to Council'. This matter had previously been discussed at committee meetings in 2018 and was previously referred to the Artist's Collective of Melton for consideration. S Pelly, as a member of the Collective, advised that the person this was referred to is no longer a committee member and this item had not been considered by the Collective but she was keen to do so. T Watson called for members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee to form a working group to develop an outline of resources required for an Arts and Craft show. S Pelly, A Parsons and C Meeson agreed to work on a proposal to bring back to a future Committee meeting. After discussion, it was reinforced that the expectation at this stage is only to develop a proposal that considers the resources required, so that the committee can make a recommendation to Council.

Action:

S Pelly, A Parsons, and C Meeson to develop a proposal that considers the resources required to reinstate an annual Arts and Craft show, to present at a future Arts and Culture Advisory Committee meeting for consideration.

6. ArtsWest Partnership

M McClelland advised the Melton City Council has partnered with other Western suburbs Councils to provide opportunities for ArtsWest membership and professional development networking meetings. Melton will host a networking meeting on 28 June, further information will be available closer to the date. Opportunities for a small number of artists to obtain ArtsWest membership has been promoted through the Imagine Melton facebook page.

Action:

M McClelland to distribute information about ArtsWest to committee members, as well as invitations to the Melton event when the details are finalised.



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7. Next Meeting

Possible preferred meeting days and times were discussed, and due to personal commitments it was not possible to reach a consensus for one regular day of the week, so a rotation across Tuesdays and Thursdays may be required with meetings commencing at 4.30pm.

Action:

M McClelland to develop 2019 dates and circulate to committee members.

8. Other Business

Cr Carli advised that a community member had suggested that Council consider opportunities for street art at Council's skate parks. It was noted by officers that this can be considered in the evaluation of the street art program and planning of future locations.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.