

## **MINUTES OF ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Present:** Councillor Indu Balachandran (Chairperson)  
Mayor Christine Kay  
Tony Bates, Community Member  
Anne Louise Cahill, Community Member  
Dee Jackson, Community Member  
Hong Huang, Community Member (online)  
Lee Johnston, Community Member (online)  
Shipra Shah, Community Member (online)

**Staff Present:** Director Community, Janice Bevan  
Manager Visitor Experience and Events, Melanie Morson  
Manager Library Services, Michelle Swan-Beardmore  
Policy and Administration Officer, Nicky Hammond  
Community Development Officer, Kim Harris

**Others Present:**

**Apologies:** Councillor Barbara Ward (Deputy Chairperson)  
James Austen, Community Member  
Andrea Doney, Community Member  
Wendy Blaxland, Community Member  
Mary Faith, Community Member  
Tom Sweeney, Community Member

*The Meeting commenced at 2:05 PM*

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interest was declared.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

N/A

### **NOTING OF MINUTES**

#### **Minutes of Arts and Culture Advisory Committee**

File: S14547

Meeting held 30 July 2024

Minutes numbered ACC01 to ACC02

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Minutes numbered ACC01 to ACC02 circulated to Councillors were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

## **Welcome and opening remarks by the Chairperson**

File: S14547

### **Cr Balachandran**

- The Committee Chairperson Cr Balachandran shared her interest in the Arts. She is a musician and has worked at the Arts and Culture Exchange Parramatta. Cr Balachandran also recently met with the previous Arts and Culture Committee Chair Greg Taylor to discuss items pending and the focus of the Committee.
- Cr Balachandran then invited everyone present to introduce themselves and share information about their background, experience and interest in the Arts and Culture space.
- Committee members discussed the need for cultural venues in Ku-ring-gai.
- Committee members also advised that it is increasingly hard to find performance space and venues that are suitable.
- Committee members expressed a need for a multipurpose Arts and Culture Centre to accommodate the range of arts and cultural groups in the community

## **The role of Create NSW, the Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP)**

File: S14547

### **Dr Bec Dean, Senior Manager, Arts Create NSW**

- Cultural Funding Program presentation to be circulated to members.
- The following points were highlighted in the presentation and discussion:
  - Create NSW is the NSW Government's arts and cultural driver to grow and support the arts, screen and cultural sectors in NSW for everyone to enjoy.
  - The new Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP) is funding programs supporting a range of artforms to foster innovation, vibrancy and creativity within the sector. Including Multi-year Funding, Regional Arts Touring, Project Funding and National Partnerships.
  - There was a small increase in funding with the new ten-year plan and Create NSW is asking organisations to look at sustainability more than growth.
  - The Arts and Cultural Centres Western Sydney was part of the West Invest initiative from the previous state government focussed on development of new infrastructure, this was a very different scale of funding from Create NSW who has been providing funding since the 1970's.
  - Currently Create NSW does not have a budget for renewal of cultural facilities and infrastructure, but they do have an infrastructure team that can be engaged.
- Melanie Morson, Manager Visitor Experience and Events advised that she has met with Create NSW Infrastructure team about potential funding for Ku-ring-gai Council. Create NSW advised there was no infrastructure funding currently available for major developments due to Infrastructure funding priorities under the current government in the education and health sectors.

- The Committee was advised that Arts Culture Infrastructure Grants of up to \$200,000 are available through Club Grants. Grants are opening 4 November and closing 25 November 2024.

[Infrastructure Grants: arts and culture | NSW Government](#)

**The Committee Recommends:**

That the above points be noted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Cultural Environmental Education Centre**

File: S14547

**Janice Bevan, Director, Community**

**Melanie Morson, Manager, Visitor Experience and Events, Community**

- The following points were highlighted in the presentation and discussion:
  - Recent upgrades at the St Ives Showground include the new playground, accessible amenities, road upgrades, new picnic spaces and pavilion upgrades.
  - The Cultural and Environmental Education Centre will be a new, exciting space for increasing environmental awareness throughout the Ku-ring-gai community. Located at the St Ives Showground, the building and surrounds will facilitate community workshops, seminars, functions and events for all ages. It will also connect with the range of programs currently on offer at the neighbouring Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.
  - The holistic design will target 'Living Building Challenge® Certification', a global building measurement with performance categories across design, water and energy use, ecological values, building materials, equity, health and happiness. The building strives to be a demonstration site for sustainable design, incorporating principles of ecologically sustainable development and utilising local, high quality, environmental and people safe materials.
  - The new Centre will include 2 main indoor areas and a centre courtyard space.
  - A business case for the centre is currently being developed.
  - The proposed time frame for completion of the new Cultural Environment Education Centre, at this stage is uncertain, however it is estimated to be late 2026.

**The Committee Recommends:**

- That the Cultural Environmental Education Centre presentation to be circulated to members.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Committee Member Information Share**

File: S14547

- The Chairperson requested feedback from the Committee Members about what they considered to be the Committee's priority areas moving forward, and what they thought could be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**The Committee Recommends:**

- To engage the Arts Community to contribute to the development of the next Council Strategic Plan.

- The Committee members appreciated the presentations from the staff and external specialists, however they thought that there could be more time devoted to discussion amongst the members at future meetings.
- There was a request for updates on Council facilities upgrades and Council projects.
- There was discussion about improvements to Council facilities especially venues and spaces for art exhibitions and performances.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Extend the reach of the Arts and Culture Committee**

File: S14547

- The Committee discussed the idea of extending the Arts and Culture Committee to forums or events, along with regular meetings, to enable the wider arts community to participate.

### **The Committee Recommends:**

- The Committee agreed that forums and events would provide an opportunity to hear the voices of the wider arts community.
- There was discussion around events associated with the Writers' Festival through the library.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Future meeting dates and Agenda Items**

The next meeting will be held in February 2025.

The Committee members have been asked to advise the dates and times that best suit them:

#### **Proposed dates:**

1. Monday 10 February 2025, 2:00PM
2. Wednesday 19 February 2025, 5:00PM

*Could members please advise their preference by Friday 13 December 2024.*

It is proposed that the meetings be held at different venues throughout the Ku-ring-gai LGA utilising arts and cultural venues where possible – for further discussion at the next meeting.

It is also proposed that the Committee discuss objectives for an Arts Cultural Forum at the next meeting. A forum could possibly be held in conjunction with the Arts Cultural Festival – 18 June to 24 July 2025

The Committee member survey could be circulated to provide the basis for planning for the Forum.

The Agenda for the next meeting will be provided once feedback about the meeting times and dated has been collated.

*The Meeting closed at 3:35PM*