

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAARTS)

6:00pm – 7:00pm 18 March 2021

South of Johnston

46 Oxford Street, Collingwood

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attending:

Cr Gabrielle de Vietri, Cr Claudia Nguyen, Simon Bedford, Eyal Chipkiewicz, Angela Conquet, Claire Leporati, Siu Chan, Brona Keenan, Michael Van Vliet, Olivia Allen (minute taker).

Apologies: Jane Scott, Miranda Hill.

Item 1 Acknowledgement of Country (Chair: Claudia)

Start 6.04pm

Introductions

- CN acknowledged artists leaving arts practice to pursue new careers during COVID.
- GdV acknowledged the hardship of artists during COVID.

Item 2 Confirmation of previous minutes.

- Minutes noted from previous meeting by Siu Chan and Brona Keenan

Item 3 Multi-year funding 2022-2023.

The Creative Yarra and Engage Yarra two-year funding programs finish their cycle this year. This is an opportunity to review the current guidelines prior to initiating the 2022-2023 cycle.

- BK gave introduction of program. Familiarisation of guidelines.
- Create Yarra (2 years) – Broader arts category.
- Engage Yarra (2 years) - Community focussed multi art form category.
- Applicants can apply for program and operational funding. Individuals can apply for multiyear funding.
- COVID impacts have varied between previous years successful recipients – some have gone online, others have deferred projects.
- SC – When we reviewed we made it 2 years from 3 years. The three years seemed to be a bit lengthy.
- This review would be a bit smaller a bigger review process would require more time and should be looked into for the next funding cycle.
- Initiation report to undertake the multi year program. If they miss out on multiyear funding they can apply for annual funding. We want to get the feedback before the annual grant outcomes come out.
- Celebrate Yarra invitation program – Current recipients Gertrude Street Projection Festival, Johnston Street Fiesta and Victoria Street Lunar Festival. Cycle ends 2022.
- SC suggested tweaking to program could include the parameters of pool of money. Currently Engage=100k, Creative=130k.
- Feedback can be given tonight or online (emails or collective online forum)

- GdV general feedback from grant recipients. The process of applying and acquitting grants is onerous compared to the money that is being received.
- **ACTION: Application forms to be sent to panel for review. Supportive of streamlining process**
- Information workshops are well attended but arts industry very proficient in grant writing generally.
- Arts stream is the most competitive stream in Community grants. Shortage of funding means that excellence is sometimes unfunded. Has not been much increase to funding in last 10 years despite increase in arts organisations competing for the funds.
- Stats: Create Yarra last cycle request \$930K and 130K available / Engage Yarra request \$330k and \$100K available
- AC didn't find applications process too onerous whilst at Dancehouse. Suggested it could be simplified for individual artists. The level of accountability needs to be higher for organisations.
- Individual applications can receive up to \$15k, which is smaller than organisational funding.
- SC stated its worthwhile keeping the individual stream despite not high demand. 2020 was the first year that individual producers could apply.
- EC – suggested shifting language from outcomes to support level of experimentation for artists.
- Perhaps experimentation is more suited to sit in the annual year funding. Multi year funding is the place for people who have a plan and potentially have a proven track record.
- Council funding has different expectations than philanthropic funding because of Council obligations to have results for the community.
- CL has suggested a 2 stage process to make the process less onerous on the applicants because of the high percentage of unsuccessful applicants.
- SC noted that feedback from applicants was that two stage process was not supported.

ACTION: Acquittal forms to be sent to panel for review.

Item 4 Annual Grants 2022

The Annual Grants program will be taking applications in June, to fund projects in the 2022 calendar year. This is an opportunity to review the current guidelines for the Arts and Culture stream.

- 2021 over 300K awarded, 36 projects supported of 71 submitted.
- COVID specific grants Stimulate Yarra 28 projects awarded. 201 applications received. \$160k available.
- 13% of applicants received funding.
- Over \$2million requested through the round.
- Impacted the 2021 annual grants round because people received funding through the Stimulate round.
- Creative Business Community and Creative Precinct funding rounds as well.
- **ACTION: Panel requested to review guidelines and fact sheet.**
- Sections of Annual grants: Arts development, Community Arts and Festivals (Two streams in festivals: Community and other)
- **ACTION: Panel to be sent application form and acquittal form for review.**
- SC: Categories help frame the Council objectives. New streams can be created if there is a particular objective the panel wishes to highlight.

- If there is an area of interest a new stream can be created out of the existing pool previous example was the Richmond Theatre which received funds for projects.
- Small Projects Grants – quick response grants \$25k pool maxed at \$1000 Can the ceiling be increased? Hasn't been increased in 10 years.
- SC noted: If the pool wasn't increased the \$1k possibility shouldn't be increased.
- SPG pool is more likely to fund individual artists. Stream is open to individuals and organisations.
- SB – should it be open only to individuals?
- SC – It is for projects that occur outside of the annual grant rounds and can be unplanned. It is good to be a responsive grant.
- EC – do you encourage partnerships between organisations?
- It's in the guidelines that it is encouraged but can be assessed by the panel.
- SC encouraged people to attend the events as applications are more than just what's on paper.
- AC – How do we find out about events?
- BK - we send out invitations and let people know about upcoming events. Please sign on to our newsletter and follow @yarracityarts on Instagram.
- 9 APRIL date to finalise annual guidelines.
- Panel will advise on guidelines, staff will endeavour to adapt them. Report will go to Council to adopt.

Item 5 Forward Agenda
Options for panel to base a meeting around a given agenda item.
Current agenda below

An overview of meeting dates this year:

- Wednesday 19 May – key item Arts Strategy
- June (date TBC) – Creative Yarra and Engage Yarra grant assessment meeting (no Councillors)
- Thurs 5 August
- September (date TBC) – Annual Grant assessments (no Councillors)
- Thursday 21 October

Item 6 Other items for discussion

Visual Arts panel and Room to Create panel

- One representative from YAARTS to sit on both panels. (3 to 4 meetings per year for each).
- **ACTION: Provide information to panel members and seek nominations.**
- Attend those meeting and have the responsibility to report back to YAARTS panel.
- Visual arts panel assess acquisitions
- Room to Create assess Room to Create funding and recipients of residencies.
- Councillor's part of the working groups but do not have a role on the assessment panels. Grants panels assessments making recommendations to Council and Council review them, adapt and adopt them.

Item 7 Next meeting Wednesday 19 May.

End of meeting