

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday 19 May 2021
Online - Microsoft Teams

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, Simon Bedford, Eyal Chipkiewicz, Angela Conquet, Miranda Hill, Claire Leporati, Jane Scott, Siu Chan, Brona Keenan

Apology: Cr Claudia Nguyen

Item 1 Introduction

Item 2 Confirmation of previous minutes

Minutes confirmed, Claire Leporati and Angela Conquet

Item 3 Arts and Culture Strategy

The development of the new Arts and Cultural Strategy was paused due to COVID-19 and as we now continue the development of this piece of work, we ask the panel for feedback and direction on the updated project plan.

- EC support Aboriginal arts in number 1 priority
- EC recognise how much arts establish flow – arts and tourism, not just local artists but local infrastructure. We don't function in isolation, need partnerships, we collaborate with artists and organisations and Yarra isn't isolated.
- AC reiterate support for Indigenous art. Self-leadership and representation is very important. Giving visibility which is not tokenised. Respectful of Indigenous methodologies and leadership.
- AC – with localism there is a danger of turning inwards. What dynamic can we instigate – bring global to the local and circulate ideas and thoughts. Go beyond the borders of Yarra and build a sense of openness.
- SC – ATSI representation important – we work closely with Aboriginal Partnership team at Yarra who support Yana Ngargna plan/group. We integrate it into everything we do but have symbolically kept it as separate action.
- SC – we do talk about economic and employment other areas
- EC – relevance can't be confined to Yarra, need constant flow to know if you are relevant
- GdV – collaboration, connectedness, fit in with other priority.
- JS – need to be proactive and not reactive. Feel the priorities are 'motherhood statements' sometimes missing the proactive. Consider more active statements. Missing risk and excitement. Not just a provider but a world leader – a bit more aspirational.
- MH – agree, but about action words, not specifics.
- MH – 3 creative and diverse community – looking out to broader community, fostering community between artists and for broader Yarra community.
- The priorities foster community building
- SC 4 sustain future – power of the arts to change the world, what is the power of our sector to add voice to this and contribute new ways of thinking.

- CL – yes is it thematic for artists or both
 - CL – think thematically the priorities are brilliant but might need rewording
 - JS – eg of recent festival had to buy in a range of things – could there be warehouse where people borrow practical things - cost efficient and assists local artists.
 - SC --how to make more sustainability community festivals – we know this path, but how do we think about this – what is the knowledge piece
 - CL – art activations, eg Rose Street mural
 - SC – Rose St example of how we use art – creative thinking unpacks a problem. Rather than a speed bump, employ a more creative solution.
 - MH – could use an incentive in the grants program to encourage but not a requirement – but ask how they are addressing – or could be a requirement as practical or artistic. Ask people to actively think about it.
 - EC – practical arts sustain and get people to think of future – quite different – but needs a lot of thought. Big discussion – what role the arts could play. Environment well-articulated in other plan from council.
 - JS – arts can only do little things, can't make big statement. Need a massive 'Earth Hour' event that is major and newsworthy to have an impact.
 - CL – this sits in council plan – work with colleagues more in this area to have impact
 - Wording – acknowledge the arts are crucial to achieving Council's emission targets by 2030
 - GdV– response to why arts are crucial to carbon targets - our own practices, can we be carbon negative; 2 ability to communicate content through art; 3 impact the arts can have on other areas eg traffic management, street scapes, diversity and different voices. Arts is a crucial lynch pin to finding new ways.
 - AC – 4 the place we make today with creative thinking – what opportunities for artists to join other policies
 - AC – big challenge is mobility which is problematic in climate change. If artists are to be eco conscious and limit travel -what is the role of council to find local careers, support less international travel.
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- **Actions for priorities – what should we be doing**
 - EC – p2 – affordability – spaces become oversophisticated and become more expensive
 - SC – how to convert this to action?
 - EC – set target at number of spaces –I
 - JS – eg gallery, council has a number of spaces that are just basic that council can offer. Concrete initiatives around developing ongoing exhibit space in Yarra.
 - JS – concerned collection doesn't have space to be seen. Good to see website dedicated to the collection for access, to highlight the collection and so works can be borrowed.
 - CL – shift from multi space to dedicated fit for purpose space.
 - SC – hubs create a challenge, no storage. Limits what you can put on walls. Limited by scarcity of space.
 - MH – music rehearsal space that is fit for purpose. If there is a space you can apply for 2 wk rehearsal, lock up stuff rather than stuff in and out – sustainability – less driving, people take pt instead. All of this does add up. This would encourage community orchestras, groups.
 - SC – types of spaces – tend to be more around engagement arts eg neighbourhood houses
 - JS – cultural mapping where these spaces are so people know how to find them
 - SB –encourage artist creative leaders into other areas of council – are there other conversations in Yarra that artists can feed into – drive innovation and creativity in these spaces
 - CL – artist residency where recycling is dropped off?
 - SC – we need to be open about the brief – making sure the environ is right for where artists can work – needs to be right environment where it is fair for everyone

- The arts aren't always successful but need to happen – we want artists to experiment
- Question about the plan being arts and culture, and although not obligatory pair, and separate entities, can't let go of culture.
- SC – work across other areas – eg planning area – creative workers are essential workers Key Worker – because of cohort in our city
- GdV – ATSI - wherever possible ATSI are part of discussion
- AC- we have a lot to learn from Aboriginal people and around leadership systems Need to open up to knowledge and listening and how we make space for this.
- SC – this meeting test veracity of priorities. Question to panel – who to target for focus groups – who we need to approach to make as relevant as possible – suggestions for formats. Age groups – invitation will go to advisory groups.
- JS – trying to be everything to everyone – to make things happen need to prioritise and focus on a few things.
- Eyal – p3 always contentious -make sure diversity decision is made by diverse groups – can see diversity in the groups and that council champions this.
- **Action:** follow up with collaborative priority document to feed more information into it – email and set up portal to collectively to work on.

Item 4 Grant program updates

The Creative and Engage Yarra 2022-2023 Grants are now open and the Annual Grants program will be taking applications in June. Further information will be given around assessment timelines and proposed panel assessment dates.

- Applications close Sunday 13 June
- Applications available for the panel Friday 18 June currently 8 started
- Access to Smarty Grants
- Short assessment form for each application + conflict of interest- will exclude you (not in meeting)
- Completion of online assessment Mon morning 28 June
- Assessment Meeting – TBC Tues 29 /Wed 30 /Thur 1 July /Fri
- What date/time/suits – online or not – tbc
- **Action** – confirm details for grant meeting with panel

Item 5 Working group report back

Both working groups have had their first meetings for the year.

- Visual Arts Panel :
- Overview of recent and current work – including range of public art projects, exhibitions
- Donations - Glenn Morgan's artwork Richmond Mural
- Extinction rebellion posters – project initially supported by Yarra grant
- Edinburgh Gardens plinth program - in 2021 three or four artists will be invited and paid to prepare concept designs for the Edinburgh Gardens Plinth commission. For the 2021 commission and 18-month exhibition, there is a focus on Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.
- Room to Create Panel – Simon Bedford
- Room to Create fund Connie Honaker (LMCF) spoke – 11 council funds – Yarra's unique

- New EOI's for licensees - Richmond MCHC – SEVENTH Gallery, Florence Peel- Future Tense
- Future Tense are proposing to a creative drop-in space at the Florence Peel Centre specifically for Aboriginal peoples experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and hardship within the City of Yarra, also known as the Collingwood/ Fitzroy Parkies. The initiative gives Parkies access to tools and resources to pursue creative endeavours.
- Upcoming EOI's for Artist-in-Residency x 3 - North Carlton childcare centre, Florence Peel, Studio 1 Richmond (old gtv9 site)
- Planning overview– Cremorne Precinct – A Chapman, Senior Strategic Planner spoke to panel.
- Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), in partnership with the City of Yarra, released the Cremorne Place Implementation Plan (PDP) to guide the development of Cremorne as a thriving global innovation precinct.
- The PDP will ensure the growth and development of this sector builds on the strengths that have made Cremorne such an attractive destination for startups and enterprises and will update, planning and built form controls in the precinct.

Item 6 Forward Agenda

An overview of meeting dates this year:

- July (date TBC) – Creative Yarra and Engage Yarra grant assessment meeting (no Councillors)
- Thursday 5 August – regular meeting
- September (date TBC) – Annual Grant assessments (no Councillors)
- Thursday 21 October – regular meeting

Item 7 Other items for discussion

- Action: panel members can send ideas about forward agenda if they are interested
- SC – Leaps and Bounds extended, Gertrude Street Projection Festival and Smith St Dreaming back for July and Council has invested a further \$250k into Leaps and Bounds
- Eyal – next Thurs online consult with Boite talking about musos and recovery – will send link.

Item 8 Next regular panel meeting Thursday 5 August.

End of meeting