

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (YAARTS) MINUTES

6:00pm – 8:00pm 28 October 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 Claudia Nguyen, Simon Bedford, Eyal Chipkiewicz, Angela Conquet, Claire Leporati, Miranda Hill, Siu Chan, Brona Keenan, Chris Forwood (observing).

Apologies: Cr Gabrielle de Vietri

**Item 1 Acknowledgement of Country (Chair: Cr Nguyen)
Introductions**

Item 2 Confirmation of previous minutes.

- Minutes approved by committee

Item 3 Arts and Culture Strategy 2022-2026 first year actions discussion

- Actions are currently being established for year 1 of the Arts Plan (Jan- Dec 2022)
- Overview of process in which extra priority focussing on artists included
- Flexibility of strategy being broad, allowing for action plan to be brought to council each year and keep actions relevant
- Pandemic shifted what is valuable to organisations – shift from assets to people
- Priority 1 ATSI focus, continue from last strategy and new focus Priority 5 sustainable future – these two priorities set our strategy apart and show leadership.
- Priority 1 – panel members supported opportunities to engage in training around cultural competency
- Discussion about if we should only work with Wurundjeri creatives but this is too limiting, and we would like Wurundjeri creatives to have opportunities in other municipalities. Yarra celebrates and support more than just one group.
- Looking to include ATSI representation on YAARTS and pursuing this now. Also have the opportunity to second people on to sub-committees when specific advice required.
- Flagged second stage of audit project for plaques, place names etc. Captain Cook memorial stands out as a particular item to consider options.
- Yarra taking part in and funding Music Census survey
- Series of events for creatives to meet – community interest to do this post lockdown.
- Discussion around process for grant review next year. Review all arts grants together.
- Arts and Culture to undertake bench marking including state and federal funding and bring pre-amble report to panel and work with panel to progress.
- Arts and Culture to then develop options
- Will need to take a report to Council to endorse any changes.

- Suggestion to survey past recipients, and also people who have been unsuccessful and bring to the panel process.
- Opportunity to see what groups Yarra does/doesn't support
- Need to make sure criteria is right – Yarra has high end innovation but also more grass roots community projects.
- Application process – use a lighter touch in proportion to the grant amount
- Panel member noted OzCo did not ask for detailed budget in recent program and found this very frustrating and questioned accountability
- Make applications easier for the writer to reduce this barrier
- One grant program suggested use of dot points and this was embraced

Item 4 Annual Grants 2023

- Panel discussed some issues and question around 2022 assessment
- Identified that classical music is a difficult area to support in current guidelines because it is based around reproduction - how do we support when we are looking for innovation? In OzCo music is a separate stream.
- Challenge for Yarra – massive cohort of arts organisation – skewed with contemporary music in Yarra
- Can potentially look at sub streams
- Innovation should not be the only lens
- Annual guidelines go to Council each year as part of initiation process, but need to meet directives eg council plan, strategies.
- Need to consider the two major arts precincts – Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Yards. These hubs have tenants and the hub themselves applying plus people who want to stage things in these locations.
- Question if funding is aligned with what Yarra is becoming and many artists/orgs have migrated to Yarra.
- Yarra doesn't offer organisational funding – offers project and infrastructure funding. Does that change?
- For 2023 there will be no additional funding (because of timing of grants review) so will need to work with funds we have but look at other changes.

Action – confirm end of year social gathering for all panels

Action – set up meeting 1 hr discuss how to rework 2023 Annual Grants scheme

Action – send email to panel regarding ideas for next year's schedule – eg meeting format, guest speakers, what to talk about, invite representatives from other areas in council

Item 5 Year in review

- This item skipped due to time restraints

Item 6 Working group update

- SB reported back on the last **Room to Create** panel meeting
- Reviewed the Room to Create Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and discussed the Plan and strategic goals of the program
- LMCF representative Catriona Graveson gave an update – we will be notified of fund interest at the end of October.
- BK reported back on last **Visual Arts Panel** meeting
- Three new acquisitions (including one donation) recommended for acquisition by the panel
- Selection of next Edinburgh Gardens Plinth project artist made – to be announced.
- Black Lives Matter mural at 12-16 Peel Street progressing – design by Ky-ya Nicholson Ward. Being painted now.

Item 7 Other items

- Cr Nguyen floated idea of panel members chairing meetings
- Was noted that this used to be the process (community member as chair) but organisational move was made to make Councillor rep the chair.
- Panel members also felt it was harder for them to join in when chairing.
- Panel did express willingness to be more present at council meetings where arts on the agenda.

Item 8 Forward meeting schedule.

Confirmation of upcoming meetings:

- Last regular meeting for YAARTS in 2021
- Potentially last meeting with current Councillor representatives
- Cr Nguyen paid recognition to the work done by the panel and thanked them for their contribution to supporting the arts in Yarra.

End of meeting