

MINUTES

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – YAARTS Special Meeting – Council Plan Consultation

Wednesday 5 February 2025

6.00-7:00pm Online

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

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 and to their Elders past, present and future.

Items		Purpose	Time	Personnel
1.	Introduction	Welcome to attendees Introduction from Cr Sarah McKenzie, new Councillor representative and Chair for the YAARTS committee	5	Cr Chair
2.	Introduction to the development of the Council Plan	What is the Council Plan, what is the process of development and opportunity for feedback?	10	Manager Library Arts and Events/Coordinator Arts Development
3.	Discussion	Discussion point 1. What are the opportunities that Yarra can focus on to support our creative sector and artists building on the last Council term matters noted below? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative spaces and affordability and accessibility• Diversity and inclusion within the sector and in audience engagement• Investment models (funding and beyond)	15	All
4.		Discussion point 2. What are the issues impacting the creative sector?	15	All
5.		Discussion point 3. What are the new or emerging areas of focus?	10	All
6.	Next steps	The process from here and timeline for the delivery of the Plan.	5	Manager Libraries Arts and Events/Coordinator Arts Development with Chair
		End of meeting		

1. Attendees:

Present: Clare Loporati, Simon Bedford, Cr Sarah McKenzie

Apologies: Miranda Hill, Vanessa Morris, Arika Waulu, Angela Conquet, Joel Stern

Attending: Vicky Guglielmo (Manager Libraries Arts and Venues), Brona Keenan (Coordinator Arts & Culture)

2. Introduction to the development of the Council Plan

Overview of process provided to committee.

3 – 5. Discussion points

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- Creative Spaces
- Amazed and inspired to see the way artists are using spaces and how council is facilitating opportunities for spaces being activated. It's exciting to see the work that is happening.
- Creative spaces for working and for living - as Yarra changes, what are the opportunities for council to influence spaces for artists.
- Council can play a role as broker in delivering temporary private developer spaces to creatives.
- How can council make its own spaces more accessible for diverse range of creative uses – what are the opportunities for discounted and free use.
- It's important for people to make art where they are.
- Different types of spaces are needed, short term and long term. Long term spaces can place a lot of pressure on creatives - what support can council provide?
- Creative Investment
- Resourcing needs to keep pace with growth. As creative hubs develop in Yarra (recent establishment of Collingwood Yards and future establishment of Cremorne site), how will council resource supporting these activations and increased needs?
- Provide tiered opportunities for support for diversity of creatives and so individual artists and creative hubs are not in competition.
- Arts grants programs are in demand – this is demonstrated through volume of applications and consistent submissions eg Small Project Grant program (responsive) is always expended early
- Artist development investment - there is a desire from the creative community to value and support development opportunities without always attaching to a project outcome.
- The Fellowship Grant (single annual grant of \$10k) is to support artists with their development and everyday practice - it received 39 and 23 applications respectively for 2024 and 2025 grant round.
- Council needs to continue to invest in commissioning, exhibitions in library spaces, plinth program Edinburgh Gardens – they provide direct investment in artists and platform artists to the community.

6. Next steps

- Process for Council Plan consultation outlined

ACTION: officer to email panel, provide update from meeting and invite further feedback from panel members.

End of meeting: 7:00pm