

MINUTES

YARRA ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – YAARTS

Wednesday 26 February 2025

6:00pm- 7:30pm

Wurundjeri Room, Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford

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 and introduction	5	Cr Chair
2.	Confirmation of previous minutes	Confirmation of previous minutes and actions.	5	All
3.	Collection Policy	<p>The Collection Policy is being refreshed. This is an opportunity for YAARTS to provide feedback on current and future state of the policy.</p> <p>Three questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of current policy: what are the strengths? what are the gaps and issues?Future focus – what should the policy reflect in the next 5 years?	45	Visual Arts Officer/All
4.	Significant commission projects	<p>Inform committee of two major public realm commissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vietnamese 50th anniversary commemorative markerLGBTIQA+ memorial	15	Coordinator Arts Development/Visual Arts Officer
5.	Advocacy	Inform committee of current advocacy work through Council's submission to the Inquiry into Cultural and Creative Industries.	10	Manager Libraries Arts and Events
6.	Working Group updates	<p>Updates from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Visual Arts PanelRoom to Create Panel	5	Working group representative/Coordinator Arts Development
7.	Next meeting	Agenda items for next meeting. The current YAARTS committee will sunset on 30 June 2025. This will be the final meeting of the committee.	5	Coordinator Arts Development/All
		End of meeting		

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Item 1

- Present: Cr McKenzie, Simon Bedford, Angela Conquet
- Apologies: Vanessa Morrison, Clare Leporati, Joel Stern, Arika Waulu, Miranda Hill
- Attending: Vicky Guglielmo, Grace Longato, Brona Keenan

Item 2

- Minutes from previous regular YAARTS meeting and special Council Plan consultation meeting accepted

Item 3

- Visual Arts Officer provided presentation on the Collection and current Collection Policy
- Question as to whether Collection can acquire more current works eg installations and noted that this is within collecting scope but not a focus
- There could be priorities in building Collection eg. First Nations (noting this is a priority in current Policy) and works that build on the Collection and address gaps.
- What are opportunities for engaging non-Yarra buildings to house Collection works
- People aren't coming to town halls as they once did – what are opportunities for opening town halls to give community access to these spaces that aren't generally open and to access the Collection
- Ideas of accessing town halls could be history tours, night tours
- Opportunities to target groups such as school groups
- Richmond foyer/Collingwood Foyer
- Theme of access – how does policy allow access to provide opportunities to celebrate the Collection in these spaces
- Donations – work to be done around donating to the Collection – letting people know about how to do this.
- Discussion of public art commissions generated by council which become part of Collection and the idea that these may be internal commissions and the need for integration.
- Access - more digitization – explore opportunities to expand digital interpretation eg 3d renders to access works online for works that are harder to move or not accessible.
- Or could be a Collection walkthrough video (not 3d), virtual room spaces
- Activate the Collection through cross artform programming – people interpreting elements of the Collection through a different artform
- Explore ways to amplify program with existing influence
- Policy is currently fit for purpose and is being utilised to respond to issues
- Example of photographs at RTH (which document community) a good example of how the Collection works/display can provide of inclusivity
- ACTION – Grace to contact all YAARTS members and provide opportunity to give further feedback and comments on the Collection Policy.

Item 4

- Update on Vietnamese 50th Anniversary commemorative marker
- Significant commission brought forward to council by community
- Richmond recognised as the first settlement for Vietnamese community
- Working with Vietnamese community to form brief, select artist/design for marker
- Council budget \$350k to delivering the marker in 2026
- LGBTIQA+ memorial – Expressions of Interest for artists open now
- Concept originated from community member, through Civic Recognitions Policy
- Yarra noted as a strong connecting location for LGBTIQA+ community
- In designing the project it has been important to consider the safety of artist/artists in the project

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- **Item 5**
- Council had provided a submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the Cultural and Creative Industries in Victoria.
- Yarra has been asked to speak to the submission 27/2/2025
- Key areas of focus include: artist pay/equity lens/affordability of spaces to practice and live/fit for purpose spaces/ government to look at internal collaboration with other departments/three tiers of government working together
- **Item 6.**
- VAP meeting (September 2024)- panel consulted on next Public Art Policy
- Meeting noted new commissions: 50th anniversary of Vietnamese community settlement in Richmond monument and LGBTIAQ+ memorial
- Uncle Archie and Aunty Ruby sculpture commission: landscaping in progress with launch scheduled sometime after caretaker period
- Peel Street Projection currently screening: Tyrown Waigana
- Edinburgh Gardens Plinth Program: Yandell Walton's work will be installed October
- Exhibition Program: EOIs for 2025 close 13 September 2024
- Room to Create meeting – May 2024 – assessment of grant applications for the RTC Charitable Fund (Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation) grants
- Recommendation made to the LMCF board (as per process) to provide two grants: Dancehouse \$11,909 and Agency \$10,459
- **Item 7**
- Committees are being reviewed by council to ensure committees are meeting needs and all current committees dissolve 30 June 2025
- Recruitment of new panels to be held. Details TBC

Meeting ends 7:37pm