

Confirmed Meeting Minutes

Date: 29 September 2020	Time: 5.30pm – 7.30pm	Venue: via Zoom
Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA.		

1 Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Committee Members present:

Cr Carol Duncan	– Chairperson
Jenny Moody	– Department of Education
Nick Rendell	– Office of Sport
Alissa Jones	– Committee Facilitator
Helen Payne	– Committee Secretary
Michelle Frazer	– Community Representative
Chris Dunstan	– Community Representative

1.2 Apologies

Cr Kath Elliott	- Councillor
Cr Andrea Rufo	– Deputy Chairperson
Dr Ann Hardy	– University of Newcastle (UoN)
Katherine McLean	– Community Representative

1.3 Attendees

Matt Endacott	- Senior Consultant Urban Renewal & Engagement AECOM
Petria Jukes	– Acting Manager Community Strategy & Innovation
Zephie Cerny	– Octapod
Lynn Duffy	- Manager Parks and Recreation
Delia O’Hara	– Manager Civic Services
Leonie Wallace	- Manager Civic Theatre
Lauretta Morton	- Director Newcastle Art Gallery
Suzie Gately	– Manager Libraries and Learning
Alex Mills	- Manager Libraries Community Programs & Partnerships
Nick Grinpuke	- Youth Engagement Facilitator, Newcastle Libraries
Kelsey Gray	- Youth Council Vice Chair and SDG Coordinator

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Actions arising

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held 7 July 2020 confirmed.

2.2 Action updates

Meeting Date	Item	Action	Update	Status
7 July 2020	Cultural Strategy 2016-2019	Seek further advice on programs and objectives and seek more advice to be ascertained for input.	A significant review of objectives and discussions have occurred with Community Strategy and Innovation (CSI) on incorporating the elements on the Cultural Strategy.	Ongoing

7 July 2020	Develop a new Public Art Policy	A commitment has been given to bring a report from the Public Art Reference Group to Council on drafting a Public Art Policy and Framework to consider Public Art on DA's.	Report from PARG to be tabled to Council 27/10/2020.	Ongoing
29 September 2020	Establish a Working Party to discuss broader cultural precinct in the CBD.			

3 Victoria Theatre Project, Art Gallery Foundation Board and Public space planning

3.1 The Committee received a presentation from Matt Endacott and noted the following during discussion:

3.1.1 Victoria Theatre Project update

- Victoria Theatre (recently DA approved) is in the heart of the city's revitalised East End, adjacent to the \$700m+ Iris Capital development and reopened would have 950 seats.
- It's the oldest purpose-built theatre in NSW.
- A reinvigorated Victoria Theatre could be a multi-purpose live performance facility and a much-needed centre for functions and events, meeting the demand for more contemporary music, comedy and entertainment in the Hunter as well as creating a pathway of stepped sized venues for artists, acts and producers and not compete directly with existing live performance venues.
- The economic benefit could be greater than \$34M direct benefit (within 3 years of construction) and \$16M indirect benefit, filling a gap in the market and complementing the Civic and other function spaces.
- If funding was secured it would take 24 months to complete.

3.1.2 Expanding Newcastle Art Gallery (NAG)

- NAG was Australia's first purpose-built regional Art Gallery opened in 1977 and has a nationally recognised collection of over 7,000 works is currently valued at more than \$115M.
- Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation (NAGF) is an independent non-profit organisation and a registered charity which exists to provide philanthropic support for NAG. The Gallery is owned and operated by the City of Newcastle.
- NAGF has made a \$10M in principal pledge to the expansion which AG Expansion would create an economic stimulus and jobs, tourism value, public amenity and improved visitor experience.

3.1.3 Public space planning and linkages to culture and the city's urban fabric

- City planning for the Arts & Cultural sector should consider entry points to capture nationally significant arts and entertainment precincts and maximise impact of investments such as an expanded Art Gallery and the Victoria Theatre. Creating an aesthetic area with Civic Park, City Library, City Hall, The Conservatorium, UoN, Watt Space Gallery and Newcastle Museum would be ideal from a Master planning perspective.
- Two 5-star hotels (Crystalbrook Kingsley adjacent to the Civic, QT adjacent to Victoria) will also contribute heavily to this space.

- By joining cultural institutions more promotion and consistency of offering is achieved for city visitors.
- The Community and Cultural Advisory Committee was established to engage on ideas and concepts exactly like these.
- Activation concepts such as lighting in Civic Park has been good and Working Parties are the best way to establish ongoing concept ideas.
Action: Establish a Working Party to discuss broader cultural precinct in the CBD
- Civic Services now offer an inhouse ticketing solution which may be able to support other institutions.

4 Newcastle Youth Council Update

4.1 The Committee received a presentation from Nick Grinpukel and Kelsey Gray and noted that:

- Newcastle Youth Council (NYC) is made up of 15 to 25 year olds and up to three Councillors advocating for youth issues and engaging young people in the community.
- On 25 September each year Sustainable Development Goal events are held around the world to celebrate and unite. NYC had an active role in 2018 as well as hosting their first Youth Mock Council (YMC) event.
- A Youth Week launch party was held in Wallsend Library during 2019 with a smoking ceremony by Awabakal elder Uncle Bill. It also incorporated a live music event at City Library that ran until 11pm with four incredible youth bands.
- YMC 2019 tripled attendance numbers from the previous year, involving high school students in workshops with Councillors and finished with a final Mock Council Session in the Council chambers with motions presented to Councillor Winney-Baartz and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Nelmes.
- The pandemic has had an effect on YMC with the last major event in October 2019 being a youth street festival showcasing young people working on projects that contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- 2020 has seen online programming with CIFAL Newcastle and Committees such as the COVID recovery City Taskforce and the Hunter SDG Taskforce.
- Alex Mills advised 4892 participants engaged in Programs that have been largely 'youth led' in their development & delivery.
- Cr Duncan advised how important youth engagement is with Local Government where they can come in, engage and influence.
- Laretta Morton advised the NAG have six wonderful young people working who could collaborate with YMC.

5 Social Infrastructure Strategy (SIS)

5.1 The Committee received a presentation from Petria Jukes and noted that:

- An LMM tabled at the Ordinary Council meeting on 25/06/2019 resolved to develop a Social Infrastructure Strategy (SIS) that provides for the funding, planning and delivery of social infrastructure in a strategic and coordinated way particularly in the context of a growing and increasingly diverse population.
- The SIS will provide the overarching framework for all of CN's social infrastructure across the Newcastle Local Government Area.
- The SIS project is in an evidence gathering and consultation phase looking at having a draft strategy ready in March 2021 with extensive engagement starting later this year.
- Alissa Jones thanked Petria for coming along tonight and welcomed ongoing updates on the SIS to the CCAC Agenda.

6 Strategic Sports Plan

6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Lynn Duffy and noted that:

- The draft Strategic Sports Plan (SSP) will address future demand, and inform the ongoing supply, maintenance and upgrade of sporting infrastructure considering current and future needs of the community.
- The SSP is based on 13 primary field and court sports and look at sports trends, demand vs supply, facility needs, planning for western growth corridor and opportunities for conversion to recreation park.
- Outdoor spaces became more important during COVID-19 for the wellbeing of the community and the SSP links to Newcastle 2030 to be a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.
- Engagement on the SSP was extensive and in September the consultants Otium discussed findings in a Preliminary Directions Report.
- The draft SSP in on public exhibition for 42 days finishing at 5.00pm on 7 October 2020.
- A report will be tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting in November for adoption.
- Nick Rendell congratulated CN. The Office of Sport look after 23 Local Government Areas and advised it is great to identify facilities that can be upgraded and facilities that could be reutilised for other recreational facilities.

7 Digital Programming and Civic innovation during COVID-19

7.1 The Committee received a presentation from Delia O'Hara and Leonie Wallace and noted that:

- There was a significant impact from COVID-19 on the City Hall and Civic Theatre venues with theatre companies cancelling seasons and tours as well as venues temporarily closing. In the broader Arts and Cultural sector there was widespread loss of jobs with cancellations and postponements of performances.
- The Civic Services team refocussed their team objectives and offered local product with an ability to create memorable experiences for the community.
- Consideration was given to Public Health Order practicalities whilst practicing and reviewing the new COVID Safe procedures.
- The Civic Comedy Club was one of the successful local offering with six sold out shows and 151 dinners pre-ordered through the new system.

8 General Business

8.1 Development of an 'arts trail'

Zephie Cerny has ideas for an 'arts trail'. The Arts Precinct will have a lot of benefits to Tourism especially when cruising returns. Communicating with all LGA's to make the Hunter an exciting art area to visit.

8.2 New Annual Event

A reminder of the invitation to CN's New Annual Event Friday 2 October 7pm – 9pm at the Civic Theatre.

8.3 Pin the City's Street Art

The *Pin the City's Art* project evolved in Spring 2018 aiming to capture data and images on all forms of Art on the city streets to preserve temporal works documenting the City's intangible cultural heritage and urban landscape.

As an outcome of the project Newcastle Libraries have developed a permanent digital archive to document public art across the city and create an access point and gateway for both actual and virtual visitors.

The interactive map is now live [online](#). Each artwork has been catalogued with background information. Pin the City's Art reopens for contributions on 1 October for two weeks.

9 Closing – the meeting closed at 7.30pm

9.1 Future Meeting dates:
Monday 2 November 2020
Tuesday 2 February 2021
Tuesday 2 March 2021