

Confirmed Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 May 2021	Time: 5.15pm – 6.30pm	Venue: City Hall Chambers
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
Alissa Jones	– Committee Facilitator
Helen Payne	– Committee Secretary
Jenny Moody	– Department of Education
Dr Ann Hardy	– University of Newcastle (UoN)
Nick Rendell	– Office of Sport
Michelle Frazer	– Community Representative

1.2 Apologies

Lord Mayor	
Cr Andrea Rufo	– Deputy Chairperson
Cr Kath Elliott	-- Councillor
Chris Dunstan	– Community Representative
Katherine McLean	– Community Representative
Leonie Wallace	– Manager Civic Theatre
Lauretta Morton	– Director Art Gallery

1.3 Attendees

Matt Endacott	– Senior Consultant
Zephie Cerny	– Octapod
Delia O'Hara	– Manager Civic Services
Julie Baird	– Director Museum
Suzie Gately	– Manager Libraries and Learning
Lynn Duffy	– Manager Parks & Recreation
Claire Williams	– Newcastle Theatre Co Inc
Liane Morris	– Newcastle Fringe Festival
Phil Aughey	– Newcastle Fringe Festival
Shane Brandson	– Oz Theatrics
Sally Thompson	– The Creative Space

2 Acknowledgement of Country

- 2.1 Councillor Duncan acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

3 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- 3.1 There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Actions arising

4.1 Minutes of the meeting held 2 February 2021 confirmed.

4.2 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. The Cultural Strategy will be replaced by the Cultural Precinct Plan once adopted by Council. It is anticipated that this work will be presented to the elected Council in September/October 2021.

5 Newcastle Theatre Company Co

5.1 A Briefing was provided to the Committee on Newcastle Theatre Company (NTC). NTC have been established since 1957 and are the largest independent theatre company in the region with 200 members and 10,000 visitors each year. NTC have strategic partnerships in place with Opera Hunter, CONDA, Tamburlaine Organic Wine, Solvere, Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise, Principle Project Management, Wattyl and Jo Michel Consulting. NTC thanked Councillor Andrea Rufo for his assistance in NTC gaining a charity exemption from the general rates levy with an application being approved for \$15,000 for rate relief. President Claire Williams briefed the Committee on behalf of NTC and advised the Committee of the restoration work that was completed from a \$192,000 grant from the NSW State Government.

6 Newcastle Fringe Festival

6.1 A Briefing was provided to the Committee on Fringe Festivals. The fringe festival concept started in Edinburgh in 1947 as an open access festival where anyone could perform with limited censorship meaning artists could perform in whatever way they liked with no restraints.

The Newcastle Fringe Festival (NFF) was founded by Phillip Aughey in 2016 and local artists see the Fringe as a valuable concept. Liane Morris also briefed the Committee on how a Fringe Festival has a different personality to other festivals and despite challenges during Covid could still be live streamed to many countries and audiences worldwide.

7 Newcastle Theatre Industry Snapshot

7.1 A Briefing was provided to the Committee from the President of Newcastle Theatre association Shane Brandson on his PhD which focuses on the Newcastle Theatre industry (NTI). The PhD included the development of an Ecology Model (economic capita cultural, social and symbolic) for NTI that encompassed all the locally produced over a sample period of time. The PhD Research style was Ethnographic and referred to the 2018/19 year which saw production of 118 shows from 48 local Theatre Companies and summarised audience behaviour and local economic activity and attendance. Cr Duncan discussed the importance of the Newcastle Theatre Industry and the Cultural Precinct Planning at the Councillor Strategic Workshop in January 2021.

8 General Business

- 8.1 An update was given from Mcilvenie Consulting to advise the committee on the status of the work to date on the Cultural Precinct Plan. An Economic Assessment for the Cultural Precinct Business Case has been completed with work currently underway on a Precinct Masterplan. Further updates will continue to be provided at the next meeting. The focus of the Cultural Precinct Plan is to ensure facilities, institutions and key cultural assets within the city complimenting each other and surrounding small business. The Plan is to achieve a distinct idea of what Newcastle is as a cultural destination.
- 8.2 An update was given by Cr Duncan on the recent 'New Move' program which was launched in March 2021 as an initiative to attract people with new skills to stimulate new economic activities by relocating and investing in Newcastle. Over 500 applications were received for the program with the successful recipients receiving a \$10,000 grant that must be spent in the Local Government Area. The successful applicants will also commit to working within the community to develop local skills and inspire new ways of thinking to create future economic opportunities.
- 8.3 An update was given from Zephie Cerny on Octapod and TINA
- TINA will be held in October 2021 as part of New Annual.
 - Octapod are going through a redesign to be discussed at end of month. A great event at Museum was recently held including an aboriginal smoking ceremony with workshops have been very successful.
- 8.4 Grants and Sponsorships funding opportunities now open closing 31 May 2021. Further information is available <https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorships>.

9 Annual Performance Review to Council

- 9.1 Endorsed

10 Closing

- 10.1 The meeting closed at 6.30pm.
10.2 Next meeting Tuesday 3 August 2021