



northern
beaches
council

Community & Belonging
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held on:

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020

Minutes of the Community and Belonging

Strategic Reference Group

held on Wednesday 13 May 2020

Commencing at 6:04pm

ATTENDANCE: (by remote audio visual link):

Committee Members

Cr Kylie Ferguson (Chair)	
Cr Candy Bingham	
Cr Penny Philpott	
Cr Sarah Grattan	
Tamzin Lee	Community Representative, Arts, Culture & Youth
Roslyn Marsh	Avalon Preservation Association, Arts & Culture
Simon Moriarty	Community Representative, Curl Curl Ward
Michelle Povah	Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency
Julie Williams	Community Representative - Narrabeen Ward
Samuel Wilkins	Community Representative - Forest Ward, Youth, Arts & Culture
Cathy Hockey	Community Representative, Disability
Dan Giles	Easylink
Margaret Shonk	Community representative - Manly Ward, Mental Health
Justene Gordon	Burdekin Association

Council Officer Contacts

David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Robert van den Blink	Manager Youth and Community Development
Josephine Bennett	Manager Arts and Culture
Ximena Von Oven	Governance Officer

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

APOLOGY

Cr Ferguson / Cr Bingham

Apologies were received from Diane Robbins.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Ferguson / R Marsh

- 3.1 Dan Giles declared an interest in relation to item 6.1 – Community Grants Program 2020/21 and chose to remain in the meeting and participated in the discussion on this item. The reason provided by Mr Giles was:

"I am the General Manager of an organisation intending on applying for funding under the Community Grants Program 2020/21. Interest is non pecuniary as Agenda item share is for information only and based on publicly available knowledge."

- 3.2 Justene Gordon declared an interest in relation to item 6.1 – Community Grants Program 2020/21 and chose to remain in the meeting and participated in the discussion on this item. The reason provided by Ms Gordon was:

"The organisation I work for, Burdekin Association] will be applying for a grant."

- 3.3 Sam Wilkins declared an interest in relation to item 6.1 – Community Grants Program 2020/21 and chose to remain in the meeting and participated in the discussion on this item. The reason provided by Mr Wilkins was:

"Myself or organisations that I am associated with may be applying for a grant."

- 3.4 Cathy Hockey declared an interest in relation to item 6.2 – Arts and Culture Update and chose to remain in the meeting and participated in the discussion on this item. The reason provided by Ms Hockey was:

"As an artist I will probably submit an entry onto the Postcards from Home prize."

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- 4.1 **MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2020**

R Marsh / S Moriarty

That the Minutes of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held 12 February 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

An update on the following topics was provided

- Creative Space in Avalon and Mona Vale
- Volunteering Program

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2020/21

NOTE: D Giles, J Gordon and S Wilkins declare an interest in this item.

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

K Walshe, Executive Manager Community Arts and Culture and R van den Blink Manager Youth and Community Development provided an update on this item. The following points were highlighted:

- Community Grants Program 2020/21 objective is to support projects and initiatives that deliver direct benefit to the local people, communities and environment of the Northern Beaches LGA.
- The Community Grants Program 2020/21 has been split into two streams: Art & Creativity and Community Development. The funding total is \$240,000 and applicants can apply for grants up to \$10,000. An Environment Grants stream has been added with an allocation of \$50,000.
- In response to the COVID 19 pandemic adjustments have been made to the Community Grants Program 2020/21 in order to support the applicants.
- Representatives from the Community and Belonging SRG have been encouraged to apply to be members of the Community Development Grants Assessment Panel (two member positions available) and the Arts and Creativity Grants Assessment Panel (one member position available)

Timeline

- Applications for the Community Grant Programs 2020/21 close on 30 June 2020.
- Assessment of applications – first 3 weeks of July.
- Report with recommendations will be presented at the September Council meeting and funds will be dispensed to successful grant recipients in early October 2020.

Items discussed

Questions were raised regarding the current policy on repeat projects. In response, community members are encouraged to apply for a grant. Applications will be assessed by a panel taken in consideration different criteria. The fact that an applicant applied for a grant the previous year doesn't mean that the application will be excluded from the process. The panel will assess all the applications and the outcome will be based on the quality on the application and how it addresses the criteria.

ACTION

That members nominate for the Community Development and Arts and Creativity Grants

Assessment Panels by email to communitydevelopment@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Friday 29 May 2020.

6.2 ARTS AND CULTURE UPDATE

NOTE: C Hockey declared an interest in this item.

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

J Bennett, Manager Arts and Culture provided a presentation on this item. As a result of COVID 19 Council has prepared a range of initiatives to support local arts and cultural sector. This short and long term initiatives will support art making, creative and professional development across all art forms. The following points were highlighted:

Arts and Cultural Initiatives in response to COVID 19

- A proposal under consideration is short term support for local artists and organisations including small grants for up to \$3000 for individual artists or small arts organisations/groups. The intention of these grants will be for the digital presentation of works and community programs.
- Public art commissions – proposed public art works along the Coast Walk (Aboriginal Art and Storytelling Project, Robert Dunn Reserve, Mackillop Park) and St David Avenue Park will continue to be commissioned by Council. This provides employment to artists and a range of associated subcontractors and specialists like engineers, tradespeople, fabricators and landscapers.
- Arts and Culture Programs – Manly Art Gallery and Museum (MAG&M) has developed MAG&M online and MAG&M windows. Instagram and Facebook feeds have also been developed to engage the community and continue with the gallery's program of exhibition.
- The 2020 Art Prize will be offered online as "Postcards from Home". Artists and designers will be invited to submit digital artwork that explores the concept of home during COVID 19 in a 2d postcard size. An online exhibition will take place from late July to September 2020 and postcards packs of the winners will also be available for sale online.
- Communication and local engagement. Council's website has been updated to provide the local arts and culture community with a curated list of resources, grants and opportunities. Regular updates will be provided through the Creative News E-newsletter and social media.

Implementation of Connected through Creativity 2029 – Culture Audit Project:

- The Culture Audit project is based on a Canadian model which has adapted to suit the Northern Beaches community.
- The objective of this project is to build a deeper understanding of the Northern Beaches cultural resources to identify barriers, and understand how to build capacity and sustainability across the sector. This project will include desktop research, setting up of an internal cross-Council project working group, development of a cultural resources framework and data analysis. The Culture Audit will be completed by December 2020. The final report will be presented to Council for endorsement.

Items discussed

- The Culture Audit Framework was discussed with the group.
- The "Postcards from Home" prize is restricted to 2D art.

- Information about “Postcards from Home” prize and how to apply and will be sent out in the Community Arts newsletter, in the Council’s website and social media campaign.
- Information about how Northern Beaches Council is supporting local businesses can be find in the below link:
<https://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/local-business-support>
- Members discussed the possibility of extending the grants to the artists of the music sector.

ACTIONS

- That The Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group provide feedback and identify other opportunities for partnerships and collaborations for the post-pandemic recovery and rebuilding phases.
- Circulate the Cultural and Creative Sector Data to R Marsh.

6.3 COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING AND POST COVID-19

NOTE: Cr Grattan left the meeting at 7:32 pm

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

Cr Ferguson congratulated Council staff and Chief Executive Team for their good work during the current CODIV 19 pandemic.

K Walshe, presented on this topic. A Community Care Package has been implemented to mitigate the impacts of COVID 19 on the local economy and community.

Key features of the Community Care Package are

1. Measures to maintain social connection for the community
 - Implementation of the “Hello Neighbour” campaign to stay connected
 - Library Service initiatives for example Library 2U, promotion of library membership and library material on-line available through the library website.
 - Increased level of content available to customers on ePlatforms
 - Promote volunteer opportunities
 - Distribute information via Northern Beaches Council’s networks and inter-agencies
2. Modified delivery of essential Council services
 - Meals on Wheels, Adolescent and Family Counselling Service and Children’s Services continued to be delivered by Council, with modifications.
3. Coordination of local community service organisations and agencies providing essential services and support to the community
 - An internal working party has been established to coordinate outreach to not for profit and charity organisations that provide direct services and support for the community. The working party has obtained information from the organisations in order to coordinate strategic responses to new emerging needs.

Items discussed

- SRG members highlighted that community members in different neighbourhoods have not received the "Hello Neighbour" card.
- Increase in demand for crisis accommodation for young people during the COVID pandemic.
- Support for homeless people during the pandemic
- Mental health issues

SRG members participated in a workshop in regard to community organisations and community engagement post COVID-19. The following questions were raised for discussion:

- Ideas for programs and projects to support community and cultural organisations?
- Ideas for programs and projects to encourage community engagement?
- What partnerships and collaborations may assist?

SRG members provided the following responses

- Cross industry coordination as community organisations will be competing amongst themselves to target the same space. It will be more efficient and effective for the organisations and community if it is centrally coordinated.
- A Council marketing campaign in partnership with arts and cultural organisations to promote events and exhibitions programs post COVID19 to help operate again.
- Promote current business/organisations in the area in regard to what services they can provide to support the community. Example: shared leaflet drops.
- Share links to what is on offer from all levels of Government. Example: Service NSW
- Is the library delivery going to go beyond the current climate or will it revert back to visiting the libraries?
- How can essential services connect in-person and meet in groups to continue to deliver services. Groups of young people are in need and some essential services organisations want to do group work. Can Council provide some guidelines on this topic.
- Is alcoholics anonymous groups running?
- During COVID 19 how do we connect offline?
- Could Council provide free space for creative people to work in?
- Twilight/nightlife plan/guidelines from Council to assist in reestablishment of past venues and establishment of new venues should be prioritised.
- Nightlife plan will help Council gather information on what is needed to help the industry as well as give venues clear guidelines on what they are able to do within Council's planning for the area.
- A "thank you" campaign for community and workers when we get through the COVID 19 pandemic. Example: Street Banners designed by local artists in various locations.
- Share positive stories of what's changed, how some relationships improved and highlight innovation etc.
- Program of buskers, dancers and musicians in a local community celebration festival.

- Council prepare and distribute a leaflet on Mental Tai Chi containing a list of warning signs for mental health issues and what to do, who to call and changes they can make in their lives to help themselves.
- Volunteering program week
- Small or private group activities or events (e.g. private theatre co / movie sittings for certain groups) to rebuild confidence in the community, especially with elderly.
- Community connection for good wellbeing.
- Support people with disabilities and illness who will find it difficult to integrate again.
- Allowing restaurants to put extra tables on the footpath without a fee
- More online meetings to organise and prepare what to do next after COVID 19
- Highlight innovation of some local businesses and how they have reinvented themselves during the COVID 19 pandemic
- Local popups to lift the not for profits, arts people up.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Update on COVID-19

SRG members congratulated Council staff for the good leadership and guidance provided through COVID-19 and encouraged Council to continue delivering the excellent work.

The link for updated information regarding COVID-19 is as follows:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.1	That members nominate for the Community Development and Arts and Creativity Grants Assessment Panels by email to communitydevelopment@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Friday 29 May 2020.	SRG members	29 May 2020
6.2	That the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group provide feedback and identify other opportunities for partnerships and collaborations for the post-pandemic recovery and rebuilding phases.	SRG members	Ongoing
6.2	Circulate the Cultural and Creative Sector Data to R Marsh.	K Walshe	

The meeting concluded at 8:00pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 8 pages numbered 1 to 8 of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2020 and confirmed on Wednesday 12 August.