

**Item No:** C0716 Item 10

**Subject:** MARRICKVILLE INDEPENDENT ARTIST GRANTS 2016

**File Ref:** 16/5187/81088.16

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### SUMMARY

Council is advised of applications received for the Independent Artists Grants Program 2016. Council received 20 applications requesting a total of \$98,704 and 10 projects are recommended for funding for a total of \$30,000.

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT Council endorses funding for the 10 applications as outlined in Attachment 1, totalling \$30,000 for the 2016 Independent Artist Grants Program.**

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### BACKGROUND

Marrickville Council's Independent Artist Grants Program provides financial support to emerging artists working in any art form who are seeking to maintain an independent art practice. In April 2010, Council resolved to re-allocate the funds from the existing Marrickville Cultural Festival Grants Program budget of \$30,000 to support local artists to mount events (Item C0410 Item 8 Meeting 04/10). This amount was increased by \$1,500 in 2013 to reflect CPI. In 2014 \$32,500 was available to this program. In the 2016 grant round the amount available for distribution was \$30,000. Since 2013, a priority area for the Independent Artist Grants has been set annually.

The key objectives of the Independent Artist Grants are to:

- encourage emerging artists to maintain an independent practice, exploring new ways of working in and across art forms;
- nurture art practices that may not be readily supported by other funding institutions for reasons such as falling outside of art form categories or being in the early stages of development;
- support activities which contribute to the development of the Marrickville arts and cultural community;
- encourage excellence in the content and delivery of arts and cultural activities;
- encourage participation by and engagement with local communities; and
- support the cultural diversity of the Marrickville LGA.

The Marrickville Independent Artist Grants Program for 2016 opened on Wednesday 27 April and closed on Wednesday 3 June 2016 at 5pm. The grants information sessions were held on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 May for prospective applicants in conjunction with the Marrickville Arts and Cultural Grants Program 2016. The grants and information sessions were promoted through advertisements in *The Inner West Courier*. They also featured in the Council Column, Marrickville Matters, on Council's website and notices were issued through networks such as Art Post and existing databases.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grants will be funded from the current Culture and Recreation Operating Budget 2016/17.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

External information about the program was provided through various media, Council officer support was available via telephone, email and face to face as required throughout the application period.

## CONCLUSION

Council received 20 applications requesting a total of \$98,704. One application from the Independent Artist Grants Program was moved to the Arts and Cultural Grants Program as it was deemed more suitable, and two Arts and Cultural Grants Program applications were moved to the Independent Artist Grants Program. After the internal transfers of grants, the number of applications assessed was 21 and the amount requested considered by the Independent Artist Grants assessment panel was \$90,697. The priority area for the 2016 Independent Artist Grants Program was makers in the community.

Applications were assessed by an expert panel comprising of Council's Acting Arts and Cultural Coordinator and Team Leader Community, Culture and Events and external experts Hugh McKid from Splinter Workshop and Clayton Ries from the Live Music Office. The assessment was consistent with the guidelines adopted by Councils including the following pre-determined criteria:

- projects showcase an innovative, thought provoking and high calibre creative or cultural approach;
- the capacity to deliver a well-planned project including concept, project, plan and experience;
- realistic budget, including all sources of project income;
- benefits to the Marrickville community and/or the artists professional development;
- previous assistance received by Council including grants and in-kind support in recent years; and;
- the merit of the application in comparison to the other applications.

Of the 21 grants assessed requesting \$90,697, 10 grants are recommended for funding to a level of \$30,000, as outlined in **Attachment 1**. Not all projects are recommended to receive the total amount requested; however, the selection panel believe the projects are still achievable within the funding amounts recommended.

The recommended projects represent a range of art forms including music, visual art, theatre, community events, film and physical theatre and are located in a range of locations around the Inner West LGA.

11 applications are not recommended for funding as outlined in **Attachment 2**. The reasons for which applications were not recommended include:

- the applications were not as strong as the recommended applications in one or more assessment criteria;
- applicants had received recent funding or in-kind support from Council;
- suggested outcomes did not strongly benefit the local community;
- the project is better suitable to the objectives of the Community Grants or Arts and Cultural Grants;
- the project is still viable without Council funding;
- the project did not take places within the LGA; and
- the application was ineligible due to project timing.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Independent Artist Grants 2016 - Recommended for Funding
2. Independent Artists Grants 2016 - Not Recommended for Funding

**ATTACHMENT 1: INDEPENDENT ARTIST GRANTS 2016 PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

The following projects are recommended for funding as they met the criteria and were considered the most beneficial.

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>Stories About Hope</b> Nadiezhdha Koroleva	Multimedia	August 2016 – March 2017 Former Marrickville LGA Newtown, Petersham, Marrickville	A multimedia art project featuring people of refugee background and their stories of integration in Australia.  Panel comments:  <i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i>  <i>A well-written application with strong connection to the criteria outlined; issues explored are very relevant to the area with considerable interest in the subject matter. A high probability of a quality delivery.</i>  <i>The project addresses Council's commitment to cultural diversity, community engagement and inclusion.</i>	\$4,979	\$3,141
<b>Queering Gardens</b> Anna McMahon	Visual Arts	2017, month tbc Marrickville	A residency and public program at Frontyard, Marrickville focussing on the role of gardens in Queer Culture, taking place after a research residency in Paris.  Panel comments:	\$5,000	\$1,450

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b><i>Hanging Gardens</i></b> Rowena Crowe	Installation	September 2016 Join the Dots Workshop Murrumbidgee	<p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The project features a series of public programs undertaken collaboratively with the local Queer community in partnership with Frontyard.</i></p> <p><i>The project addresses Council's commitment to cultural diversity, community engagement and inclusion.</i></p> <p><i>Hanging Garden is an installation using vintage jewellery moulds and recycled metal from a Murrumbidgee scrapyards.</i></p> <p><i>Panel comments:</i></p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>Along with an installation, the project features a work in progress hang and talk at The Dots Studio Gallery SWAMP. The event will engage local artists, residents and visitors to the area and will entertain and educate regarding waste reduction.</i></p>	\$1,400	\$1,400

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>Tammy and Kite</b> Imogen Gardam	Theatre	September 2016 Erskineville Town Hall	<p>The project supports Council's commitment to environmental sustainability and exhibits a strong connection to the focus of this year's grant round of makers in the community.</p> <p>A new work devised by female creatives exploring mental health in children with the aim of opening up a space for families to have conversations around these issues.</p> <p>Panel comments:   <i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The work focuses on a relevant and topical subject to be undertaken by a local theatre collective. The performance outcome will add to the vibrancy of the independent theatre sector.</i></p> <p><i>The project supports Council's role as a leading centre for the independent arts.</i></p>	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>Australia Street – Portraits from the Inner West</b>	Visual Arts	30 September 2016 Australia Street	<p>Australia Street is a unique series of photographs depicting locals who live and work on Australia Street in Sydney's Inner West. Portraits will be displayed in business</p>	\$5,000	\$3,000

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
Zahn Pithers		Newtown	<p>along Australia Street during September as part of Sydney's Fringe Festival 2016.</p> <p>Panel Comments:</p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The application is well-argued and the project has a strong connection to the focus of the 2016 grants – makers in the community. The project will activate local business and promote community engagement.</i></p>		
<b>House Hunters</b> Valentina Schulte	Visual Arts	December 2016 – June 2018 Think Negative Studio Marrickville	<p>A new experimental photographic and sculptural work.</p> <p>Panel comments:</p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The work supports independent arts practice through a mentorship in a local photographic studio and a series of workshops and will result in a new work.</i></p>	\$5,000	\$2,000

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding



Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>HeySorryGottaGoBye</b> Claudia Osborne	Multimedia Performance Art	September 2016 Sydney Fringe Festival Venue in local government area	<p>HeySorryGottaGoBye is the second show from emerging independent theatre-maker Claudia Osborne. A multi-sensory installation.</p> <p>Panel Comments:</p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The project to be performed at the Sydney Fringe in 2016 utilises multiple making opportunities and is designed – through a topical subject - to engage with a wide section of the community.</i></p> <p><i>The application is well-argued, has a detailed production schedule and has a strong connection to the focus of the 2016 grants – makers in the community.</i></p> <p><i>The project supports Council's role of supporting independent arts practice.</i></p>	\$4,500	\$4,500

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>Bodies Assemblies</b> Rhiannon Newton		May 2017 DUTI Studio Newtown	<p>A final stage development of 'Bodied Assemblies', shortlisted for the prestigious Dance Massive Festival in 2017.</p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p>Panel Comments:</p> <p><i>A strong application from an established and well respected practitioner in the contemporary dance sector. The artist lives locally and the work will further activate a local creative enterprise.</i></p> <p><i>The funding supports a presentation outcome at Dance Massive Festival in 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Attendance at the event will provide professional development for the artists and inform their work which will in turn inform other choreographic work in Marrickville.</i></p> <p><i>It will add to the vibrancy and quality of contemporary dance in the community and further enhance Marrickville's role as a leading centre for the independent arts.</i></p>	\$5,000	\$,5000

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding



Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>E-Quality Marriage</b> Anna Kwasner	Performance Art	May 2017 Kimbo Studios Petersham Parramatta Rd Leichhardt/ Petersham	<p>A performance / visual art project exploring marriage equality and quality, set among the bridal shops on Parramatta Road.</p> <p><i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>Topical subject matter, the project will be undertaken by established and experienced locally-based artists with significant community engagement. An inter-disciplinary work which will provide opportunities for further development of the artist's practice. The project will also activate shopfronts in Parramatta Rd.</i></p> <p><i>The project addresses Council's commitment to cultural diversity, community engagement and inclusion.</i></p>	\$3,720	\$3,720
<b>Modern Artifacts Makers Market</b> Emily Copp	Makers Market	17 December 2016 Marrickville Town Hall Marrickville	<p>A one day art and design market which will celebrate and showcase makers in our community.</p> <p>Panel Comments: <i>This application meets all of the eligibility and assessment criteria and is considered to</i></p>	\$4,789	\$4,789

Independent Artist Grants 2016 – Recommended For Funding

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description and Panel Comments	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
			<p><i>have greater merit than competing projects.</i></p> <p><i>The application is well-argued and the project has a strong connection to the priority focus of the 2016 grants. Workshops to be undertaken as part of the event will provide further skills development opportunities.</i></p>	\$40,388	\$30,000
<b>Totals:</b>				\$40,388	\$30,000

**ATTACHMENT 2: INDEPENDENT ARTIST GRANTS 2016 PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

The following projects are not recommended as they either did not meet the criteria or were deemed a lower calibre than other projects.

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b><i>Everything You Ever Wanted - research and development</i></b> Rachel Roberts	Theatre	3 November – 30 November 2016 Dulwich Hill and London	A new theatre project exploring diet culture and body image. <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$4,400	\$0
<b><i>Elliot Foxley – production of Elliot Foxley toys</i></b> Stavros Yiannoukas	Other	June 2012 – April 2017 Marrickville local council area	Elliot Foxley is an enhanced e-book for children. This grant is requested to produce Elliot Foxley toys to be sold/ given away. <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$5,000	\$0

Independent Artists Grants – Not Recommended For Funding 2016

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>Planets of Pain</b> Melissa Sunflower Trad	Visual Art	31 December 2017 St Peters	A video artwork with aerial footage of the local area overlaid with a video of paint spreading on landscape and faces, giving visual representation to the often invisible health issue of mental illness.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Untitled Book Project set in Marrickville</b> Lauren Sams	Literary Arts	July - December 2016 Dulwich Hill	A novel set in Marrickville.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Sounds from the Deep</b> Jeffrey Kessel	Performance Art	1 August 2016 Marrickville	Repair of Jeffrey the Lion costume and a solar-powered speaker system.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$1,000	\$0
<b>The KDP (King Dom Productions) 'Go Vegan' School Tour 2016</b>	Other	October 2016 Various local schools Local government area	The Go Vegan tour uses events and a tour to promote the vegan diet.	\$12,416	\$0

Independent Artists Grants – Not Recommended For Funding 2016

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
Dominic Ah Chong			<i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>		
<b>Postcards from the Wire</b> Jude Rabe	Theatre	1 - 25 November 2016 Red Rattler, Marrickville	A creative development of a new and original Australian work portraying the untold stories and truth of the voiceless and faceless souls who seek asylum on our shores.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit</i>	\$7,500	\$0
<b>Jan Cornell Songs - Record an EP</b> Jan Cornell	Music	15 September – 5 October 2016 Camden Studios, Enmore	Recording of an EP of songs and video clip by Newtown singer/ songwriter.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$975	\$0
<b>How I Saved the Black Rhino</b> Nathan Harrison	Theatre	2-18 November 2016 London Battersea	A period of creative development, research and networking in London for a new theatre project.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as other applications were considered to have a greater merit.</i>	\$4,500	\$0

Independent Artists Grants – Not Recommended For Funding 2016

Project Name Applicant	Art Form	Timing, Location, Suburb	Short Description	Funding Requested	Funding Allocated
<b>Keep Calling</b> Chelsea Ingram	Theatre	12 - 16 September 2016 Pact Theatre Erskineville	A play of family betrayals and the emotional debris it leaves in its wake.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as the applicant lives out the Marrickville local government area.</i>	\$4,000	\$0
<b>Cohesion - installation and textile creations</b> Rhiannon Hopley	Interdisciplinary	16 July 2016 – 17 March 2017	To be confirmed.  <i>This project is not recommended for funding as the applicant lives out the Marrickville local government area.</i>	\$5,000	\$0
<b>Totals:</b>				<b>\$54,791</b>	<b>\$0</b>