

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday 19 June 2024 6pm
Ashfield Civic Centre, Lev 5 Room 1

Present: Naomi Bower (Inner West Council), Happy Feraren, Ross Fenton, Adam Herron, Rhiannon Hopley, Hellen Morgan–Harris, Jan Preston, Tim Stackpool, Mark Williamson

Apologies: John Bell, Vuli Mkwanaenzi, Kathy Petrakis

Minutes from last meeting were confirmed: raised by Tim, seconded by Mark.

Time	Items for discussion
	<p>1. City talks/ creative spaces reflections</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Re: <i>CityTalks: Making Space for Culture</i> on 21 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim read out an article reflecting on the event for those who did not attend • The committee was supportive of ideas raised including the “bat phone” where creatives can call to speak to someone for emergency help • The Committee requested the following be minuted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee requests that Inner West Council collaborate with the City of Sydney and the state government on urgent issues raised at <i>CityTalks: Making Space for Culture</i>, including the importance of creative spaces and support to keep artists in spaces and in the industry. The Committee notes the Inner West has essential spaces for rehearsal, experimentation and production which may be of interest to the proposed Creative Land Trust. There are many other areas of potential collaboration for the Inner West arising from the City of Sydney’s <i>Draft Cultural Strategy</i>.” • The Committee notes that given the arts sector is a high priority for Council and is a larger sector than sports in terms of

employment, Council should consider the scale of their respective investments in these sectors. The Committee notes \$40m has been committed for Leichhardt Oval, (including \$10m from Inner West Council), and an equivalent investment in the arts would provide substantial benefits. The Committee suggests that the upgrade of Leichhardt Oval could include cultural uses for the Oval and facilities when not being used by sporting groups. The Committee also recommends that whenever new recreational facilities are being developed, consideration be given to cultural uses and impacts.

- The Committee also notes that the Communications campaigns for the local arts sector documented in Council’s Arts and Music Recovery Plan and Cultural Strategy have not progressed.

2. Info sheets brainstorm

Naomi initiated work on the idea of online “infosheets” and the Committee carried out a Brainstorming activity.

Who are you?

- Comedian looking to do a fundraising gig for cancer
- Creative space producer
- Event organiser
- Arts festival Director
- Multi-cultural Festival Organiser
- Writer looking to start a writer’s group
- Performing artist that leads a performance group
- School leaver wanting incubation opportunities
- Visual artist wanting to put on my first exhibition
- Dancer needing rehearsal space
- Composer wanting to collaborate with a director on a film
- Office work wanting career transition into tech crew
- Poet looking for open mic
- Arts trail operator
- Sculptor looking for a space to cast and weld
- Digital director wanting to screen a roving projection festival

<p>What are you looking for?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info about small scale events • Space for outdoor events • Space for a Battle of the Bands • Small meeting room available on Sundays • People to collaborate with • An exhibition space • Rehearsal space with a piano • 100-200 seat theatre with everything included such as lights • Information on how and where to do a festival • Secure space to build sets and props • Public liability insurance – can Council help • Place to store staging and build sets • A small cheap rehearsal space near public transport and parking
<p>What's the best place to start?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google search • Google maps • Networks • Chat GPT • Ask my friends • Rehearse in my living room
<p>What will help you progress your idea/ project?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do I need insurance? Does Council have it? • Advocacy • Legal advice • DA advice • Someone to talk to • A small grant or residency • A profit share arrangement with venues (no money out) • Mentor
<p>3. Special Entertainment Precincts update</p> <p>Naomi reported that the Inner West Planning Panel had approved the new Inner West Special Entertainment Precincts on May 30 with small amendments only and that this would be considered at an upcoming Council Meeting</p>	
<p>4. A.O.B.</p>	

	The Committee said it would be good to revisit the brainstorming exercise with more time
	Meeting closes