

Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday 31 July 2024 6pm
Ashfield Civic Centre, Lev 5 Room 1

Attendees:

Ross Fenton, Adam Herron, Rhiannon Hopley, Vuli Mkwanzani, Hellen Morgan-Harris, Kathy Petrakis, Jan Preston, Tim Stackpool, Mark Williamson

Apologies: John Bell.

Running Order

Previous meeting minutes were confirmed, raised by Tim and seconded by Mark.

Time	Items for discussion
6.00pm	<p>1. Creative Town Halls launch</p> <p>The Committee discussed the Creative Town Halls launch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee members that attended said they enjoyed the launch and the Town Hall looked and sounded great.• However,• It was also noted that the Town Hall was not a completely functional venue – the PA and lights were basic only• If used for theatre, the stage would need to be extended for theatre and more or larger change rooms• It was noted that if the event required sub/ bass sound, it would be distorted in the venue’s acoustics• The Committee noted that tech spec sheets should be available on the websites for each space along with floor plan <p>Creative Use of Council Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A general issue was raised with Council’s Town Halls being used for free and reduced-rent office spaces offered at Petersham Town Hall. These being positive on the one hand, but on the other could be damaging to the existing creative business in the Inner West that already offered rehearsal, performance and creative office spaces

- The point was made that by Council undercutting these creative operators they may put them out of business, which was not an outcome that the sector wanted
- It was raised that an approach could be to also list and advertise non-Council creative spaces in the Inner West. Naomi said that Council can't recommend services, but creativespaces.net.au does exist and maybe this could be used and promoted
- The potential role of the Inner West Creative Network was discussed

General discussion

- A concern was raised that the visual arts didn't benefit from initiatives such as the Sydney Fringe Festival because the visual arts are not ticketed
- There were concerns raised re artist experiences working with Sydney Fringe
- Kathy said that in amateur theatre even when no one is paid it is difficult to break even with ticketed events
- The role of advocacy for a basic wage was raised, pointing to examples like Scandinavia
- Other ideas included monetising the creative trails, a trail of opening nights/ creative nights, coupons to go to venues

2. City of Sydney Draft Cultural Strategy

- Naomi said that Council was preparing a submission to the City of Sydney's draft Cultural Strategy.
- Previous discussions on this matter by the Committee could be considered in the preparation of the draft

3. Info sheets and speed dating update

- Naomi presented the "I'm a Creative" sheet developed from the Committee's brainstorming session from for use on the website/ for navigation
- The Committee supported the design

4. Summary of the committee term and questions re next term

- Naomi said she would alert the Committee when further information is available about the next Committee Term.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Committee discussed whether Council could consider nominal fees for attendance, which is practice at the City of Sydney• The Committee was shown a draft Report, which had been pulled together by Rhiannon and Hellen. The Committee were grateful and supported the report. Naomi gathered feedback and further points which will be added to the report• The Committee and convenor discussed their positive experiences and appreciation of the Committee, with thanks extended to all, including the Chair and convenor
7.30pm	Meeting closed