

**ITEM 7. CITY OF SYDNEY CURATORIAL ADVISORY PANEL****FILE NO: X004135****SUMMARY**

The City of Sydney maintains a civic collection of furniture, furnishings, artworks, historical items and official gifts presented to the people of Sydney. The collection comprises over 3,000 items and is displayed in civic venues across the City of Sydney.

This report seeks Council approval of a revised Curatorial Policy, revised Terms of Reference for the Curatorial Advisory Panel, ratification of two new members of the Curatorial Advisory Panel, and approval of the temporary extension of one existing member of the Curatorial Advisory Panel outside the Terms of Reference, due to extenuating circumstances.

The Curatorial Advisory Panel (the Panel) and the Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection govern the management of this important collection. The Panel meets quarterly and provides advice and input to the curatorial program, particularly in areas of management of the collection and its development through acquisitions. A major initiative in 2015 was to define a collecting framework for Aboriginal art.

Terms of Reference for the Panel members were established in 2012. The Terms of Reference provide guidelines for the membership and operation of the Panel. These Terms of Reference have now been reviewed and are attached for adoption (deletions are marked with a ~~strike through~~ and additions are in ***bold italics***).

The revised Curatorial Advisory Panel Terms of Reference state at Item 3(c) that:

- two external panel members will be appointed on the recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer and ratified by Council; and
- external panel members are appointed as individuals to the Panel based on their expertise and skills.

The Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection, last adopted by Council on 14 September 2015, has been revised to reflect the provision of the Curatorial Advisory Panel Terms of Reference regarding the appointment of the two external Panel members.

The length of appointment for members of the Panel is for two years, with the option for reappointment for a further period of two years. The current external members have served on the Panel since 2012.

Given that two new external Panel members and a new Chair will shortly be appointed following the unexpected passing away of Councillor Kemmis, it is recommended that one existing Panel member remain on the Panel for a further two quarterly meetings for consistency during this transition period, noting that this is outside the Terms of Reference.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) adopt the revised Curatorial Advisory Panel Terms of Reference, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) adopt the revised Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (C) ratify the appointment of Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham and Dolla Merrillees as external members of the Curatorial Advisory Panel for a term of two years in line with the Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection; and
- (D) endorse the retention of current Panel member Ann Toy for six months given the extenuating circumstances and the appointment of a new Chair of the Panel.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Curatorial Advisory Panel Terms of Reference

**Attachment B:** Proposed Curatorial Advisory Panel Members – Biographies

**Attachment C:** Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection

**BACKGROUND**

1. The City of Sydney maintains a significant Civic Collection of furnishings, artworks, memorabilia and official gifts. The Civic Collection is currently managed by a professionally trained museum curator and an assistant curator.
2. In 2000, the Curatorial Advisory Panel (the Panel) was established to guide the management of the civic collection.
3. The Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection and its subsequent revisions, which have previously been adopted by Council, provides guidelines for the curatorial management of the entire Civic Collection.
4. Minor revisions have been made to both the Terms of Reference for the Panel and the Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection. These clarify and update minor procedural issues and bring the process of Panel member appointment into alignment with other City advisory panel processes.
5. The Curatorial Advisory Panel consists of:
  - (a) The Lord Mayor (or nominee);
  - (b) Chief Executive Officer (or nominee);
  - (c) Director City Life (or nominee);
  - (d) City Curator, City of Sydney Civic Collection; and
  - (e) two experts in the fields of art and historical display external to the organisation.
6. The existing members have served on the Panel since 2012. Under the Terms of Reference, members are appointed for a term of two years with the option to extend for a further two years.
7. New Panel members are now required to replace the existing members whose terms have now expired.
8. The appointment of the following Panel members are proposed for ratification by Council:
  - (a) Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham, Assistant Director and Head Curator at Artbank; and
  - (b) Dolla Merrillees, Director at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum).

**KEY IMPLICATIONS****Strategic Alignment – Sustainable Sydney 2030**

9. The adoption of the Curatorial Policy of the Civic Collection and establishment of the Curatorial Advisory Panel with Terms of Reference assists the City to achieve its aims as outlined in *Sustainable Sydney 2030*, in particular supporting a lively and engaging city centre (Direction 5), encouraging a cultural and creative city (Direction 7) and establishing effective governance and partnerships (Direction 10).

**Organisational Impact –**

10. The adoption of Terms of Reference provides clear guidance to assist the Curatorial Advisory Panel in the management of the City's Civic Collection and strengthens governance of the collection.

**Social / Cultural / Community**

11. The Terms of Reference will assist with the conservation of City of Sydney's history, highlighting the unique character and heritage of the city and enhancing the collection with the acquisition of appropriate pieces. The Policy, the Advisory Panel and the associated Terms of Reference support the development of a collection that preserves the tangible evidence of civic history and is available for the community's appreciation and interest.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

12. Fees for the Panel members and minor costs for this Panel are included in the draft 2016/2017 budget for the City Life division.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

13. The Curatorial Advisory Panel has met quarterly since December 2010.

**ANN HOBAN**

Director City Life

Margaret Betteridge, Curator, Civic Collection