

11 September 2023

At the conclusion of the Housing for All Committee

Cultural and Creative Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Grants and Sponsorship - Ad Hoc Grant - NSW LGBTIQA+ Local Government Seminar Series - ACON Health Limited**

Disclaimer, Terms and Guidelines for Speakers at Council Committees

As part of our democratic process, the City invites members of the community to speak directly to Councillors during Committee meetings about items on the agenda.

Webcast

In accordance with the *City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice*, Committee meetings are recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

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To enable the Committee to hear a wide range of views and concerns within the limited time available, we encourage people interested in speaking at Committee to:

1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10.00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are available at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Item 1.
Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Cultural and Creative Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 14 August 2023

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Grants and Sponsorship - Ad Hoc Grant - NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series - ACON Health Limited

File No: S117676

Summary

This report proposes that an ad hoc grant to ACON Health Limited for the NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series be approved by Council.

On 26 June 2023, a Lord Mayoral Minute was put to Council which resolved that Council agree in principle to support an LGBTIQ+ Local Government Summit which would be attended by community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies. Council also resolved to endorse ACON's proposal for a NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series and requested the Chief Executive Officer consider what support the City can provide.

Over recent years there has been an increase in hate crimes targeting LGBTIQ+ festivals and events held at local government venues across Australia. Extremists and fringe groups have started to target Drag Story Time events at council libraries in Sydney, Newcastle, Goulburn and in other regional centres across NSW. Performers and council workers have experienced harassment, intimidation, and hate speech, with many performances needing to be cancelled.

In response to these incidents, the Lord Mayor will host an LGBTIQ+ Summit for community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies. The summit will be held in late 2023 or early 2024 and will provide an opportunity to identify LGBTIQ+ community issues and concerns.

ACON has also proposed to host an online seminar series in early 2024, that will bring together representatives from NSW local government and LGBTIQ+ community organisations. The seminar series will be informed by consultation with key stakeholders in attendance at the Summit. The seminar series will provide practical assistance in delivering a coordinated response to address instances of LGBTIQ+ hatred, violence, and threats to safety. The seminar series will be designed to ensure council staff and LGBTIQ+ community organisations are equipped with the skills required to ensure ongoing safety and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ individuals, council staff, and stakeholders, when organising and participating in local community events.

This report recommends an ad-hoc grant of \$40,000 in cash funding to ACON for delivery of the NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series. The seminar series will be held online so that these issues are addressed in a timely manner and local governments and community organisations from across NSW are able to participate.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the 26 June 2023 Resolution of Council put forward via a Lord Mayor Minute, requesting the Chief Executive Officer consider what support the City can provide to ACON Health Limited for an NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit;
- (B) Council note that the Lord Mayor will host an LGBTIQ+ Summit for community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies. The summit will be held in late 2023 or early 2024 and will provide an opportunity to identify LGBTIQ+ community issues and concerns;
- (C) Council approve an ad-hoc grant of \$40,000 in cash funding for ACON Health Limited to deliver the NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series;
- (D) Council note that the grant amount is exclusive of GST;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the grant agreement with ACON Health Limited under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Lord Mayoral Minute - Proposal for a Statewide LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit

Background

1. Over recent years, LGBTIQ+ festivals and events have experienced significant growth and visibility across NSW. These festivals and events play an important role in fostering a sense of place and connection for LGBTIQ+ communities and people. Smaller local events, often run by councils, such as Drag Story Time, Trans Day of Visibility, International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, and Wear it Purple Day, are becoming increasingly important to support and raise awareness of the diversity in our communities.
2. There has been an increase in hate group attacks targeting LGBTIQ+ festivals and events held at local government venues across Australia. Extremists and fringe groups have started to target Drag Story Time events at council libraries in Sydney, Newcastle, Goulburn and in other regional centres across NSW. Performers and council workers have experienced harassment, intimidation, hate speech, with many performances needing to be cancelled.
3. On 26 June 2023, a Lord Mayoral Minute was put to Council which resolved that Council agree in principle to support an LGBTIQ+ Local Government Summit which would be attended by community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies. Council also resolved to endorse ACON's proposal for an NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series and requested the Chief Executive Officer consider what support the City can provide.
4. In response to these incidents, the Lord Mayor will host an LGBTIQ+ Summit for community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies. The summit will be held in late 2023 or early 2024 and will provide an opportunity to identify LGBTIQ+ community issues and concerns.
5. ACON has also provided a project proposal for a NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Seminar Series which will provide practical advice to local government practitioners and community organisations to address the increasing acts of violence, disruption, and intimidation targeting LGBTIQ+ communities, individuals and events.
6. The seminar series will be informed by consultation with key stakeholders in attendance at the LGBTIQ+ Summit hosted by the Lord Mayor.
7. The seminar series will be held online so that these issues are addressed in a timely manner and local governments and community organisations from across NSW are able to participate.
8. The seminar series will be hosted online in early 2024, with three separate sessions delivered over a period of three weeks. Each session will run for 1.5 hours. Two iterations of the seminar series will be delivered - the first for local governments and the second for LGBTIQ+ community organisations.
9. It is proposed that Mayors from across NSW will be asked to participate, with an introduction from the Lord Mayor. The seminar series will include video presentations and discussions in a workshop format.

10. The seminar series will focus on practical strategies for hosting community festivals and events with LGBTIQ+ communities, including an overview of current threats and challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ people; sharing voices and stories from LGBTIQ+ community members and local government staff affected by harassment, intimidation, and hate speech; public safety and security measures for community events; creating safe and inclusive spaces; and the importance of collaborative approaches and partnerships.
11. The seminar series aims to achieve a joint statement from participating councils and community organisations condemning the violence that has occurred and a coordinated plan to respond and combat future instances of violence at local festivals and events.
12. ACON will conduct a post-event evaluation to collect feedback from participants and assess the effectiveness of the seminar series.
13. The proposal has been reviewed by City staff and considered an appropriate strategy for providing timely and practical advice to local government practitioners and community organisations to address the increasing acts of violence, disruption, and intimidation targeting LGBTIQ+ communities, individuals and events.

Grants assessment process

14. The assessment process for this ad hoc grant included advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The application was scored against defined assessment criteria as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
15. The assessment criteria used for this ad hoc grant were:
 - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes;
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community;
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project; and
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
16. The assessment meeting for the ad hoc grant was held on 31 August 2023 to ensure the grant applicant was assessed against the relevant assessment criteria. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the City Business and Safety and Strategy and Urban Analytics Teams.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

17. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This grant is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant in this report will support a project that contributes to community development and active participation in civic life. It will empower the community to learn about and address issues that matter to them and create a more inclusive and resilient city.
 - (b) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - the recommended grant in this report will support a project that contributes to wellbeing, inclusive and affordable programs, services and events that improve social connections and embrace a safe city.

Organisational Impact

18. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff will set contract conditions, performance measures and review project acquittals.

Social / Cultural / Community

19. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support social and cultural initiatives for our diverse communities. The seminar series will provide an opportunity for local government workers and LGBTIQ+ community organisations to hear real life stories and gain practical advice on how to address acts of harassment, violence and intimidation at local LGBTIQ+ festivals and events.
20. A grant in support of this seminar series provides the City with an opportunity to demonstrate leadership amongst local government in NSW and the City's commitment to safety and equality for LGBTIQ+ communities.

Financial Implications

21. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2023/24 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operational plan for 2023/24 to support the recommended grant.

Relevant Legislation

22. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
23. Public exhibition of this grant is not required because the funds are being paid to a not-for-profit organisation.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

24. The Lord Mayor will host an LGBTIQ+ Summit for community organisations, including ACON and other government agencies in late 2023 or early 2024.
25. It is proposed that the NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Seminar Series will be hosted online in early 2024.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Ben Dowler, Strategy Advisor - Social

Attachment A

**Lord Mayoral Minute – Proposal for a
Statewide LGBTIQ+ Local Government
Safety Summit**

Resolution of Council

26 June 2023

Item 3.4

Proposal for a Statewide LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit

Minute by the Lord Mayor

To Council:

I am shocked by the alarming increase in attacks targeting LGBTIQ+ events by far-right hate groups in NSW and Victoria. Many have occurred in local government venues, putting attendees and Council staff at risk.

In Victoria, over 10 LGBTIQ+ events have been cancelled, postponed, or shifted online due to violent threats from far-right groups. They include a drag storytime event planned to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia in Melbourne's southeast. The City of Monash cancelled the event after anti-LGBTIQ+ protesters disrupted a Council meeting in April 2023, and it received violent threats presenting risks to the safety of staff, attendees and Council facilities.

There have been reports of similar violent disruptions and attacks being experienced in Sydney, Newcastle, Goulburn and other regional centres. In February 2023, a police guard was required due to protests and a reported bomb threat at a drag storytime event at Manly Library in Sydney. On 20 May 2023, an LGBTIQ+ poetry workshop was disrupted at the Newcastle City Library by far-right protesters in a coordinated attack.

During WorldPride, a group of around 30 men held an unauthorised protest march in Newtown, reportedly intimidating others and attempting to enter LGBTIQ+ venues. The men belong to "Christian Lives Matter" which frequently features posts critical of LGBTIQ+ activism and pride on its Facebook page. Videos of the vandalism of the WorldPride mural outside Wynyard station and the rainbow stairs outside Pitt Street Uniting Church have also been posted.

In response to these growing threats, Nicolas Parkhill AM, the Chief Executive Officer of ACON, wrote to me inviting the City of Sydney to co-host a statewide LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit jointly with ACON and Local Government NSW. The summit would bring together councils, NSW Government agencies including police and emergency services and LGBTIQ+ community organisations and researchers.

The aims of the summit are to:

- raise awareness about the escalating threats of violence and intimidation targeting the LGBTIQ+ community events, particularly those involving trans and gender diverse people;
- foster collaboration and dialogue among local councils, Local Government NSW, community representatives, and stakeholders to collectively address these safety concerns;
- develop a coordinated response plan to mitigate risks and improve safety measures for LGBTIQ+ community events;
- empower local councils to implement targeted strategies, policies, and initiatives that support the safety and well-being of LGBTIQ+ people and events within their respective jurisdictions;
- strengthen community resilience and promote a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance across NSW; and
- share the efforts of local councils that are supportive of LGBTIQ+ community events and their strategies for safeguarding their communities.

The summit will provide an opportunity for participating councils and community groups to issue a joint public statement condemning the violence that has occurred and setting out a coordinated response plan to combat future threats of violence.

ACON is proposing that the summit be a one-day, in person event at a City of Sydney venue. ACON will develop a comprehensive program of presentations and workshops focused on mitigating risk, enhancing safety and sharing case studies highlighting the great work of Councils already responding to these challenges.

On 1 August 2005, Council unanimously adopted a comprehensive resolution in support of the LGBTIQ+ community which included the following:

“Council, recognising that violence and harassment remains a major issue of concern for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, will actively work with relevant gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organisations and government agencies and organisation to end such violence and harassment.”

I strongly support the City of Sydney co-hosting this summit, which is consistent with and progresses this resolution.

The City continues to host and support a wide range of programs and events for the LGBTIQ+ communities. They include Liberate!, an exhibition in Customs House celebrating 45 years of community-led social change, including a series of panel conversations, online Pride Amplified Storytime videos, a panel discussion on how HIV is represented in the media in Australia titled 'Positive Musings: Reflections of HIV in Modern Australia' at Customs House, and Queer as Fiction, a fun and engaging hour of Queer storytelling at Green Square Library.

The City also celebrates Wear it Purple Day each year, and last year this was marked by a roller derby workshop in Glebe and a three-part online inclusivity training workshop series, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Last year, the City worked with community partners to deliver a ceremony and candlelit vigil on the ground of the University of Sydney to mark the day. Fortunately, these programs and events have all taken place without incident. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are able to continue hosting and supporting these events without putting our staff and community at risk.

The City also supports LGBTIQ+ community groups through our grants and sponsorship program. Since 2017, the City has granted nearly \$5.2 million in cash to 158 projects where LGBTIQ+ communities are a primary or secondary beneficiary. This includes, support of the annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and Festival, support of Sydney WorldPride in 2023 and a two-year commitment to support an LGBTIQ+ museum in Darlinghurst.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE AO

Lord Mayor

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the City of Sydney is a proud supporter of the LGBTIQ+ community and is committed to working with relevant organisations and NSW government agencies to end violence and harassment experienced by them;
- (B) Council further note that the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has:
 - (i) received a letter from ACON proposing an LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit;
 - (ii) sought an Australian Federal Police briefing; and
 - (iii) raised the matter with the Federal Minister for Local Government;
- (C) Council note Victorian councils held a Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Summit which Local Government NSW participated in;
- (D) Council endorse ACON's proposal for a NSW LGBTIQ+ Local Government Safety Summit;

- (E) Council agree in principle to co-host this summit with ACON at a suitable City of Sydney venue;
- (F) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to ACON in support of prioritising community-led solutions to address violence and harassment; and
- (G) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to consider what support the City can provide for this summit with a report to be provided to Council.

The Minute, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

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