

Minutes of the Cultural and Creative Committee - 22 July 2024

Members Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore AO (Chair), Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor HY William Chan, Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis, Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon (Deputy Chair), Councillor Shauna Jarrett, Councillor Linda Scott, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 4.30pm, those present were –

The Lord Mayor, Councillors Chan, Davis, Ellsmore, Gannon, Jarrett, Kok, Scott, Weldon and Worling.

The meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee concluded at 4.45pm.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee of Monday 17 June 2024, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that she has received a gift of a ticket, under the value of \$100, from the Griffin Theatre, on one occasion, in 2022. Councillor Ellsmore's friend was directing the play. The gift was disclosed on the appropriate gift registers at the time. Councillor Ellsmore considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she was not aware of the funding request, and has only become aware since that time, through the Committee papers.

Councillor Linda Scott disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that she is the President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). ALGA is a full member of the Cultural Ministers Meeting. Councillor Scott considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she applies her judgement to the decisions as a Councillor for the City of Sydney.

Councillor Adam Worling disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary conflict of interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he has a friendship with a member of the Griffin Theatre Board, performer and producer Simon Burke AO. Councillor Worling's partner is also a talent agent and represents several actors who have performed at Griffin Theatre over the years and whom continue to perform there today. Since being a Councillor, he has attended two performances as a guest of Griffin Theatre. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has never discussed any financial matters with anyone associated with Griffin, nor has he discussed any opportunities for funding. The longstanding relationships noted above will not impact his ability to vote on this recommendation.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee.

The Cultural and Creative Committee recommended the following:

Item 3

Grants and Sponsorship - Ad Hoc Grant - Griffin Theatre Company Ltd - Capital Works Funding Request

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash grant of \$1,000,000 (excluding GST) to be sourced from the 2024/25 General Contingency Fund to Griffin Theatre Company Ltd towards the Griffin Seaborn Broughton and Walford (SBW) Stables Theatre Redevelopment at 10-12 Nimrod Street Darlinghurst NSW;
- (B) Council note that payment of the \$1,000,000 (excluding GST) cash grant will only be paid following Griffin Theatre Company Ltd demonstrating that funding in full has been secured for the project; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the grant agreement with Griffin Theatre Company Ltd.

(Note – at the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

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Speakers

Declan Greene (Griffin Theatre Company), Julia Pincus (Griffin Theatre Company) and Julieanne Campbell (Griffin Theatre Company) addressed the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee on Item 3.