

12 February 2024

At the conclusion of the Environment Committee

Resilient Communities and Economy Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest
- 3. Grants and Sponsorship Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines and Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines
- 4. Grants and Sponsorship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund



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- 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 Resilient Communities and Economy Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 4 December 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 - Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines and Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines

File No: \$117676

Summary

This report proposes that draft grant program guidelines for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant and Haymarket Activation Grant be placed on public exhibition.

The Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy was adopted by Council on 11 December 2023, including actions to establish two new grant programs. In line with this approval, the following two programs are proposed:

- The Dixon Street Improvement Grant will provide matched funding up to \$60,000 per grant to support capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south, including facade, awning and food and beverage shopfront improvements. The program will be open to landowners and business occupants of buildings in the Dixon Street south area for a three-year period.
- The Haymarket Activation Grant will support one major activation each year for three years in the Haymarket precinct, to the value of \$200,000, and will attract people to Haymarket, celebrate Asian cultures and strengthen community inclusion and cohesion. The program will be open to for-profits and not-for-profits and collaborations will be encouraged. Applicants will be able to apply for value-in-kind grants of up to \$100,000 per year.

The total budget proposed for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant is \$1,200,000 over three years, starting in 2024/25 (subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement). The total budget proposed for the Haymarket Activation Grant will be \$600,000 over three years, starting 2024/25 (subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement). Should these draft grant programs be endorsed by Council, all proposed funding for these grant programs will be incorporated into future budgets and placed on public exhibition prior to being committed.

A further \$100,000 per year is the proposed maximum loss of revenue to the City associated with extending the value-in-kind fee waivers for projects funded through the Haymarket Activation Grant program (subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement). This would include the waiving of any outdoor event related application fees, power access fees, venue hire fees, event road closure fees or other applicable City service and event hire fees normally chargeable for such events.

Budget for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program and Haymarket Activation Grant program will be subject to future budget and public exhibition processes under the Local Government Act 1993.

Following the public exhibition of the proposed grant program guidelines and consideration of submissions, the grant guidelines will be brought back to Council for approval. The grant guidelines and associated financial implications will also be subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement as part of the 2024/25 budget process.

All recommendations for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant and Haymarket Activation Grant will be brought back to Council for approval.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the 11 December 2023 Resolution of Council, requesting reports be brought back to Council for any new grant programs arising from the adopted Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy;
- (B) Council endorse the draft Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines as shown at Attachment A to the subject report for public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (C) Council endorse the draft Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines as shown at Attachment B to the subject report for public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;
- (D) Council note the proposed budget implications as described in the subject report and that programs will be incorporated into future budgets for public exhibition and endorsement by Council; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor changes to the draft Guidelines for clarity or correction of drafting errors prior to public exhibition.

Attachments

Attachment A. Draft Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines

Attachment B. Draft Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines

Attachment C. 11 December 2023 Resolution of Council

Attachment D. Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy

Background

- 1. The Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by Council on 11 December 2023.
- 2. The Strategy provides a coordinated response to the community vision and evidence-based studies. It identifies actions in five areas:
 - (a) renewal of the heart;
 - (b) planning and heritage;
 - (c) public domain and public art;
 - (d) culture, events, and activations; and
 - (e) collaboration and partnerships.
- 3. The Strategy includes actions to explore two new grant programs:
 - (a) improve the shopfronts in the southern part of Dixon Street through a grant program; and
 - (b) more grant funding for community-led festivals and events in Haymarket.
- 4. Both actions received strong support from respondents during the public exhibition of the Strategy.

Dixon Street Improvement Grant

- 5. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program is proposed to provide matched funding up to \$60,000 per grant to support capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south, including facade, awning and food and beverage shopfront improvements for a period of three years.
- 6. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant will provide support for three types of capital works projects:
 - (a) Street level major works provides matched cash funding up to \$60,000 per shopfront, and will prioritise:
 - (i) building works to bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street (required for this type of grant);
 - (ii) upgrades to shopfronts;
 - (iii) upgrading external signage and lighting;
 - (iv) installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street);
 - (v) repair or restoration of existing awnings; and
 - (vi) works to improve accessibility.

- (b) Street level minor works provides matched cash funding up to \$20,000 per shopfront, and will prioritise:
 - (i) upgrades to Dixon Street shopfronts;
 - (ii) upgrading external signage and lighting;
 - (iii) installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street);
 - (iv) repair or restoration of existing awnings; and
 - (v) works to improve accessibility.
- (c) Upper storey works provides matched cash funding up to \$60,000 per property, and will prioritise:
 - (i) restoration or installation of signage or street art in keeping with Dixon Street's character:
 - (ii) cleaning, repair or repainting of external building façade;
 - (iii) repair or restoration of existing awnings and upper storey windows; and
 - (iv) removal of redundant air conditioning units, utilities, wiring or fixtures.
- 7. The Dixon Street Improvement Grants will be open to landowners and business occupants (with a letter of support from the landowner) of buildings in the Dixon Street South area.
- 8. In addition, applicants for street level major works must bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street, contributing to a 'chef's gallery' on Dixon Street.
- 9. Applicants will be supported through the process by a planning and design concierge service.
- **10.** Following completion of the grant application and assessment process, all grant recommendations for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant will be brought back to Council for approval.

Haymarket Activation Grant

- 11. The new Haymarket Activation Grant program is proposed to provide support for one major activation each year for three years in the Haymarket precinct, to the value of \$200,000. The activation will attract people to Haymarket, celebrate Asian cultures and strengthen community inclusion and cohesion.
- 12. Value-in-kind up to the value of up to \$100,000 is also proposed to be made available, including fee waivers for street banner pole hire, venue hire, outdoor event related application fees, power access fees, event road closure fees or other applicable City service and event hire fees normally chargeable for such events.
- 13. The Haymarket Activation grant guidelines are based on the guidelines approved by Council for the Precinct Activation grant program in 2022.

- 14. The Haymarket Activation Grant program will prioritise projects that:
 - (a) celebrate Asian cultures and communities;
 - (b) strengthen social inclusion, enable connectedness and reduce social isolation;
 - (c) support the visitor economy through activations, events and promotion;
 - (d) represent the cultural and social diversity of our community; and
 - (e) activate Haymarket with creative programming.
- 15. The Haymarket Activation Grant program will be open to not-for-profits and for-profits, delivering an activation within the Haymarket area.
- **16.** Following completion of the grant application and assessment process, all grant recommendations for the Haymarket Activation Grant program will be brought back to Council for approval.

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 program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 3 Public places for all the Haymarket Activation Grant program will activate streets and public spaces in Haymarket with cultural events and activities.
 - (b) Direction 4 Design excellence and sustainable development the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program will support business to make their shopfronts attractive, inclusive and inviting.
 - (c) Direction 8 A thriving cultural and creative life the Haymarket Activation Grant program will activate streets and public spaces in Haymarket with cultural events and activities.
 - (d) Direction 9 A transformed and innovative economy the Haymarket Activation Grant program recognises the unique characteristics and history of Haymarket, and by activating the precinct with cultural events and activities will enliven the precinct and entice people to visit.

Organisational Impact

18. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

19. Applicants for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program will be supported through the process by a planning and design concierge service. This concierge service will be supported using existing resources within the Planning Assessments Unit.

Risks

20. Operational risks associated with implementing the proposed new grants are considered low and have been explored by City staff. There has been internal consultation with staff across areas of the City and further consultation and consideration will be given to the operational impact of implementing the grants during the application period.

Cultural / Environmental / Economic / Social

- 21. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and business, within the local area.
- 22. The Haymarket Activation Grant program and the Dixon Street Improvement Grant program have been developed in response to feedback from the Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy community engagement process.

Financial Implications

- 23. The total proposed budget for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant is an estimated \$1,200,000 over three years (subject to participation), subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement.
- 24. The total proposed budget for the Haymarket Activation Grant is an estimated \$600,000 over three years, subject to public exhibition and Council endorsement.
- 25. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program and Haymarket Activation Grant program is proposed to form part of the Grants and Sponsorship Program and budgets for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27, be referenced within the Operational Plan for each of these years, and allocated within the next iteration of the Long Term Financial Plan.
- 26. A maximum of \$100,000 per year for three years impact of future revenue forgone from the waiver of City service and event hire fees will affect future financial years' results and will be reflected in the Operational Plan for each of these years, and allowed for within the next iteration of the Long Term Financial Plan.
- 27. Since both programs will be open to for-profit organisations this could increase the for-profit allocation of grant funding by up to a maximum of \$700,000 per year, for three years.

Relevant Legislation

28. In accordance with Section 160(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act 1993, these draft guidelines will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days and any submissions up to 42 days will be considered when finalising the grant guidelines.

29. 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 following a public exhibition process.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

- 30. The draft grant program guidelines for the Dixon Street Improvement Grant and Haymarket Activation Grant will be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days.
- 31. Council is required to place proposed new documents related to the Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation on public exhibition for 28 days. The Local Government Act 1993 requires the draft budget, and revenue pricing policy for rates, annual charges and fees be incorporated within that exhibition and consultation process. This will occur in May 2024.

The Dixon Street Improvement Grant program is proposed to run for a three-year period, commencing in 2024/25.

The Haymarket Activation Grant program is proposed to run for a three-year period, commencing in 2024/25.

Public Consultation

- 32. The Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines and Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines will be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days, in accordance with the requirements of section 160 the Local Government Act 1993.
- 33. A report on the outcomes of public consultation and feedback on the guidelines will be provided with the final draft of the Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guidelines and Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines for adoption by Council.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Sam Wild, Manager Grants

Attachment A

Draft Dixon Street Improvement Grant Guideleines

Draft Dixon Street improvement grant

Overview

This funding program supports capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south with matched funding that contributes to:

- the visible renewal of Dixon Street (south) shopfronts and facades, making the street more attractive
- the creation of a 'chef's gallery' bringing the theatre of food preparation to Dixon Street
- the distinct character and identity of Dixon Street as the historic heart of Chinatown.

We provide support for 3 types of capital works projects:

- 1. Street level major works
- 2. Street level minor works
- 3. Upper storey works

Key dates

This program will open for 3 years from 2024/25 or until the budget is exhausted.

See 'how to apply' for more information on registering your interest and the application process.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise:

1. Street level major works

- building works to bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street (required for this type of grant)
- upgrades to shopfronts
- upgrades to external signs and lighting
- installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
- repair or restoration of existing awnings
- works to improve accessibility.

2. Street level minor works

- upgrades to Dixon Street shopfronts
- upgrades to external signs and lighting
- installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
- repair or restoration of existing awnings

works to improve accessibility.

3. Upper storey works

- restoration or installation of signs or street art that maintains Dixon Street's character
- cleaning, repairing or repainting external building façade
- repair or restoration of the awning and upper storey windows
- removal of redundant air conditioning units, utilities, wiring or fixtures.

Funding available

Type 1 – Street level major works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 2 – Street level minor works: Cash funding of up to \$20,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 3 – Upper storey works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per property.

Applicants are required to at least match the funding requested with cash (value-in-kind will not be accepted).

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against the following criteria:

- demonstrates significant and visible improvements to the shop and building frontages as viewed from Dixon Street
- exhibits design excellence and responds to local heritage and character
- supports local and small businesses
- evidence of value for money
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- the building must be located on one of the properties highlighted in blue in Figure 1
- the proposed works must be to a frontage visible from Dixon Street
- the applicant must be the landowner or business occupant with a letter of support from the landowner
- the applicant must have an ABN (Australian Business Number)
- the proposed works will naturally need to meet certain standards including planning regulations, certification regulations and the Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code)

Applicants should be aware that the proposal may need to go through a development application process.



Figure 1

Also, for street level major works applications (type 1) to be eligible the proposed improvements must bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street, contributing to a 'chefs gallery' on Dixon Street.

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- purchase of buildings
- extensions or additions to properties
- relocation of businesses

- internal fit outs or works which do not improve the frontage as viewed from Dixon Street
- waiver of fees for development applications, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals and other similar statutory charges
- reimbursement of funds already spent
- operational costs, staffing, wages and marketing
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

How to apply

This program has 4 steps in the application process:

Step 1. Design and planning concierge

- meet with the concierge team to discuss your site and what type of improvements could be eligible for grant funding
- develop your proposal with advice from the concierge team you may need to engage a design team
- the team will carry out eligibility, scope of work and design checks.

Step 2. Grant application

- submit your grant application and provide quotes for the proposed work
- for more significant works, the grant payment may be on the condition of an approved development application.

Step 3. Planning and certification (if required)

- your proposal may require a development application consent or complying development certificate
- the design and planning concierge team can provide advice
- the applicant will need to make the necessary applications and pay any applicable fees..

Step 4: Payment and construction

Works can commence. Grant funding will be provided in 2 staged payments:

- (1) 50% when works begin
- (2) 50% when works are completed and verified through a site inspection and review of receipts.

To start the process, contact the design and planning concierge team to arrange an initial meeting: [phone number] and [email]. Interpreter services are available.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.

Attachment B

Draft Haymarket Activation Grant Guidelines

Overview

This grant program will support one major activation in the Haymarket precinct per year to the value of \$200,000.

The activation will attract people to Haymarket (defined as the area within the dotted lines on Figure 1), celebrate Asian cultures and strengthen community inclusion and cohesion. The project will be produced through collaborations and will activate public places, business premises and vacant space with cultural programming.

Project collaborators may include:

- businesses in Haymarket
- landowners and others in Haymarket wanting to activate vacant space
- a media agency
- an arts/cultural operator
- a creative producer or event manager
- a local community group wanting to reinvigorate Haymarket.

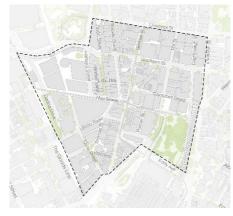


Figure 1

Key dates

This is a three year program and will open for applications in 2024...

Funding available

Cash funding of \$200,000 plus up to \$100,000 of value in kind (for example, banners, venue hire) is available for one major activation.

Within the cash funding component, applicants can apply for up to \$20,000 worth of capital expenditure or equipment purchase.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise projects that:

- celebrate Asian cultures and communities
- strengthen social inclusion, enable connectedness and reduce social isolation
- support the visitor economy through activations, levents and promotion

- represent the cultural and social diversity of our community
- activates Haymarket with creative and cultural programming.

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against:

- potential reach and impact of the activation including proposed timing
- capacity and experience of the applicant and their partners to produce the activation
- demonstrated partnerships, connection and benefit to Haymarket and the local community
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in planning and producing the activation
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Eligibility

Not-for profit and for-profit organisations can apply.

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- activations proposed outside of the Haymarket area (marked on Figure 1 in these guidelines)
- operational costs or overheads for the core business of an organisation
- activations that are part of or at the same time as pre-existing festivals and events taking place within or in the vicinity of the Haymarket area (for example Sydney Lunar Festival, Vivid Sydney or SXSW Sydney)
- projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.

How to apply

Applications for grants and sponsorship must be completed online.

If you are planning to hold your activation at a City of Sydney managed outdoor space please review the fees and charges for outdoor venue hire and contact the outdoor venue management team by email openspacebookings@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships

Attachment C

11 December 2023 Resolution of Council



Resolution of Council

11 December 2023

Item 9.3

Post Exhibition - Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the findings from the public exhibition of the draft Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy as described in Attachment B to the subject report, and the City's response to the submissions in Attachment C to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the revised Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy as shown at Attachment A to the subject Information Relevant To Item 9.3 Memorandum;
- (C) Council note the budget implications as described in this report subject to the deletion of line 28(d) which refers to funding for SXSW Sydney and that items will be incorporated into future budgets for public exhibition and endorsement by Council;
- (D) Council note that if the revised Strategy is endorsed, further reports will be brought back to Council for any new grant programs and for any items to be heritage listed; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the revised Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

Carried unanimously.

X098596

Attachment D

Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy



Revitalisation Strategy
December 2023

Haymarket and Chinatown





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Figure 1

Images of Haymarket: (cover) Neon Playground event, (opposite page) Lunar New Year. Source: City of Sydney.

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Message from Lord Mayor Clover Moore

Haymarket, together with Chinatown, is one of Sydney's most iconic urban villages and has long been recognised as a focal point for Asian food, cultures, and communities both locally and internationally.

The last few years have been challenging for the area. On top of the impact of the pandemic Haymarket has gone through significant change, with major State Government and private development on its doorstep. Haymarket is recovering and changing, with new developments representing a vote of confidence in the area's future.

That's why this is a perfect time for a new overarching plan to revitalise the area – to get the built form and public domain right and breathe new life into streets.

We are grateful to the thousands of residents, businesses and community who have participated in consultation so far and helped shape these plans.

Through our extensive consultation we heard the community's desire for a diverse, friendly and safe area that's easy to navigate, with a range of food options and a streetscape that respects and celebrates the social and cultural history of the area.

Our work to support and promote Haymarket and Chinatown started well before the pandemic.

We have completed significant upgrades to local streets and the pedestrianisation of George Street through Haymarket, we've supported night markets and other events including the annual Sydney Lunar Festival celebrations, and we have supported new cultural attractions such as public artworks and the new Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA).



This Strategy identifies new initiatives including:

- significant public domain improvements, particularly to Dixon Street and its famous Chinatown Ceremonial Gates, as well as creative lighting and new public art;
- a grants program for Dixon Street south to help local businesses upgrade and improve their shopfronts, awnings and facades;
- changes to planning controls to encourage investment in fine-grain small lot buildings and businesses and strengthen cultural identity, character and heritage;
- grants for community-led cultural events and precinct activations, off the back of the successful Neon Playground festival; and
- a new City staff coordinator position to assist local businesses and community collaboration.

We are excited to continue our work, together with our communities, to celebrate this important precinct's past and to safeguard its future.



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Introduction

Welcome to Haymarket

Haymarket is one of Sydney's most iconic urban villages and has long been recognised as a focal point for Asian food, cultures, and communities both locally and internationally. Haymarket is a CBD activity hub offering a vibrant and unique urban experience, being both part of Central Sydney as one of the City's growing residential neighbourhoods accessed by two light rail lines.

The precinct is home to significant landmarks including Dixon Street (marked by the Chinatown gates), Market City and Paddy's Market, the Chinese Garden of Friendship and Belmore Park. Haymarket is a well-known destination for entertainment and nightlife and is home to the Capitol Theatre and the famous Sydney Lunar New Year festival and the Friday night markets.

The area is of particular significance to the Chinese Australian community. Chinese people began arriving as early as 1818. By the 1920s, the Haymarket area became the social, cultural, and economic centre for Chinese in New South Wales, who were mostly Cantonese speakers.

The area became known as Chinatown in the 1970s and was gradually promoted as a tourist destination.

Over time, Haymarket's population has diversified through immigration from Mandarin-speaking regions of China and South East Asia. Thai Town has emerged around George and Campbell Streets. In addition to being highly diverse, the population is younger than elsewhere in the city.

Haymarket is characterised by the prevalence of Asian businesses, vibrant lighting and signage, and busy street life. In terms of the built form, Haymarket differs in character from elsewhere in Central Sydney, being fine grain ownership with narrow frontages, small/irregular plots, and with the diversity of heritage and building forms, including the prominent market buildings.







Figure 3
Images of Haymarket: (top) Lunar New Year (middle) Sussex Street (bottom) Hokkien Huay Kuan Arts Group in Belmore Park. Source: City of Sydney

Figure 4A map of the Haymarket area showing key places. While the lived experience of Haymarket may extend beyond this boundary, the dashed line denotes the focus area for this revitalisation strategy. Source: City of Sydney.



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Why we need to focus on revitalisation

The Haymarket economy has been impacted by competition from suburban East Asian precincts, limited investment in renewal, and a changing audience with different expectations. These issues were exacerbated greatly by the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and the loss of international students and workers, and tourists. These factors have contributed to high retail vacancies, fewer people coming to the area and an increasingly dated presentation of parts of the precinct in comparison to the more recent Darling Square.

The City has been building a stronger understanding of the issues and opportunities facing Haymarket through undertaking:

- 1. Haymarket visioning engagement hearing from more than 1,150 people
- 2. Haymarket and Chinatown Economic Study
- 3. Chinatown Thematic History

Local residents, workers and visitors have expressed that they would like to see Haymarket revive and become a vibrant and bustling place that celebrates diverse Asian cultures, a place that preserves its history and character while embracing contemporary forms of cultural expression.

Partnerships

In our conversations, we've met lots of passionate people who are doing their part in making this vision become a reality. The City will support, enable, and partner with local communities in their efforts to revitalise Haymarket and Chinatown. We recognise that there is no silver bullet, but that a wide-ranging set of actions is needed to catalyse positive changes in the area. Collaboration will be essential with local businesses, landowners, community groups, business chambers, cultural organisations and NSW Government.

The City's approach

The engagement feedback and evidence base has directed us towards a five-point plan to support the revitalisation of Haymarket:

- 1. renewal of the heart
- 2. planning and heritage
- 3. public domain and public art
- 4. culture, events and activation
- 5. collaboration and partnerships

The City proposes to intensify its focus on Haymarket for a three to five year period to introduce changes which can become selfsustaining.

What the City is already doing

Many actions are already underway including:

- recent public domain upgrades have been made to George Street, Thomas Street, Hay Street and Ultimo Road
- design work is underway for the upgrade of Dixon Street's public domain
- a heritage assessment and upcoming restoration of the Chinatown gates
- City's grants program supports creativity, businesses, innovation and to help put on festivals and events such as Neon Playground
- fees are waived for outdoor dining until 2025
- annual production of Sydney Lunar New Year, and twice annual Sydney Streets events
- funding and an accommodation grant for the creation of the new Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA), due to open in 2024
- in 2023 the City supported the first SXSW Sydney based in Darling Harbour and Haymarket



Strategic directions

This Revitalisation Strategy aligns with the direction set by other City's strategies, including:

- Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision (The Vision) guides the City's efforts to improve the way communities live, work and play.
- The Central Sydney Planning Strategy is a 20-year growth strategy for the economic powerhouse of the nation, hosting more than 12,600 businesses in a mixed economy. It revises previous planning controls and meets our Sustainable Sydney 2030 goals for a green, global and connected city. Through 10 key moves, the strategy balances opportunities for development capacity to meet the demands of growing numbers of businesses, workers, residents and visitors and their changing needs. It was accompanied by a new Contributions Plan to fund local infrastructure to transform Central Sydney.
- City Plan 2036, the City's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), outlines 13 priorities and a series of actions to achieve the vision and guide future changes to the City's planning framework. The Plan integrates the City's plans and priorities across many strategies addressing culture, environment, cycling, economies, community, and sustainability.
- The Public Space Public Life Study 2020, prepared by Gehl Architects in collaboration with City of Sydney provides an review of Sydney's public life. It reports that the City must continue to increase the quantity and quality of well-planned streets and spaces that are human in scale, sustainable, social, healthy, safe, and lively.



Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision



Central Sydney Planning Strategy 2016-2036



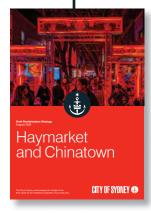
City Plan 2036 Local Strategic Planning Statement



Public Spaces Public Life Study 2020



A Community
Vision for
Haymarket



Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy



Haymarket and Chinatown Public Domain Plan



Haymarket Vision Engagement Outcomes Report (2022)



Haymarket and Chinatown Economic and Land Use Study (2023)



Chinatown Thematic History (2023)

Community engagement

Wide ranging engagement was carried out between August and October 2022 to understand what makes Haymarket special, the places that people love and what could be improved.

More than 1,150 people shared their ideas for the future of Haymarket

Over 950 community surveys were completed in English, traditional and simplified Chinese, Thai, Korean and Indonesian. Around 110 people attended the Lord Mayor's forum in August 2022. Six pop ups were held across the area and meetings were held with stakeholder groups in the area. Community Vision for Haymarket 2022 was prepared with this extensive input from the community.

Community representatives spoke as cultural custodians. They expressed a great of sense of responsibility for the future of Haymarket and a desire to work together with the City of Sydney.

Below is a summary of the feedback from the survey.

People described Haymarket as:

- known for Asian restaurants and shops (90%)
- a place to meet friends and to go out (58%)
- having a busy street life (55%)
- a destination for tourists and visitors (54%)
- a place where you see diverse cultures reflected on the streets and public spaces (53%)

The special places in Haymarket include:

Dixon Street (33%) and Chinatown (18%)

- · a place to find diverse, affordable and authentic food offerings
- · a place of significant cultural heritage and history

- a place of cultural belonging and experiences
- the Gates on Dixon Street are welcoming and culturally symbolic
- Dixon Street is the heart of Chinatown

Paddy's Market (21%)

- offers a convenient and affordable shopping experience
- place people feel connected to through past experiences and memories
- a cultural institution in the centre of Haymarket

Darling Square (18%)

- great range of restaurants and bars
- a lively, vibrant and safe space to socialise both day and night
- a clean, green and modern space to connect with family and friends

Market City (11%)

- a unique place for shopping
- diverse and affordable food options
- fun place to meet with friends and families

Emperor's Garden Cakes and Bakery (7%)

- delicious, unique and affordable dessert offering in Chinatown
- an iconic food institution in Chinatown

Thai Town

 identified through stakeholder meetings rather than the survey



The most important factors for the future of Haymarket include:

- good food options (84% of respondents rated this as very important)
- being culturally diverse, welcoming and safe (82%)
- being pedestrian friendly and easy to move around (81%)
- expression of Asian cultures throughout the precinct (74%)
- respecting and celebrating the social and cultural history of the area (72%)

Respondents identified the following priorities for improvement for Haymarket

- more lighting to create a safe and colourful atmosphere
- greater range of quality, authentic and affordable food and retail options
- more outdoor dining options and public amenities like seating and public toilets
- improved access to and connections within Haymarket
- increased attractiveness of the area through street cleaning and maintenance
- contemporary cultural expression
- preservation of local character and cultural heritage
- using the streetscape to bring colour and to celebrate diverse Asian cultures
- extended trading hours and thriving nightlife

Respondents identified the places that should be improved, including:

Chinatown (63%)

- revitalise Chinatown to attract more people to the area
- improve cleanliness and maintenance
- increase food and retail offerings
- install creative lighting

Dixon Street (36%)

- improve building maintenance to beautify Dixon Street
- install more lighting

Paddy's Market (11%)

- improve food and retail offerings
- revitalise Paddy's Market and the space
- make comparable to world-class markets in other cities

southern end of George Street (9%)

- better activation of George Street
- increase greenery

Sussex Street (9%)

- improve pedestrian experience
- improve cleanliness
- improve food and retail offering

Belmore Park (6%)

- a more welcoming and accessible space
- improve lighting



Precinct context

Connecting with country

Haymarket is the traditional lands of the Gadigal. Prior to European occupation the upstream waters of Darling Harbour / Tumbalong was fed by two freshwater streams: one that ran down from what is now George Street, along Hay Street, and the other coming in from the south.

On the eastern foreshore of Darling Harbour/ Tumbalong, there is archealogical evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the years before and after European invasion, including shell middens. An 1813 engraving (Figure 7) shows an Aboriginal camp site on the shores close to the site of the present-day Chinese Garden of Friendship, and Aboriginal fishing canoes on the water behind. This activity likely continued until the beginning of industrialisation in the 1820s and 30s.

The City's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2020-23 recommends that the City recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories. cultures and achievements in Sydney through the Eora Journey: Recognition in the Public Domain. This project, overseen by art curator and writer Hetti Perkins with Emily McDaniel, aims to reactivate the knowledge of specific places and events in Aboriginal history at key sites in the city.

The City's Barani website https://www. sydneybarani.com.au/ identifies the location of places that have historical associations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Sydney. A number of sites are located in Haymarket, including:

- The Trades Hall (4-10 Goulburn Street). Unions supported Aboriginal people to access employment and scholarship opportunities and supported political lobbying for Aboriginal rights.
- Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs Headquarters (810-812 George Street). Opened in 1966, the headquarters provided welfare support and

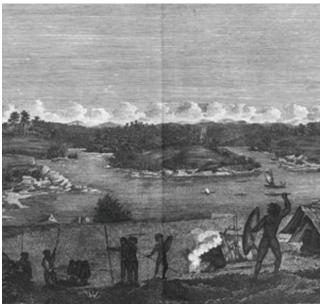


Figure 8 The earliest view of Cockle Bay drawn by John Eyre c1813. Source: www.darlingharbour.com/editorials/history-andheritage

was a popular venue for community functions.

Burlington Hotel (431-439 Sussex Street). In 1965 a sit-in demonstration was held here protesting the hotel's policy to refuse admission to Aboriginal patrons.

The City is also investigating ways to implement 'Connecting with Country', including a specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural expression.

An LGA wide Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study is being scoped to build on Barani's strong base of research and further extend the mapping of stories and sites. This will involve community engagement and historical research, and will identify opportunities to embed connections with Country into future plans and projects.

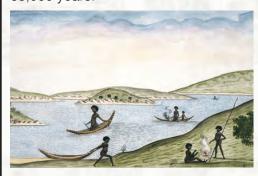


Figure 9A map of sites in Sydney in associaiton with histories of Aboriginal people. Source: Barani / Barrabubu (Yesterday / Tomorrow): Sydney's Aboriginal Journey

Haymarket's history

>65,000 years ago

For what is now known as Haymarket, the area has a long and rich Aboriginal history. Evidence of campsites and tool-making show that the area has been inhabited for more than 65,000 years.



1815

Newly arrived engineer John Dickson was granted 15 acres on Cockle Bay, on which he built a new flour mill, and installed Australia's first steam engine in 1815. From these roots, Darling Harbour grew as an industrial location. It is thought Dixon Street was later names after him.



1788-1800

The arrival of the First Fleet devastates Aboriginal society around Sydney Harbour and the broader region.

A British settlement is established in Sydney.

thousands of years

Haymarket is inhabited by the Gadigal, coastal people who relied heavily on fishing and shellfish gathering. The area was well provided for with two freshwater streams and Darling Harbour / Tumbulong.

1830-1900

Proximity to the markets proved attractive to small manufacturing. with buildings used as temporary boarding houses for itinerant traders. The Haymarket is subdivided and settled. In 1842 the City of Sydney took over jurisdiction of the markets.

1830

The edge of Sydney Town more or less coincided with Bathurst Street. excluding Haymarket. Being at the nexus between the town and countryside, Haymarket is established as a place for farmers to sell their goods.

1870 - 1900

Chinese people began arriving to Sydney as early as 1818. Waves of migration brought Chinese workers and fortune seekers at the end of convict transport system and during the gold rush. Earlier Chinese migrants settled around The Rocks.

The movement of the Chinese community into Haymarket begins in the 1870s, following the construction of new fruit and vegetable markets, known as the Belmore Markets. Chinese businesses spring up to serve as produce and market gardeners.





1890-1920

Haymarket continues to develop.

In 1893, Belmore fruit market building is built at the open air cattle markets between Campbell and Hay Street by the City of Sydney. This building was subsequently modified and leased to Wirth Brothers Circus between 1916 and 1927 for use as a Hippodrome. It was later used a picture theatre and adapted as Capitol Theatre.

Central Station is built in 1906.

Between 1909 and 1915, new produce market buildings are built by the City of Sydney in Hay Street. They were partly retained in 1997 and Paddy's rehoused in the Market City redevelopment.



1920

By the 1920s, the area is a focus for the Chinese community. By comparison to the rest of the city, it is a relative safe-haven from racial discrimination.

Societies or clan groups, known as Tongs are vital links to the home villages back in China and supported clan members with finance, translation and accommodation.

1888

Haymarket becomes a centre for political activism. Trades Hall on Goulburn Street began construction in 1888 as a purpose-built facility for different trade unions to meet in the pursuit of common goals.





Figure 10

From left to right: Dove's plans of Sydney (map 42) 1880 Source: City of Sydney Archives; Fruit and vegetable markets c1920. Source: City of Sydney Archives. Chinese hawker, Sydney, c.1900s. Source: National Library of Australia, Star Pagto Co.; Meeting of the Chung Shan Society, Campbell Street 1910. Source: Private collection of Norman Lee; Sydney Chinese Dragon Ball, 1945. Source: National Library of Australia.



1980 - 1997

West Darling Harbour rail yards, shipping wharves and coal fired powerstations are redeveloped into a tourist destination. offering the entertainment centre, shopping centre and cultural institutions connected by a monorail.

The Chinese Garden of Friendship was created in a romanticised historical oriental style from the Ming dynasty.

The markets are relocated to Flemington in order to service a larger metropolis, and part of the market complex is redeveloped into Market City shopping centre with The Peak residential tower above.





1960 - 1980

The Dixon Street Beautification Committee is established to create a 'Chinese Centre'. 'Chinatown' is named and becomes a destination.

The end of the White Australian Policy in 1973 allows for more Chinese migration and the arrival of white collar workers.

Dixon Street is pedestrianised and decorated in an oriential style. The ceremonial gates are built.





1990

Chinatown becomes one of Sydney's top 10 tourist destinations.

1989

Waves of immigration to Australia, some resulting from the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, see the rise of Mandarin-speaking Chinese people. In 2021. Mandarin speakers now outnumber Cantonese speakers 5:1.

1997

The transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty leads to more immigration, Cantonese-style restaurants and largescale development projects such as the Sussex Centre, Market City and Capitol Square.

1990-2007

World Square opens, with tall commercial, residential and hotel towers, with shops around an internal network of laneways.



2020-2022

The Covid-19 pandemic results in anti-China sentiment, lockdowns, and the forced loss of international students and tourists.

Some notable businesses close or relocate. Empty shops in the core Chinatown area increase more than in other locations.



2000-2020

Haymarket diversifies, with immigration from South East Asia. A cluster of Thai businesses form around Campbell Street.

Other Asian precincts in suburbs around the city centre improve in their food and retail offer. Places such as Hurstville, Burwood, and Chatswood become more self-sufficient.

2010-2019

There is a major redevelopment of the Entertainment Centre site and Darling Harbour. In its place, the new mixed use Darling Square precinct in constructed, drawing activity to the west of Haymarket.

Construction of light rail results in temporary disruption to businesses. Once built, it transforms George Street into a pedestrian boulevard, and establishes 'Chinatown' and 'Haymarket' stops.



Community groups come together to support the recovery of Chinatown.

In November 2022, Soul of Chinatown, Haymarket Chamber of Commerce and Haymarket HQ partner to put on Neon Playground, supported by the City's Precinct Activation Grant. The 4-week festival results in a surge of activity.







From left to right: George Street 1970; Dixon Street (above) 1970 (below) 1985; (above) entertainment centre 1983 (below) Market City 2000; Thomas Street; Darlin Square; Chinatown light rail stop; and Neon Playground event. Source: City of Sydney.

Diverse Asian village

Haymarket's identity and role has evolved over time. As its name suggests, Haymarket formed around a succession of markets.

Alongside European settlers, a cluster of Chinese businesses and boarding houses sprung up to serve Chinese market gardeners. In the 1920s, Haymarket became a place where Chinese migrants, mostly from Canton (Guangzhou). could send remittances (money) to family, speak Cantonese, play mahjong, have a familiar meal, purchase rare goods, gamble, practice religion, and socialise. International Chinese opera troupes toured, and martial arts schools trained students in activites such as lion dance troupes.

Tongs (Chinese societies or clan groups) played a vital role providing links to villages back in China, connecting people to others from the same province and supporting members with travel movements and immigration to Australia. These tongs became social places for members and resulted in strong community bonds. Tong buildings at Goong Yee Tong at 50 Dixon Street and You Ming Hung Fook Tong at 417 Sussex Street still stand today.

Over time, the demographics of those immigrating from China to Australia changed - from labourers sending money home to highly-educated workers and investors who choose to settle: and from majority Cantonese speakers to Mandarin speakers. This was partly due to China's economic growth and partly due to changes in immigration policy.

Second and third generation Chinese Australians have emerged with their own identity and culture - a unique fusion of their family origins and their birth country.

In the late 20th century, the economy in Haymarket saw significant change. The markets and industrial uses moved further out of the city

centre, freeing up sites for redevelopment.

'Chinatown' was coined and the area was transformed into a greater tourist destination with the Chinese styling of Dixon Street and the creation of the Chinese Garden of Friendship at 1 Harbour Street in 1988. Built on reclaimed land, the Garden were designed by Sydney's Chinese sister city. Guangzhou, having been advocated for since the 1970s by the community including local architect and politician Henry Tsang OAM.

With rising rents in Haymarket and a changing demographic, new migrants were more likely to cluster in the the suburbs of Willoughby, Eastwood, Burwood and Hurstville. Despite this, Haymarket remained a special place for Chinese Australians to come in from the suburbs to celebrate Chinese New Year, visit Yum Cha banquets on special occasions and buy specialty food or goods which were hard to get elsewhere.

The population of Chinatown and Haymarket has continued to diversify, with more migrants from different parts of China and Asia.

In 2022, residents' countries of birth include China (21%), Thailand (17%), Australia (13%), Malaysia (3%) and South Korea (3%). Being near to the Universities, international students from a variety of Asian countries often come to Haymarket to seek out familiarity and 'a taste of home'.

This co-location of different Fast Asian communities is relatively rare: Chinatowns elsewhere in the world have not attracted such a diverse mix - such as Thai businesses clustering around George, Campbell and Pitt Streets.

From this diverse Asian village, a distinct Asian Australian identity has emerged. Haymarket now still offers a sophisticated range of both traditional / authentic and contemporary / fusion food, art, and culture.











Figure 12

Images of Haymarket. Clockwise from top left: Grand Thai Festival, Darling Square Library, a Ramen restaurant on Campbell Street, Lunar New Year 2023 and Darling Square. Source: City of Bydney.

There are a diversity of places within Haymarket with different characteristics and activities.



1 - Core Chinatown area

Precinct 1, the Core Chinatown area is centred around Dixon Street and includes Sussex, Hay, Harbour and Liverpool Streets. While Chinatown does not have an official boundary, most people would identify this area as its centre.

Chinatown is a cultural hub, now at the heart of a diverse Asian village. It is a place of significant cultural heritage and history, a place to find diverse, affordable, and authentic food offerings, and a place people feel connected to through past experiences and memories.

The area is characterised by a density of smaller buildings, land ownership and businesses, and high concentration of food and beverage operators. Chinatown has historically been a major visitation drawcard for both domestic and international tourists. It plays a predominantly hospitality-orientated role to price conscious students and tourists.

The economic study found that Precinct 1 has experienced the largest decrease in activity levels (comparing 2019 to 2022) and has the highest ground floor vacancy rates. Engagement findings told us Dixon Street and Chinatown are highly valued and the highest priority for improvement.



2 - Darling Square

On the former Entertainment Centre site in Precinct 2 immediately south of Darling Harbour. the newly developed 'Darling Square' was completed in 2019. The development provides high-rise apartment buildings, commercial office buildings, a 4-star hotel and the 'Exchange' public library arranged adjacent to the green square.

Darling Square has a popular food, beverage and retail offering, with some businesses having relocated from elsewhere in Haymarket. Being under one landowner, the offer is curated and is better meeting the expectations of younger audiences. The precinct's food and beverage offering is generally at a higher price point compared to historic Chinatown. It serves a mix of residents, workers and visitors, including families. Darling Square has the lowest vacancy rate in Haymarket.

The addition of Darling Square has drawn some activity away from historic Chinatown.

Being new, it has also made the presentation of Chinatown seem run down by contrast. There is an opportunity for historic Chinatown and modern Darling Square to be better connected and to complement each other.

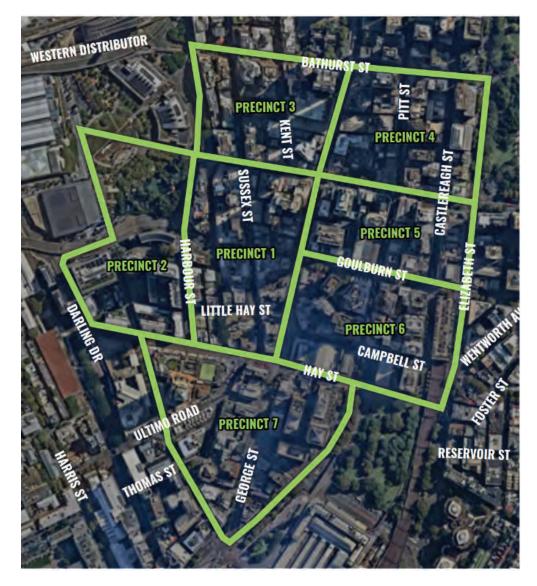


Figure 13
The economic study area considered the differing character and role of seven sub-precinct within Haymarket. Source: Location IQ.

3 - Kent and Sussex Streets

Precinct 3 has been a natural northward extension of Chinatown shops and activities. It includes a mix apartment buildings, hotels and commercial buildings with a diverse mix of Asian-orientated retailers. It is anchored by the Events Cinema on George Street and Regent Place, a modern, food and beverage orientated shopping arcade at the base of two-high rise apartment buildings.



4 - Koreatown

This area includes a mix of commercial office buildings, hotels/serviced apartments and modern apartment buildings, within taller and denser buildings.

Precinct 4 is located centrally within Sydney's CBD, the area mainly services CBD workers and residents. It has the second highest worker density and value added. It has a few Korean restaurants, cafes, karaoke bars and retailers and has been called 'Koreatown'.



5 - World Square

Precinct 5 is located between Goulburn, George, Liverpool and Pitt Streets, World Square is a modern shopping centre offering over 16,500sqm of retail floorspace, with residential, commercial and hotel towers above. It is anchored by a major supermarket, multiple national retailers and food court. Aligning with the rest of Haymarket, the offer includes Asian shops and restaurants.

As a major shopping destination in the Sydney CBD, World Square services a relatively young demographic and includes a broad mix of CBD students, visitors and CBD workers. It has the highest worker density and value added within Haymarket.



6 - Thai Town

The Thai Town area centres on Campbell Street, and extends out towards Goulburn, Castlereagh, Hay and George Streets. While this area has strong historic associations with the Chinese community, the City officially identified Thai Town in 2013 as one of a few Thai Towns in the world to recognise the growing population. Thai is now the third most spoken language, after Mandarin and English, and Thai ancestry is identified by 16.2% of Haymarket residents.

In Precinct 6, Campbell Street, at the heart of Thai Town, has a high concentration of Thai restaurants, grocers and specialty retailers, and offers contemporary fusions of eastern and western flavours. It has hosted several cultural events, including the Lunar New Year Festival, where road closures welcome people onto the street. There is an opportunity to reinforce the identity of Thai Town through the signage and design of the public domain and public art.

Thai Town includes several major hotels, commercial office buildings and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. The Capital Theatre and Capitol Square are a major attractor. The area functions as key dining, entertainment and commercial precinct and services a broad mix of tourists, CBD workers and residents.



7 - Market District

The historic market district of the Sydney CBD extends south from Hay Street to Central Station, taking in Paddy's Market, Thomas Street, Ultimo Road and a section of George Street. This area also forms part of Chinatown.

The Paddy's Market and Market City building is a historic landmark and key attractor to the area. However, the market stalls have struggled with high vacancy rates in recent years and was severely affected by Covid-19.

The Precinct 7 area includes a broad mix of Asian retailers, restaurants, grocers in addition to several commercial office buildings and apartment buildings. The area attracts tourists and also plays an important role in servicing the three neighbouring university campuses to the south.

This area has experienced the second largest decrease in activity levels (comparing 2019 to 2022) and has the second highest vacancy rates.

Economic research findings

City Planning commissioned the Haymarket and Chinatown Economic and Lane Use Study to review economic change, occupancy, business trends and provide an overall economic 'health check' of the area. The study sought to understand the impact of recent changes, as well as the acute impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on Haymarket's local economy.

Food catering remains the predominant activity

An audit of Haymarket's ground floor retail space found that food catering remains the predominant activity. This coincided with the community feedback; 91% of survey respondents go to Haymarket for the restaurants and cafés.

The proportion of food catering businesses was particularly high in and around Dixon Street.

The vacancy rate is high

The vacancy rate in Haymarket at ground level was very high (18.3%) and had increased significantly since 2017 (8.5% up from 9.8%). The vacancy rate was also higher than elsewhere in Central Sydney (6.9%) at the point of measure. For reference, 'healthy' vacancy rate would be between 3% to 5%.

The rising vacancy rate has been driven by a number of factors including the impact of a severe loss of customers due to Covid-19 on businesses. overall declining activity and visitation levels and unrealistic rent expectation by landowners.

If this persists, Haymarket's vacant space will threaten the retail future of Haymarket as visitor perceptions become engrained. The highest vacancy rates are in the Dixon Street and core Chinatown area, potentially opening up an opportunity for reinvention.

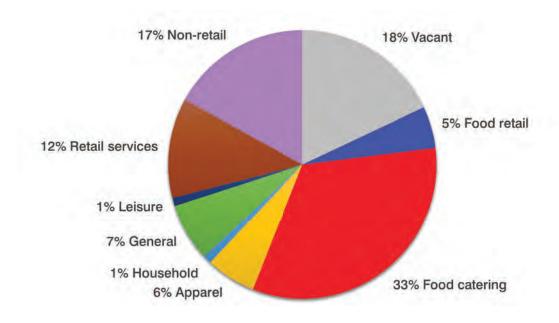


Figure 14 Ground floor businesses by property category (September 2022), Source: Location IQ.

	Haymarket	Central Sydney
weekday	-40%	-33%
weekend	-29%	-18%

Figure 15

Average daily user activity as a percentage difference between 2019 and 2022. Source: Roy Morgan.

The amount of retail floorspace is supportable - quality of the offer is the issue

However, despite the high vacancy levels, an analysis of the amount of retail floorspace compared to the trade catchment found that the amount of retail space was supportable, but it was the quality of that retail offer that is an issue. Authentic, immersive experiences in attractive settings have become the 'baseline' expectations in a post pandemic environment. Beyond Darling Square, there has been limited reinvestment, leaving Haymarket failing to meet customer expectations.

Activity levels are recovering

In 2022, activity levels in Haymarket were recovering but still below pre-pandemic levels (65% of 2019 levels). From mapping of mobile phone activity, we can see that activity is focused around Central Station, World Square, Darling Square and George Street. Activity is much lower around Dixon Street.

Haymarket's recovery has lagged behind the wider CBD. This can be partially attributed to the loss of international students and visitors from Asia who had not yet returned in 2022 and are a significant part of Haymarket's visitor-base.

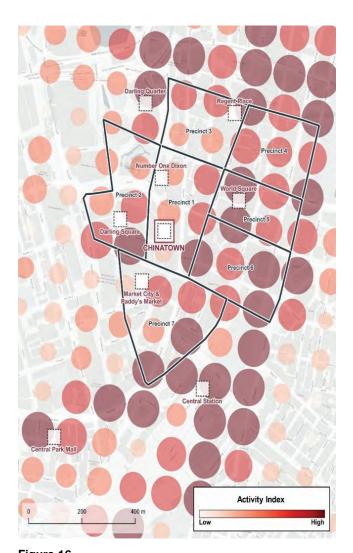


Figure 16

Weekend activity at 7pm, Q3 2020-Q3 2022. Source: Mapbox Movement.

On a more promising note, Neon Playground and Lunar New Year resulted in a marked increase in activity levels in Haymarket, demonstrating the potential of events and activations in revitalising the precinct. In 2023, activity levels have continued to gradually increase.

Demographics are changing

Haymarket has a large and growing resident population. Haymarket residents are younger, highly educated (44% have one or more university degrees), mostly single or unmarried couples (65.5%), with a high percentage of parents born overseas (84.2%). The most prevalent religion is recorded as Buddhism (27.7%), both within the Chinese and Thai communities.

Chinatown has diversified beyond its Cantonese roots. Mandarin (24.3%) has long since overtaken Cantonese (5.7%) as the most spoken language, and Thai (16.3%) and Indonesian (8.6%) speakers have also become more prevalent.

Haymarket's offer will need to adapt to meet the needs of a younger more affluent East Asian

population, who have divergent expectations from former populations. More youth orientated and specialty food and retail is in demand, alongside a vibrant urban life and experiences similar to those found in corresponding Asian cities.

International students are a key audience

Being near to University Technology Sydney, Notre Dame University, University of Sydney and TAFE Ultimo, an estimated 67,600 student tertiary and vocational students were located within and near to Haymarket pre-pandemic. International students are a key part of both the labour force and the customer base. We heard through engagement that international students from Asia visit the area for 'a taste of home'.

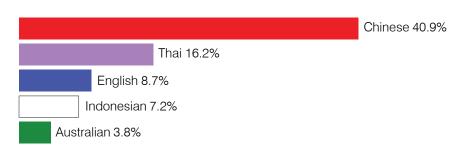


Figure 17

Haymarket ancestry. Source: Census 2021

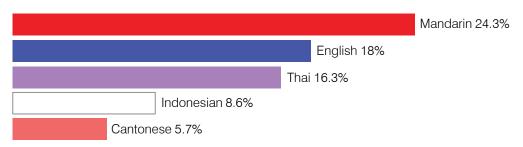


Figure 18

Haymarket language spoken at home. Source: Census 2021

Late night trading has declined

In the past, Chinatown had the reputation of being a late night destination. Haymarket is within a 'late night management area', which means that with approval from the City, businesses can extend their hours to operate 24 hours. However, the mobile phone activity data from 2022 showed there is a strong peak of activity in Haymarket at 6pm, which drops off after 8pm. There is an opportunity to support Haymarket's night time economy and re-establish the precinct as a late night destination.

Haymarket is part of Tech Central

The economic research found that Haymarket has a higher proportion of small and micro businesses than the wider CBD. Haymarket is part of Tech Central, a vibrant and growing innovation and technology precinct stretching to Camperdown (the biomed node) and Eveleigh (the deep tech node). Haymarket and its surrounding neighbourhoods are focused on digital and creative innovators. The City collaborates with universities, NSW Government, and sector partners to promote the growth of the innovation economy. For example the City supported Haymarket HQ's Sydney landing pad, a program which supports start ups from Asia to enter the Australian market. The City is also working towards the transformation of Broadway into a green avenue, which would strengthen the connection from Haymarket to the universities and the rest of Tech Central.

Haymarket's strengths

The economic study identified the following strengths and competitive advantages.

- highly connected to public transport
- being in the CBD with a large customer base
- proximity to the universities and a large student population

- near to the proposed Central Precinct western gateway development
- proximity to Darling Quarter, Darling Harbour, Capitol Theatre, Paddy's Markets
- urban feel and fine grain with distinct character
- Asian cultures reflected on street/public spaces
- authentic and affordable food offerings
- existing start-up incubator (Haymarket HQ)
- within the future Tech Central innovation precinct and proximity to established cluster of ICT and creative industries
- good pedestrian accessibility along/around George Street
- attractiveness to skilled migrants and international students
- engaged communities and emerging networks

Key opportunities

The economic study drew analysis of Chinatowns elsewhere to identify opportunities for Haymarket. This case study comparison highlighted interventions are most effective when they are wide in their breadth and they are led by grassroots community organisations, with Government playing a supporting role.

- enable community involvement and leadership
- leverage one of Sydney's most historically and culturally rich areas
- improve the public domain and ground plane (shop fronts)
- · reposition the retail offer to meet demand
- strengthen and support existing anchors
- improve connectivity

Planning and development background

Chinatown in the Haymarket is not identified for high rise towers but it adjoins two tower cluster areas - one to the north and to the south.

Between these tower cluster areas, the distinctive character comes from its density of shopfronts with narrow frontages, small/irregular plots, and high level of small businesses and activities. The current planning controls in the Haymarket/ Chinatown special character area aim to protect these characteristics, with lower building heights.

The economic study found that in this area, smaller scale and incremental development is desirable to help rejuvenate the area without detracting from the area's character. DCP controls could be reviewed to encourage small scale renewal which does not involve required amalgamation with neighbouring sites.

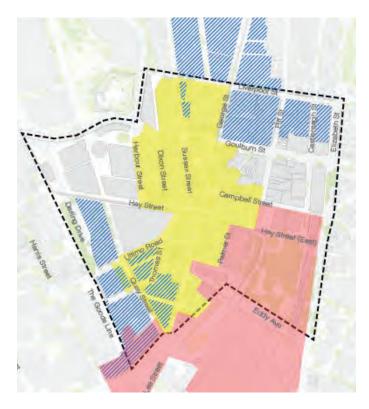
The west parts of Haymarket including Darling Square, north west Dixon Street, Market City and the Goods Line are state managed, sitting outside of the City's planning controls.

Central Precinct

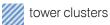
A major development area is being planned to the south of Haymarket. A rezoning proposal aims to deliver a technology and innovation precinct by enabling development over and adjacent to the railway lines at Central Station.

Part of the precinct – the Western Gateway – has already been rezoned and is under construction.

These developments near Lee Street, including Atlassian's new global headquarters, will provide in total more than 300,000sqm of new office work space, bringing additional workers to the area. There is an opportunity for Haymarket to benefit from its close proximity to this growing tech precinct.



kev

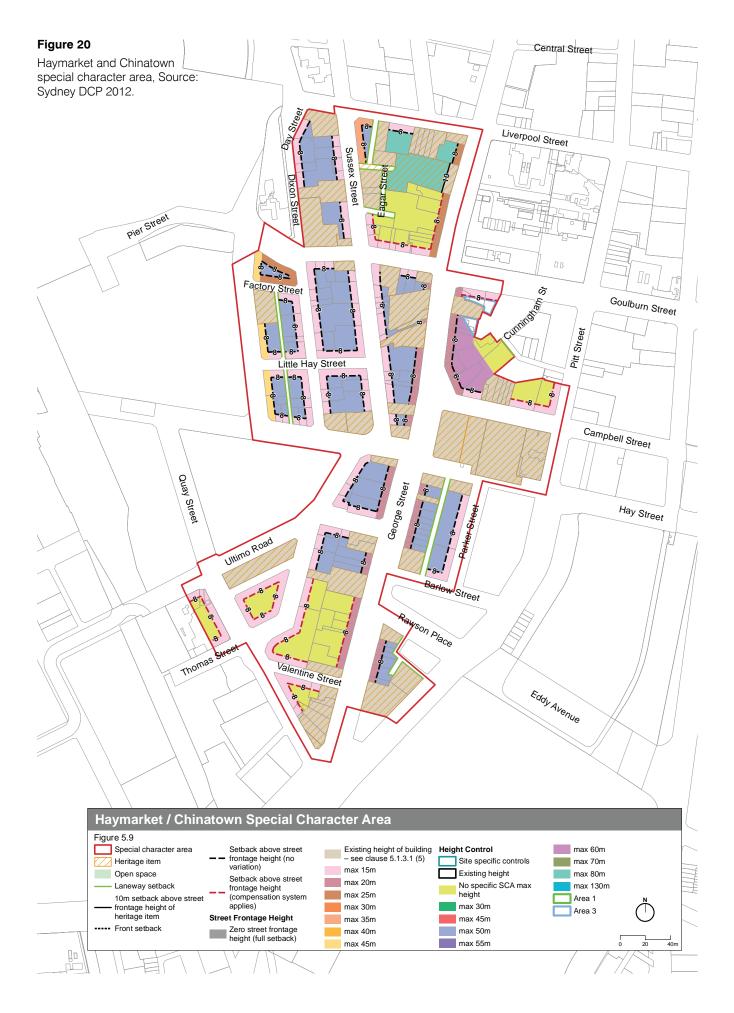


Haymarket/Chinatown special character area

Railway Square/Central special character area

Figure 19

Key planning designations, Source: Sydney LEP 2012.



Heritage context

The surviving markets buildings, stores, warehouses and service laneways in Haymarket, along with the name of the area itself, is a reminider of its historic role as markets and its proximity to the former port of Darling Harbour.

The heritage buildings form a significant historic precinct of Victorian and Edwardian buildings of consistent character and scale, reflecting the period's growth and prosperity in relation to the markets and the railway terminus. This can be seen in those buildings at the intersections of George, Hay and Sussex Streets, including the Haymarket Chambers, Capitol Theatre, Palace Hotel, the Corporation Building, Bank of China building, Westpac Bank Building and former Burlington Hotel building.

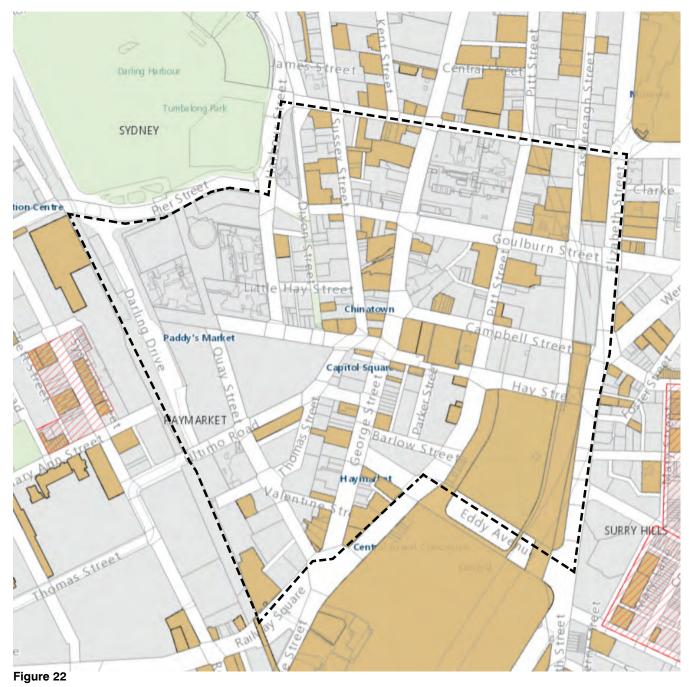
The surviving former market buildings or building facades at the southern part of the area, including the Market City (housing Paddys Market) and UTS Business School at Quay Street demonstrate the cluster of the municipal markets built by the City of Sydney.

While there are many listed buildings in the area, few of the listings relate to the Chinese community and their long history in the area.

The Wing Sang & Co. building at 18-22 Campbell Street is culturally significant as the former headquarters for fruit merchants who supported many families' immigration from Guangdong, China. Today its ground floor is activated with Thai grocers and restaurants.



Figure 21 A drawing of Wing Sang & Co building at 20-22 Campbell Street Source: China-Australia Heritage Corridor



A map of the listed heritage items, Source: Geocortex, Sydney LEP 2012

Recognising Chinese history and heritage in Haymarket

The City was aware that few of the heritage listings related to the Chinese community and their long history in the area. The City is working to address that gap.

The City recently listed 82-84 Dixon Street. The former Kwong War Chong & Company building is one of the earliest buildings and businesses that were built for, owned, and operated for over a century by people of Chinese descent in Chinatown. The cultural and community functions of the Kwong War Chong formed part of an extensive network of business, industrial and social relations among Chinese Australians in this period. Built in 1910, the building survives intact today, though the building is in need of conservation works.

The City has also commissioned a heritage assessment of the Chinatown Gates. Located on Dixon Street south, and constructed in 1970-80, the gates have historic significance for being a traditional Chinese ceremonial gateway that marks the entrance of Chinatown. The pair of gates were designed using traditional Chinese design and ornamentation. The Gates have social significance.

In addition, the City commissioned GML Heritage to undertake a Thematic History of Chinatown.

The study is not an extensive history of the history, but draws on other sources to provide a foundational understanding of the significance of Chinatown and the overarching historical themes.

It is intended that the Thematic History will guide future work in the area such as interpretation, placemaking, strategic planning and future heritage studies. The City will work with community members to gather further detail on the themes identified in the Thematic History, for instance through recording oral histories.

The Thematic History Study identified the following themes:

Theme 1: Evolving Chinatown

Chinatown as a destination, a place name and a unified urban area of Sydney evolved much later in the twentieth century. Concentrations of Chinese residences and businesses tell the story of evolving patterns of migration and a diversifying economy.

Theme 2: Living and working in Chinatown

The theme of living and working in Chinatown spans a vast range of historical experience. Formerly high-density neighbourhoods have vanished but new homes and businesses have taken their place. Discrimination against Chinese communities directly impacted on the function of business and their homes. However, the strength and diversity of Chinese people and businesses ensured a thriving network with international reach.

Theme 3: Belief, culture and community

Chinatown evolved over time from a place offering shelter and sanctuary to a hub of social, cultural, religious and political activity for Sydney's Chinese community and an international gateway for business.

Theme 4: Change and renewal in Chinatown

Like many Chinatowns globally, Sydney's Chinatown has been shaped by a range of factors. Development pressures, population decentralisation and shifting demographics have changed the fabric and boundaries of its communities. Consequently, the role of Chinatown has also evolved as it straddles its history and the new demands of our increasingly globalised world.

Figure 23

Clockwise from top left: King Fong's family grocery store Say Tin Fong, 52 Dixon Street, 1954. (Source: China–Australia Heritage Corridor); Dixon Street 1986 (Source: National Archives of Australia); Wing San & Co Sussex Street 1909-1913 (Source: City of Sydney archive); children in a Harbour Street shop (Source: China–Australia Heritage Corridor); Pagaent of Nations Town Hall (Source: State Library of NSW)











Haymarket's streets

Haymarket's streets have changed significantly since the City developed its first Chinatown Public Domain Plan in 2010.

The CBD and South East Light Rail has been realised, including several streetscape upgrades. George Street has been transformed into a green, pedestrian boulevard that now unites the precinct east to west.

Similarly, the Haymarket section of Hay Street is a pedestrian street and light rail route which has recently been upgraded with wider footpaths and new street furniture.

Darling Square has created a new green space for Haymarket, as well as a network of laneways and space for outdoor dining. It has also improved the walking connection north to Darling Harbour.

Many of the other streets - Ultimo Road and Thomas Street for example - have been upgraded as local streets, where traffic is slowed and more space is given over to pedestrians.

The street network is evolving to prioritise people walking, cycling and taking public transport. The network must also enable deliveries and services to keep the fine grain ground floor retail alive. Vehicular through traffic is now focused on Goulburn Street, Darling Drive and Pitt Street. These changes mean that while Haymarket is still accessible by car for those who need it, the routes may be different and may take longer.

The community feedback acknowledged this tension and transition. Many people were positive about the changes George Street and wanted to see more improvements for pedestrians in Haymarket. Others felt that it has become more difficult to park in Haymarket which may discourage people from visiting the precinct.





Images of Haymarket: (top) George Street becomes a pedestrian boulevard (bottom) Upgrades and public art on Thomas Street. Source: City of Sydney

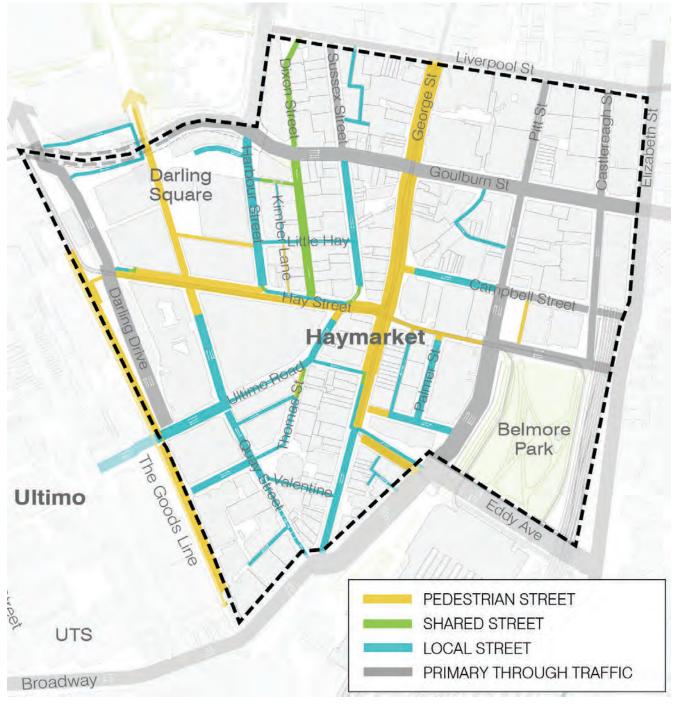


Figure 25A map of Haymarket's street network. Source: City of Sydney

Existing events, culture and community space

Cultural and community events play a significant role in animating the precinct and supporting local economies. When led by local people and organisations, these events can have long-term positive impacts on community and business development. The City supports a wide range of community-led initiatives through its grants program.

The Chinatown Markets on Friday evenings in Dixon Street south offer Asian-inspired food, design and art, and are an important part of the regular rhythms of the precinct.

Street festivals, including the annual Sydney Lunar Festival, Vivid Sydney and bi-annual Sydney Streets, invite people onto the street for parades, performers, music, and food.

Neon Playground was a highly successful festival in 2022 funded through the City's grants program and organised by Haymarket HQ, Haymarket Chamber of Commerce, Soul of Chinatown, Basalt Studio and Bespok3.

Cultural and community organisations - including the Chinese Garden of Friendship, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Tumbalong Park, Darling Square Library and Capitol Theatre - are key draw-cards for the area and have a changing program.

The City-supported Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA) is due to open in 2024 in the former Haymarket library building.

Figure 26

A year of events in Haymarket . Source: City of Sydney.

All Year March 2024 Safer Cities Activations 4A Centre for Contemporary Belmore Park Asian Art A Safer Cities pilot project to improve Hay Street women and girls' safety featuring site Art celebrating the diversity of the activations and creative installations Asian diaspora Fridays January / February April-May Chinatown Markets Sydney Lunar Festival & Streets City Art Walking Tour Dixon Street Chinatown at night, Haymarket Thai Town Lunar Fest Street food and Asian-inspired Artist-led tour of public art including Haymarket design and art the incredible sculpture, installations, Two-week festival with cultural shows, art, light works and murals of Chinatown banquets, dragon boat races, treasure hunts,

street food, family workshops and tours



Figure 27Key cultural and community spaces, Source: City of Sydney

Key cultural and community institutions:

- 1 Chinese Garden of Friendship
- 2 Darling Square Library
- 3 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art
- 4 Capitol Theatre
- 6 Paddy's Market
- 6 Event Cinemas
- 7 Tumbalong Park
- 8 ICCC
- Powerhouse Museum
- 10 Korean Cultural Centre
- 11 Passage Gallery
- 12 Blank Gallery
- 13 White Rabbit Gallery

Future / potential:

- MOCA
- 15 former Harbour City Cinema
- former Kwong War Chong building



Community vision

A community vision and themes for Haymarket have been informed by extensive consultation.

The community vision for Haymarket is summarised as:

"A vibrant, bustling place that celebrates diverse Asian cultures, that preserves its history and character while embracing contemporary forms of cultural expression"



Respectful of history and celebrates culture

Haymarket has a rich history. It is to be a place where diverse traditions and cultures inform the character of the area.

- recognise Chinatown's history and heritage
- revitalise Dixon Street as the heart of Chinatown
- encourage expression of Asian cultures throughout the precinct
- support storytelling, sharing of memories, traditions and living cultures
- more public art by Chinese/Australian artists



Global, diverse and evolving

Haymarket is to be globally connected, lively throughout the day and night, and constantly evolving.

- encourage people to visit and spend time in Haymarket through diverse food and retail
- recognise the precinct's relationship to global Asia
- support 24-hour activation and a thriving nighttime economy of bars, stalls and music
- allow the character to be different to elsewhere in the CBD
- · increase embellishment and creative lighting



Accessible and connected

Haymarket is easy to get to and get around within. Places within the precinct are connected and people of all ages find it accessible.

- make it easy to travel to the precinct as a key destination from across Greater Sydney
- strengthen connections within Haymarket, linking different experiences
- improve pedestrian and cycle access
- support multigenerational and universal access



Green, clean and welcoming

Haymarket is to be clean, green, safe and welcoming to the community. It is more comfortable, with a good balance of light, shade and amenity. The streets and public spaces are well-designed and maintained by Council, residents and local businesses.

- increase regular cleaning and maintenance
- increase pruning and greenery through delivering the urban forest strategy
- make attractive and welcoming public spaces for everyone to enjoy
- ensure a safe and inclusive precinct



Authentic, affordable and local

Haymarket serves and reflects its local communities. It has a range of offers, places and spaces that are unique to the area, support everyday life. Visitors are attracted to its unique character.

- support independent local businesses
- continue to make food and drink the focus
- increase street life with better lighting
- expand the offer with experiential and unique/ specialty retail to appeal to the growing younger Asian cohort



Through partnerships and in collaboration

Haymarket's revitalisation is led by people who are passionate about its future. Its identity is shaped by its communities. Haymarket thrives through partnerships, a willingness to collaborate and leadership.

- support and encourage community-led initiatives
- work with local people, organisations, businesses, and landowners
- remove barriers and red tape to work with the City

The City's approach

The City is committed to realising the community's vision for Haymarket. We recognise that there is no silver bullet; a wide-ranging set of actions is needed to catalyse to positive change in the area.

This section of the document sets out a five-point plan with actions to explore in each area. We would like to hear your views on this approach and which actions you would like the City to prioritise.

While the City needs to do our part, we are just one of the many stakeholders in the area. Local people, businesses, landowners and the NSW Government play an important role in shaping the revitalisation of the Haymarket. We need to enable and work together with others to realise the community's vision for Haymarket.

In our conversations, we've met lots of passionate people and businesses who are doing their part in making this vision a reality.

There are some actions which the City can lead on, like transforming the streets and spaces which we own. Where we do not have ownership or oversight, it will be more challenging. We can support others, for example through grant funding or advocating for the change we would like to see.

Collaboration and partnerships will be critical in delivering the revitalisation of Haymarket.







Figure 28

Images of Haymarket: (top) Try a bike at Darling Square, (middle and bottom) Sydney Lunar Streets 2023.

Source: City of Sydney



The City's five-point plan to support the revitalisaiton of Haymarket. Source: City of Sydney

1. Renewal of the heart

The economic research reveals that Dixon Street has the highest proportion of ground floor vacancies and the lowest activity levels.

We heard from you that Dixon Street is special as the heart of Chinatown and that it is a top priority for improvement.

Investment is needed to ensure that the Dixon Street 'heart' is distinctive and draws on its rich history, heritage and Cantonese roots to create a inviting and welcoming experience.

A substantial investment in the public domain and lighting will be made but needs to be accompanied by a transformation of the public facing run down building appearance with shopfronts/activity that enhances their character and has market appeal.

The public domain upgrades will help to refresh the street, with new paving inserts, lighting, planting, tree pruning and street furniture.

These interventions will enhance the quality of the place and provide the flexible infrastructure to support the area's vibrant cultural life. The ceremonial gates will be repaired and restored.

Drawing on its strengths, Dixon Street could be reinvented as a chef's gallery, bringing the theatre of cooking and food preparation to the street, as well as substantial increase in outdoor dining.

Incentives are needed to motivate landowners to improve their buildings, bringing vacant space back into use and breathing new life into the street. This would be similar to a main street program at a smaller scale.

Financial incentives available for a limited period of time have the potential to kick start private investment in the area and catalyse on-going renewal.

Actions

- main street improvement program for Dixon Street south (the heart) to incentivise facade, awning and food and beverage shopfront improvements via a DA process. Improvements to be eligible for a co-funding program for a limited period of time (three years)
- food and beverage shopfront improvements could bring food preparation to the window as a form of theatre and for street interest
- introduce a design guide and planning concierge service for private buildings: facade, awning and shopfront upgrades for Dixon Street

Actions already underway

- design work is underway for the upgrade of Dixon Street's public domain – paving, lighting, planting, street furniture
- planned restoration of the Chinatown ceremonial gates
- business sector support grants to grow the skills of local businesses, provide networking opportunities and promote the local precinct



Figure 30 A photo of Dixon Street shopfronts in need of upgrading. Source: City of Sydney



Action: Dixon Street co-funding incentive

Dixon Street is in great need of improvement - both in term of the building and shopfront presentation and the offer. The buildings are privately owned by many different landowners, and it seems that market forces alone are not stimulating renewal or upgrading.

Incentives are needed to motivate landowners to improve their buildings, bringing vacant space back into use and breath new life into the street. Limited time financial incentives have the potential to kick start private investment in the area and catalyse on-going renewal.

The City proposes to develop a co-funding incentive or grant program for Dixon Street south. Co-funding of capital improvements could include:

- works to the shopfronts to engage with public domain and re-present the ground-floor business
- works to bring food preparation to the shopfront, perhaps creating a 'chefs gallery' on Dixon Street
- improvements and repairs to the heritage awnings
- improvements to the upper storey facades (above the awnings), such as cleaning, repairs and repainting

A co-funding scheme would require matched funding from the landowner and engagement with the business operator at ground.

To be eligible, landowners would need to lodge a DA with the assistance of planning who would offer support navigating the planning process.

A maximum amount of funding available would be set per applicant and overall. The grant would be available for a set period of time (three years).

Action considerations City leads grants + city planning landowners, businesses, Stakeholders and design and heritage and partners professionals medium term for a fixed **Timeframe** three year term yes - to commission Additional a design guide and budget provide the grant







Figure 32Photos of three shopfronts in Haymarket which bring food preparation to the front window. Source: City of Sydney

2. Planning and heritage

The City's planning framework is a key tool for encouraging landowner investment in buildings and to provide the type of space for the activities you said you want to see. Haymarket's distinct character can be enhanced and cultivated through the rules and guidance we set. The City's approach to land use planning can positively contribute to the evolution and revitalisation of Chinatown and Haymarket.

The character of the area is distinct from the rest of Central Sydney. Instead of large corporate towers, the area's human scaled shopfronts, low to mid-rise buildings and small irregular plots and diversity of business make for active and vibrant streets. The controls within the special character look to protect these attributes. Community feedback indicates that people value this unique character and would like to see it preserved.

The economic research suggests that small scale development and renewal should be encouraged, to refresh the area while also retaining the area's distinct character.

In terms of land use, we know that the area's identity is and will continue to be rooted in cuisine both in restaurants and fresh food grocers. In addition to this, the economic work identified the need for more 'anchors', attracting people to the area. More entertainment, cultural and community space, as well as unique and specialty retail will be needed to add to the area's offer.

We heard from you that the character of the signage, art and lighting in Haymarket should be different from the rest of Central Sydney and that you would like it to become even more vibrant. with contemporary expressions of Asian cultures. We propose to review our planning rules, to allow for more individuality and expression.

The planning framework also protects the area's built heritage. The area is designated a 'special character area' and home to many heritage listed buildings, however few of these listings currently

acknowledge the significance of the area to the Chinese community. Further work will be done to strengthen our approach to heritage to better recognise Chinese history in the area.

Actions

- allowing more freedom and cultural expression in signage controls and lighting to enhance the night time economy
- · encourage fine grain with renewal by lifting the street wall height in the special character area in order to make upgrades and renewal more feasible
- explore opportunities for community and cultural space
- advocate for the transformation of the interior and exterior of Paddy's markets and offer focused on East Asian food and produce
- recognise cultural heritage: update locality statements, statements of significance, and research, engage and recognise buildings of interest to Chinese history
- advocate for the conservation and reuse of the former Kwong War Chong building at 82-84 Dixon Street

Actions already underway

- heritage list the Chinatown Gates
- already designated a special character area
- Kwong War Chong building at 82-84 Dixon Street was heritage listed in 2020
- the Central Sydney Planning Framework designates tower clusters either side of Chinatown to support employment growth without changing essential character
- fees waived for outdoor dining until 2025



Action: Encourage fine grain renewal

The character of the area is distinct from the rest of Central Sydney. Instead of large corporate towers with sterilised frontages, the area's narrow shopfronts, low to midrise buildings and small irregular plots make for active and vibrant streets. For example, on George Street the widths of building frontages are on average 8m wide in Chinatown compared to 15m or more in the northern part of the CBD.

These smaller shopfronts are more suitable for independent businesses, rather than chainstores. Community feedback indicates that people value this character and would like to see it maintained.

The economic study recommends that small scale development and renewal is encouraged, to refresh the area while also retaining the area's distinct character.

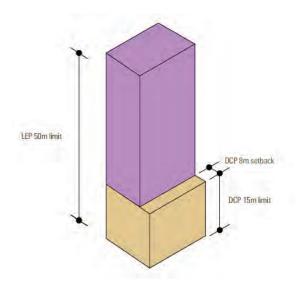
Currently the planning controls require a streetwall height of 15m with an 8m set back. For small and irregular shaped sites, this results in a significant loss of floorspace and in small floorplates which are often unviable for commercial uses. Development therefore is not possible without amalgamation, which would result in the loss of the historic ownership pattern and fine grain character of the area.

In order to allow smaller sites to redevelop individually, the City proposes to reconsider the street wall heights in the special character area (except for Dixon Street).

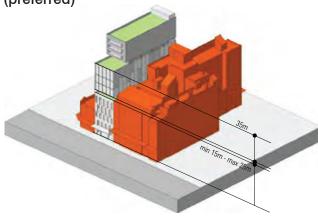
The City has tested raising the street wall height from 15m (the current planning controls) to 35m (option 1) and to the full height of 45m (option 2), considering what impact this has on sunlight and views of the sky. Benchmark testing against other CBD streets demonstrates that there is capacity to increase the street wall height without detrimental effects to the sunlight in the public domain.

Action considerations					
City lead	strategic planning and urban design + planning assessments				
Stakeholders and partners	landowners, design and heritage professionals				
Timeframe	short term, 0-12 months				
Additional budget	no - within existing budget				

Existing planning rules - 15m street wall height:



Option 1 - raise street wall height to 35m: (preferred)



Option 2 - raise street wall height to 45m:

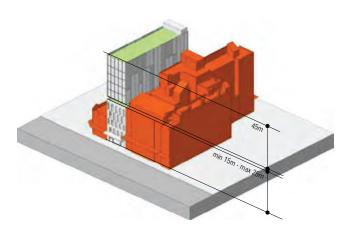


Figure 34

A series of three diagrams, showing the existing planning controls, option 1 raising the street wall height to 35m and option 2 raising the street wall height to 45m.

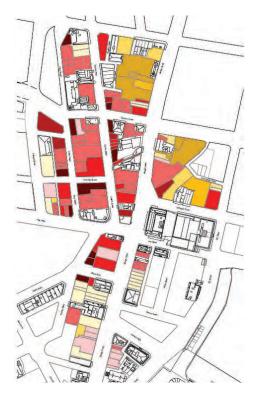


Figure 35

A plan showing that very few sites (shown in yellow) in the special character area are able to be redeveloped to their full potential without amalgamating with their neighbours.

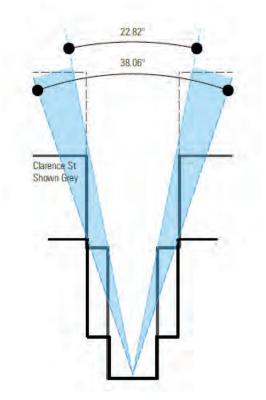


Figure 36

A street section showing benchmark testing of Sussex Street (shown in black) against Clarence Street (shown in grey), demonstrating that there is capacity to increase the street wall height without bringing detrimental impacts to the daylight in the public domain.

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Action: Encourge cultural expression in building signage and lighting

Chinatowns globally have a strong association with larger expressive signage on buildings and neon. Lighting has a crucial role to play in attracting people at night and supporting the night time economy.

The City has planning rules in the Development Control Plan (DCP) from the special character area which limit the type, size, positioning and number of signs on a building.

We heard through engagement that the community would like to see vibrant creative lighting and contemporary cultural expression in Haymarket.

This can be delivered in part through the City's approach to the public domain and art.

It can also be delivered through planning rules for the Haymarket to encourage cultural expression in signage and lighting. Within a yet to be defined 'signage precinct', signs on buildings would be allowed to be larger and more frequent, if they are of a high quality and in keeping with the area's character.

For example, additional signs beyond the current controls may be permitted if they are neon or LED neon-like with artistic and cultural expression.

Action considerations					
City lead	strategic planning and urban design + planning assessments				
Stakeholders and partners	landowners, design and heritage professionals				
Timeframe	short term, 0-12 months				
Additional budget	no - within existing budget				

Figure 37 (opposite page)

Photos of neon signage. Clockwise from top left: Kowloon cafe in Eastwood, Source: Yusuke Oba; Singapore Chinatown signage, Source: www.easternneon.com. sg; Hong Kong signage, Source: arcaid; San Franscisco Chinatown signage; and Tate Britain 'remembering a brave new world' exhibition Source: Dezeen











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Action: Explore opportunities for community and cultural space

We heard from the community that there is a desire for more community space and a more vibrant cultural and nighttime offer.

The economic work reinforced this aim by identifying a need for more 'anchors' to attract people to the area, such as entertainment and cultural venues, noting the loss of the entertainment centre. These uses play a complementary role to the many restaurants and other food and beverage operators in the area.

The City will explore opportunities through future development applications and planning proposals to deliver more community and cultural space.

There may also be opportunities for landowners to repurpose vacant or underutilised space as cultural and community space. The City could support the use of vacant space through 'matching' landowners and community groups and cultural organisations, through grant support, and advocacy to relevant property owners and other levels of government.

Action considerations strategic planning and City lead planning assessments landowners, design Stakeholders professionals, community and partners groups and creative partners **Timeframe** on-going Additional no - within existing budget budget



Action: Recognise cultural heritage

The community has called for more recognition of Chinese Australian history and heritage, including less tangible social and cultural heritage.

The City of Sydney commissioned GML Heritage to undertake a Thematic History of Chinatown. The Thematic History is a broad, foundational study to understand the significance of Chinatown and the overarching historical themes.

Based on this work, the City is reviewing and updating the locality statement for the Haymarket and Chinatown special character area to acknowledge the social and cultural significance of the area to Chinese and Asian communities.

The City is also updating the inventory sheets for five listed buildings to acknowledge Chinese history and significance.

There are three additional unlisted buildings that were identified through the research and engagement as potentially having cultural significance, particularly historic and social value linked to the Chinese community:

- 75-77 Ultimo Road, Kuomintang Building
- 50-54 Dixon Street, Tung Wah Times Headquarters
- 90-100 Hay Street

The City proposes to carry out engagement with the owners and further investigation of these three buildings to better understand their history and significance. Following the research and engagement, options can be explored to recognise their history; this could include historic storytelling, interpretation, reconsidering the building's use, or heritage listing.

strategic planning and City lead urban design landowners, MOCA, CAHS, design and Stakeholders heritage professionals, the and partners Department for Planning and Environment **Timeframe** medium term, 1-2 years

no - within existing budget

Action considerations

Additional

budget

If any of the three buildings is recommended for listing, it will involve a further heritage assessment and a planning proposal to amend the Local Environmental Plan (SLEP 2012). If listed and conserved, they could be eligible for an award of heritage floorspace.

Figure 39

Photos of buildings identified for further investigation. Top left - 75-77 Ultimo Road. Top right - 50-54 Hay Street. Bottom - 90-100 Hay Street. Source: City of Sydney.







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3. Public domain and art

Work to revitalise Haymarket has already begun. George Street South has been recently transformed into a pedestrian boulevard.

Changes to Hay Street, Ultimo Road and Thomas Street have created new opportunities for footpath widening, tree planting and events. Designs are being prepared to improve Dixon Street, including restoration of the Chinatown Gates.

You told us that the streets and public spaces are important in Haymarket. The area is known for having a busy street life and being a place where you see diverse cultures reflected on the streets and in public spaces. You wanted to see more creative lighting, pedestrian-friendly streets, outdoor dining, public amenities like seating and public toilets, and better cleaning and maintenance.

You wanted the streetscape to respect the heritage and character of the area, while bringing colour and celebrating diverse Asian cultures.

The Haymarket street network needs to acknowledge different needs from greening and active transport, to footpath widening in some locations to catering for fine grain retail deliveries and servicing to pick up/drop off and short term parking on the street.

The Haymarket can be transformed into a precinct of gardens, light and colour. The public space should reflect its diverse Asian communities, be respectful of history, and provides a platform for everyday street life and cultural celebration. Community feedback suggested social moments for young and old, such as places for mahiong and other games.

The Haymarket and Chinatown Public Domain Plan is being produced for the precinct as a whole, to improve streets, squares and open spaces, and to provide new public art. Feedback from the community will be sought to prioritise the opportunities and plan the City's future capital works.

Actions

- creative lighting as a point of difference and to establish the precinct as a place to visit at night
- draw people into the core Chinatown area with improved amenity and creative lighting
- more spaces and infrastructure for cultural events
- more trees and greening in the precinct
- strengthen the identity of Thai Town and celebrate Thai culture through the upgrade Campbell Street
- upgrade Belmore Park with safe lighting and improve connections to the future Central Square
- support the fine grain street retail with adequate daily delivery and freight space and short-term parking
- consider 15 minute free drop off and pick up spaces (short stay parking) in the precinct
- investigate street cleaning and waste management
- new opportunities for public art
- consider options for cycling connections

Actions already underway

- recent public domain upgrades have been made to George Street South, Hay Street and Ultimo Road
- design work is underway to upgrade Dixon Street public domain
- restoration of the Chinatown Gates is being progressed





Action: Investigate innovation in street cleaning and waste management

We heard from the community that street cleaning and waste management is important to Haymarket.

The City collects waste from residential and public bins, and cleans the street, both pressure cleaning at night and manual spot cleaning in the daytime. The team also adaptively responds to concern areas, for example Kimber Lane, where cleansing is increased to a nightly basis.

Access is a challenge for street cleaning and waste collection in Haymarket with constrained streets and high usage across the day. Investigations will be undertaken to consider how we can make street cleaning more efficient, for example, considering different equipment for constrained and pedestrianised Haymarket Streets.

The City is not responsible for commercial waste, which is managed and collected privately. Commercial bins are meant to be stored within the business premises and put out only for collection. However, there are challenges with commercial waste in Haymarket, for example:

- a lack of internal space resulting in commercial bins being left on the street
- a misuse of bins (businesses using public bins and vice versa)
- additional bagged rubbish left beside commercial bins attracting vermin or resulting in spillage.

A working group is set up to engage businesses and find ways to better manage bins in the area. Innovative solutions could be explored and trialled to improve commercial waste management.

Action considerations

City lead	waste and cleansing
Stakeholders and partners	businesses, community, and landowners
Timeframe	on-going
Additional budget	Investigations are within the existing budget. Future trials / solutions may require additional budget.



4. Culture, events and activation

A changing calendar of events and activities can provide a compelling reason for people to visit the area to enjoy busy and creative street life.

The economic research found that the Neon Playground event, community devised and funded by the City's precinct activation grants, significantly increased visitor numbers.

Events also provide opportunities for the expression of Asian cultures and celebration of the area's history. The economic research identified 'leveraging one of Sydney's most historically and culturally rich areas' as a key opportunity.

There is potential for Haymarket to be brought to life by celebration, events and gathering.

Embracing the wider remit of cultural celebrations of East Asian origin will provide a point of difference from other precincts and places. The public domain plan will ensure it has many social places at a variety of sizes that provide flexible infrastructure for creative lighting, public art, parades, markets and performance.

Much is already being done by the cultural and community organisations in the area including the Chinese Garden of Friendship, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Tumbalong Park, Darling Square Library and Capitol Theatre. Through collaboration with these partners, the City will seek to support and explore any opportunities to expand their program.

You told us that you value the area's social and cultural history and would like to hear those stories told.

The City-supported Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA) is due to open in 2024 in the former Haymarket library building, helping to tell these stories. The City also proposes to identify opportunities for showcasing its archives and research of Haymarket's history, for example, through walking tours, hoardings, and plaques.

Actions

- support additional festivals and events which celebrate Asian cultures and activate the precinct with \$200,000 additional funding
- build on the City of Sydney's oral history collection, which includes approximately 20 interviews with members of the Chinese community from the 1990s to now. Identify up to five potential oral history candidates who could talk about the evolution of Chinatown in the last 50 years
- share Haymarket and Chinatown's history through walking tours, hoardings and plagues
- explore opportunities to secure long-term legacy and place benefits for Haymarket of festivals and events
- review the 2022 Floor Space and Employment Survey data to identify underutilised and vacant space. Engage with landowners and leasing agents to bring space back into use.

Actions already underway

- Haymarket has been awarded \$200,000 as part of the Uptown Grant Program to develop a destination brand, marketing assets and campaign to raise awareness about what the precinct has to offer to help generate increased foot traffic. This City will work with the group to support and amplify their efforts for the area
- annual production of Sydney Lunar New Year
- support for Friday night markets
- grant funding for festivals and events
- Sydney Streets events close down local streets twice annually in the Haymarket area. Local business trade out, with street performers to attract visitation
- an accommodation grant to support the creation of the new Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA), due to open in 2024



Action: Support additional festivals, events and activations

There is potential for Haymarket to be brought to life by celebration, events, and gathering for different cultures.

Focusing these on the cultural celebrations of Asian communities will provide a point of difference from other precincts.

The community told us that they would like to have more events, festivals, markets, and cultural activities. Having these organised by local people and organisations allows for them to make the greatest impact.

In November 2022, Soul of Chinatown, Haymarket Chamber of Commerce and Haymarket HQ worked together to organise Neon Playground. The event was supported by the City's Precinct Activation Grant. The 4-week festival resulted in a surge of activity, increased trade for local businesses, and stronger relationships between local stakeholders.

The City's existing grant program supports festivals and events that celebrate, develop and engage our communities. The City proposes to increase funding for a limited period (three years) to enable additional community-led festivals and events which activate the precinct.

Action considerations City lead events and grants teams Stakeholders community groups and and partners cultural organisations **Timeframe** medium term, 1-3 years Additional yes - additional grant budget funding



Action: Sharing Haymarket and Chintown's history

You told us that you value the area's social and cultural history and would like to hear those stories told. In particular, there is a desire for more recognition of Chinese Australian history. The grant-funded Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA) is due to open in 2024 in the former Haymarket library building, helping to tell these stories.

In addition, the City will identify further opportunities for showcasing Haymarket's history through its existing programs including:

- Sydney Culture Walk program: The City has created an existing walking tour that includes Haymarket and a wider area. This walk will be reviewed and updated to embed recent historic research, to focus on the history of Haymarket, and to tell the stories of significant places for Chinese Australians. The updated tour will be available as an accessible PDF and via the Sydney Culture Walks app. Audio snippets, drawn from the City's oral history collection, could be included in the app.
- Historical Green Plagues program: The updated walk will be used as a reference to carry out an audit of the historical plaques in the area. Working with key local stakeholders and historians, sites will be identified for potential new plaques to recognise signficant places and events. There will be a focused roll out of new Historical Green Plagues in Haymarket and Chinatown.
- Hoardings and Scaffolding program: The City's existing policies require that any site using construction hoardings for heritage developments or in a heritage area display historic images that are relevant to the area.

Action considerations city historian, city design, City lead city planning MOCA, CAHS, history and Stakeholders heritage professionals, and partners landowners and community groups **Timeframe** medium term, 1-3 years Additional no - within existing budget budget

Figure 44 (opposite page)

A photo of former Haymarket Library building on George Street which is becoming the Museum of Chinese in Australia (MOCA) with grant support from the City. Source: www.moca.com.au



5. Collaboration and partnerships

Community led revitalisation is not a new concept in Haymarket. In the 1970s the Dixon Street Beautification Committee was formed to consider the creation of a 'Chinese centre' in Sydney. The committee made recommendations for beautifying Dixon Street in a Chinese style and lobbied business owners to bear the cost of improving the building facades, shop signs and Chinese decorative banners.

The City of Sydney worked with the committee to trial the closure of the street for six-months before closing it permanently. After a successful trial, the new streetscape and ceremonial gates were constructed, costing the Council \$300,000 with the Chinese community contributing a further \$70,000. On 15 October 1980, the pedestrianised Dixon Street was opened. It remains valued as the heart of Chinatown to this day.

Through engagement, we heard that community representatives act as cultural custodians, with a great of sense of responsibility for the future of Haymarket. They expressed a desire to work together with the City of Sydney. We met many local champions and groups who are already contributing to the revitalisation of the area.

Similarly, the economic study's international case study comparison found that interventions are most effective and authentic when they are led by grassroots community organisations, with local government playing a supporting role.

We want to ensure that the local communities. businesses, and landowners in Haymarket are empowered. Change should be led by local champions and through coordinated community initiatives. Grant funding will go some way to supporting local groups. New governance structures or organisations may be needed to allow for more effective collaboration. We also need to make sure that our processes are easy to navigate and accessible to all.

NSW Government will also play an important role

in shaping the future of Haymarket. The Darling Harbour part of Haymarket sits outside the City's jurisdiction and some of the streets, spaces and buildings are owned by the State - notably Darling Quarter, the north part of Dixon Street and the Market City/Paddy's Market building. There are also State programs and grants that can assist. The City will encourage the NSW Government to use its assets, planning and programs towards the delivering on joined up community's vision for Haymarket.

Actions

- fund a new Haymarket coordinator to channel the various actions and provide a 'concierge service' for community members, businesses and landowners who want to be involved
- set up an informal Haymarket Forum of existing chambers, groups and champions to coordinate projects for the revitalisation of Haymarket
- advocate for integration and activation of NSW Government assets, including Market City, Dixon Street north and Quay Street
- consider participation in state's Purple Flag safety accreditation program to encourage areas to meet standards for vibrancy, diversity and safety at night

Actions already underway

- existing grant funding program
- regular collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and local community groups
- · community working group to support the organisation of Sydney Lunar New Year
- · recent Haymarket visioning engagement
- collaboration to support Tech Central, including work with Haymarket HQ, UTS, NSW Government and the local business chambers



Action: Haymarket coordinator

The themes and actions in this plan are complex, overlapping and involve many different teams from the City. We heard through engagement that our processes (such as development or grant applications) can be challenging to navigate, especially when there are language or cultural barriers.

Having a dedicated person to provide a 'concierge service' would help make it easier for community members, landowners and local businesses to get involved.

The City will fund a Haymarket coordinator position for a fixed term (3 years) to coordinate the different streams of work and be a point of contact for the community. This position's role could include:

- supporting business and landowners as they navigate the planning system
- reaching out to local business and providing information about the support available to them
- raise awareness of the grants program and provide advice and guidance to potential applicants
- supporting community groups, cultural organisations and others who may want to organise events or activations in the public domain
- carrying out a survey of local operators to understand barriers to late night trading. Encouraging and supporting operators to extend their trading hours later into the evening
- providing information about the Dixon Street co-funding program (see page 48)
- assisting with the potential Haymarket Forum being an advisory group and champions for change (see page 74)

Action considerations city planning + city City lead business Stakeholders community groups and and partners cultural organisations short term, 0-12 months **Timeframe** ongoing for 3 years

yes - additional funding

for a new full time position

Figure 46 (opposite page)

Additional

budget

A photo of Belmore Park in autumn. Source: City of Sydney.



Action: Haymarket Forum

In the preparation of this Strategy, the City has met with many individuals and groups who are doing amazing work to revitalise Haymarket. Community groups, chambers, local businesses, landowners, residents and NSW Government will all play an important role.

There is a diversity of groups in the area with different views and priorities, which can make collaboration challenging. That being said, there is a real appetite from the local leaders to work together with others.

The City could host or facilitate this collaboration. A forum or informal working group could be established and meet on a regular basis to coordinate the projects as we move forward with the revitalisation strategy.

The forum could start with representation from the leaders, champions, chambers and organisations who have been involved to date, and be open to others who want to get involved.

Action considerations					
City lead	city planning, engagement + city business				
Stakeholders and partners	community, groups, cultural organisations				
Timeframe	short term, 0-12 months ongoing for 3 years				
Additional budget	no - resourced with previous (page 72)				





Realising the vision

The following table sets out the actions and considers how they help to deliver on

the community's vision for Haymarket. This demonstrates that while there is no 'silver bullet', a wide array of actions is needed to respond to all of the community's priorities.	Respectful of history and celebrates culture	Global, evolving and diverse	Accessible and connected	Authentic, affordable and local	Green, clean and welcoming	Through partnerships and in collaboration
1. Renewal of the heart						
Dixon Street improvement program / co-funding grant	X	Х		Х		Х
design guide / planning concierge	х	Х		Х		х
2. Planning and heritage						
signage and lighting	X	X				х
encourage fine grain renewal	X	Х		Х		
advocate for transformation of Paddy's market	x		Х	X	Х	
recognise cultural heritage	x			X		
advocate restoration of 82-84 Dixon	x	X		X		х
explore opportunities for community / cultural space	x	X		X		х
3. Public domain and art						
creative lighting	x	X				
space for events		х	X	Х	X	
trees and greening					х	
strengthen the identity of Thai Town	x	Х	Х	X	X	X

Belmore Park
public art x x x
cycling connections x x
Systing serinosticine X
investigate street cleaning and waste management x x x x
4. Culture, events and activations
additional grant funding for activations x x x x x x
oral histories x x
historic storytelling (walk and plaques) x x
underutilised and vacant space x x x
5. Collaboration and partnerships
Haymarket coordinator position x x x x x
Haymarket forum x x x x x
advocacy NSW Government assets x x x
Purple Flag accreditation program x x

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Item 4.

Grants and Sponsorship – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

File No: \$117676

Summary

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund (Collaboration Fund) is part of the City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program.

This program supports a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver projects that meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local area. Funding supports increase self-determination and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through projects that connect people with community, Country and culture.

The Collaboration Fund is open all year for applications until the annual budget is exhausted.

Applications are assessed by Aboriginal and/or Torres Straits Islander members of staff with any conflicts of interest managed in accordance with the City of Sydney's Grants Policy.

In 2023/24 the total budget for the Collaboration Fund was \$500,000. To date, seven applications for a total of \$289,290 have been supported leaving a remaining budget of \$210,710 to be allocated this financial year.

Eight applications requesting a total of \$382,069 were received for assessment in this period. Assessment panel members individually assessed the grants and then met as a panel on Monday 15 January 2024 to make their final set of recommendations.

This report recommends five applications for a total of \$182,075 in cash and \$0 in value in kind. If these recommendations are approved the remaining budget for the Collaboration Fund for 2023/24 will be \$28,635.

Grant recipients will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the City, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor changes 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. Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program

Attachment B. Not Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program

Background

- 1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the City.
- 2. On 30 August 2022, the City announced the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications open all year round, until budget is exhausted.
- 3. Information about this grant program (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the grant program through the corporate website, content marketing, e-newsletters, paid and organic social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and AdWords. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs.
- 4. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations and is open to not-for-profit organisations, for-profit organisations, sole traders and individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit organisation.
- 5. Two eligible applications were received from for-profit organisations or sole traders through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program and one for-profit organisation is recommended in this report.
 - (a) Indigenous Technology Pty Ltd.

Grants assessment process

- 6. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
- 7. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined assessment criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
- 8. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund are:
 - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes and relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
 - demonstrated connection to and benefit for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
 - how the project will deliver against the funding priorities.

- 9. The assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program was held on 15 January 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Team, City Spaces, People and Culture, Venue Management and City Engagement Teams.
- 10. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, the City will prepare grant agreements to be entered into with the successful applicants, which will include conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
- 11. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
- 12. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

- 13. The applications recommended for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
- 14. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund budget for 2023/24 is set out below:

Total budget for 2023/24	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	(\$289,290)
Total cash available	\$210,710
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	8
Total cash value requested from applications	\$382,069
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support in this report	5
Total amount of cash funding for payment in this report (to be paid in 2023/24)	\$182,075
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2023/24	\$0
Remaining cash amount available in 2023/24	\$28,635

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

- 15. 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 projects in this report will contribute to strengthening partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and prioritise their cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic aspirations.
 - (b) Direction 8 A thriving cultural and creative life the recommended grant projects in this report will contribute to supporting artistic and creative endeavours in our city, helping foster initiative, experimentation and enterprise by creative workers and providing new opportunities for audiences to engage in the city's cultural life.

Organisational Impact

16. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Cultural / Economic / Social / Environmental

17. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and business, within the local area.

Financial Implications

18. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2023/24 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operating budget for 2023/24 to support the recommended grants. Details and relevant amounts are included in the tables above.

Relevant Legislation

- 19. 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.
- 20. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to forprofit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program;
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2023/24;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2023/24; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

21. The funding period for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program for 2023/24 is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Grant agreements will be prepared for all successful applicants after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for the commencement of projects.

Public Consultation

- 22. During July 2023, a briefing session took place where stakeholders were notified about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program and how to apply.
- 23. An in-person information session for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was held at Redfern Community Centre on 27 July 2023. A total of 19 attendees participated in the session.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Alana Goodwin, Grants Coordinator

Attachment A

Recommended for Funding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Collaboration Fund Program

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund 2023-24

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation	Sorry Day Stolen Generations Community Gathering	An annual commemoration on National Sorry Day for the Stolen Generation and survivors creating healing by telling the truth to their descendants, families and the broader community, held in the Royal Botanic Gardens.	\$50,000	Nil	\$45,000	Nil	Nil
Glebe Youth Service Inc as auspice for Kirawhan Fernando	Bungawarra	A program to support well-being, community cohesion and job readiness for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in Glebe through a cultural safety lens.	\$49,930	Nil	\$49,930	Nil	Nil
Indigenous Technology Pty Ltd	First Nations Mirrinj STEM Community Student Program for Women	A STEM skills program for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to develop tech expertise and drive awareness for technology and innovation in career pathways, including paid work experience.	\$50,000	Nil	\$17,000	Nil	Nil
National Centre of Indigenous Excellence Limited	Mums and Bubs Health and Wellbeing Program	A program to promote the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with newborns or preschoolers through subsidised fitness classes and weekly water safety classes for babies and young children in Redfern.	\$37,235	Nil	\$22,955	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Football Club Incorporated	Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Football Club 80th Anniversary Event	An event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Redfern All Blacks through recognising historical achievements, honouring key figures and highlighting contributions club members have made in wider society.	\$47,150	Nil	\$47,150	Nil	Nil
		Totals	\$234,315	0	\$182,035	0	

Attachment B

Not Recommended for Funding -Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund 2023-24

Not Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Koori Kulcha Aboriginal Corporation	Street Warriors	A youth program to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young adults (16-25) through culturally sensitive mentorship, vocational training, and life skills development to build a brighter future, and contribute positively to their communities	\$50,000	Nil
Tranby Aboriginal Co- Operative Limited	First Nations Co- operative Business Leadership Network	A program to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-operative business leadership Network in Sydney, to support the self-determination, economic participation and growth of community-controlled co-operative enterprises in Sydney.	\$48,200	Nil
Yaali Collective Pty Ltd	Reconnect to Culture to Build Proud Identities	A 10-week program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students in Glebe to re-connect with their traditional and contemporary cultural practice, identity and community, the initiative addresses unique student needs without compromising school attendance.	\$49,554	Nil