

Item 10

International Travel - Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation for Green Square

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Summary

The Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr Wen Guohui, has invited the Lord Mayor to Guangzhou to speak at the Global Mayors' Forum and the Urban Innovation Conference, and to attend the fourth Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

All these events are being held between 5 and 8 December 2018 in Guangzhou.

The City's Green Square Urban Renewal Team entered the 2018 Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Award and have been informed that the submission has been shortlisted. Up to five cities will receive the Guangzhou Award, which will be announced on 7 December 2018 during the Forum.

Co-sponsored by the City of Guangzhou, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and World Association of Major Metropolises (Metropolis), the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) was established in 2012.

Every year world-renowned urban planners, experts, and scholars are invited to join a jury to assess the entries. It has now grown to be one of the most influential international awards to recognise and encourage innovative initiatives led by cities. The 2018 Guangzhou Award received 313 submissions from 213 international cities from 70 countries/regions. It is an honour to be shortlisted in that field.

This invitation offers an important opportunity to highlight and promote our Green Square redevelopment project on a global stage.

Green Square is a \$13 billion, 278 hectare urban renewal area, stretching from Waterloo in the North to Rosebery in the South, Zetland in the East to Alexandria in the West. It is 3.5km from the city and 4km from the airport—one of Australia's largest urban redevelopments. When complete in 2030, it will have more than 61,000 residents and 22,000 jobs.

Once Green Square is completed, the area will have more than 40 parks and playgrounds, many the result of agreements negotiated by City staff with developers. The development is also home to one of Australia's largest urban stormwater recycling schemes.

As the Lord Mayor is unable to attend, it is proposed that the City be represented by Councillor Jess Scully. Councillor Scully has been invited to speak at the Conference and attend the Award Ceremony.

The cost of international flights, accommodation and local costs for Councillor Scully will be met by the Urban Innovation Conference Committee.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse international travel to Guangzhou for Councillor Jess Scully; and
- (B) note that Councillor Scully will provide a report to Council after the travel.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Invitation to the Global Mayors' Forum, 2018 Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference and the Fourth Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Background

1. The Lord Mayor has been invited to attend the Global Mayors' Forum and 2018 Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference and the 4th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation from 5 to 8 December 2018.
2. The Lord Mayor has also been offered speaking opportunities in the Global Mayors' Forum and its 2018 Guangzhou International Urban Innovation conference, under the theme "Global Openness and Inclusive Innovation".
3. The Lord Mayor is unable to attend and has asked Councillor Jess Scully to represent her.
4. Councillor Scully has been invited to speak at the Conference and to attend the Award Ceremony.
5. The City's Green Square Project Team entered the 2018 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.
6. The 2018 Guangzhou Award received 313 submissions from 213 international cities from 70 countries/regions and 15 cities have been shortlisted, including New York (United States), Milan (Italy), Salvador (Brazil), Repentigny (Canada).
7. The full list of the shortlisted cities can be viewed via the link:
http://www.guangzhouaward.org/award_d.aspx?CatId=283&newsid=1315
8. Up to five cities will be selected from the shortlist to receive the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.
9. The Guangzhou Award is supported by C40 and provides a platform for cities/local governments to share and exchange their innovative ideas – and ultimately to improve sustainability in the urban realm.
10. Two staff members, Ms Lila Contziu, Manager, Green Square Place Making, and Ms Tamara Bruckshaw, Manager, Major Projects Planning, will also be attending to deliver a presentation to the jury about the project as part of the final process of the Guangzhou Award. Their travel, accommodation and local costs will also be covered by the Urban Innovation Conference Committee.
11. Sydney and Guangzhou's Sister City Relationship was established in 1986.
12. Sydney's sister city relationship with Guangzhou is our most historic and active relationship, and is well supported by a wide range of businesses and communities. In 2014, the Lord Mayor led the largest delegation in Sydney's history to Guangzhou, with more than 100 representatives from local businesses and communities, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Sister City Relationship between the two cities.
13. In October 2015, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Robyn Kemmis attended the 2015 Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo on behalf of the City and initiated the conversation about the City's possible participation in the Guangzhou Award.

14. The City's 10-year Economic Development Strategy identifies long-term, sustainable connections with China as a priority if we are to deliver greater benefits to the local community and to the economy generally. Our connections with China are integral to our economic competitiveness and to future trade and investment outcomes.
15. Sustainable Sydney 2030 has identified the need to ensure the City maintains its role as a global centre for business and financial services and to strengthen our international collaboration and engagement. Sydney needs to remain competitive with other global cities and encourage these relationships.
16. Green Square is a \$13 billion, 278 hectare urban renewal area, stretching from Waterloo in the North to Rosebery in the South, Zetland in the East to Alexandria in the West.
17. It is 3.5km from the city and 4km from the airport—one of Australia's largest urban redevelopments. When complete in 2030, it will have more than 61,000 residents and 22,000 jobs.
18. The City is investing \$540 million to ensure that community facilities and open space develop in tandem with the growing population. That investment is part of the overall \$1.3 billion being invested by the City and developers on infrastructure for the 278 hectares of wider Green Square, which includes the less glamorous but essential work on stormwater drains, new roads and footpaths, and a transport corridor for future light rail.
19. Some of our projects include the recently opened \$61 million Library and Plaza designed by Stewart Hollenstein and Stewart Architecture, the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre and Banga Community Shed - both designed by Peter Stutchbury, the Wanara Early Education Centre, designed by Fox Johnston, Matron Ruby Grant Park, and a public artwork by Maria Fernanda Cardoso called 'While I Live I Grow'.
20. Construction of the Gunyama Park Aquatic and Recreation Centre is underway.
21. Once Green Square is completed, the area will have more than 40 parks and playgrounds, many the result of agreements negotiated by City staff with developers. The development is also home to one of Australia's largest urban stormwater recycling schemes.

Key Implications

22. Sustainable Sydney 2030 aims to ensure that Sydney remains Australia's most significant global city as home to globally-oriented people, jobs and businesses, and as an international gateway with world-class tourism attractions and sustained investment in cultural infrastructure, icons, amenities and public spaces.
23. The City is committed to be part of global networks and an active participant in global knowledge exchange, because Sydney's global connections are an essential component of our past, present and future.

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

24. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - Participation in the Forum enhances our global orientation and connections and will lead to local opportunities and benefits.
 - (b) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation and the Global Mayor's Forum provide an excellent platform for the City to exchange thoughts and experience with other international cities and to promote our Green Square project on a global stage.

Budget Implications

25. The Guangzhou International Urban Innovation Conference Committee will cover the return international airfares and local costs including accommodation, meals and transportation from 5 to 8 December 2018 in Guangzhou for Councillor Scully.
26. It is proposed that the cost of any incidentals be met by the City at an estimated maximum cost of \$1,000.
27. Funds are available within existing operational budgets.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

28. The event is being held from 5 to 8 December 2018.
29. Councillor Scully's international travel dates will be from approximately 4 to 9 December 2018, subject to the availability of flights.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer