

Reappointment of Public Art Advisory Panel

File No: X002289.005

Summary

The Public Art Advisory Panel was appointed in March 2007 to provide the City with expert independent advice on public art. The Panel has been reappointed by Resolution of Council for a two year period since that time.

The Panel has met regularly since their last reappointment in 2017 and provided advice on the City's public art program (City Art), in particular the development and implementation of the Green Square Public Art Strategy, City Centre Public Art Plan, the Eora Journey: Recognition in the Public Domain program and provides oversight on management and conservation of the City's public art collection.

The Panel assists the City in offering advice on unsolicited public art proposals and the assessment of public art proposals in private developments, ensuring a high standard of public art in the public spaces of our City. The Panel has been integral to the implementation of the City Art Public Art Strategy 2011, a key action from Sustainable Sydney 2030 and is currently assisting the development of the City's 2050 Plan.

In addition to this, panel members have represented the City of Sydney on external organisations' evaluation panels as requested.

The current term of appointment of members of the Panel expires on 23 October 2019. This report recommends re-appointment of all current members of the Panel for a further two years, the appointment of a member to fill a current vacancy and the appointment of an additional member.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council re-appoint the following members of the Public Art Advisory Panel for a further term of two years: Dr Felicity Fenner, Judith Blackall, Lisa Havilah, Professor Richard Johnson, Janet Laurence, Anne Loxley and Leon Paroissien
- (B) Council re-appoint Dr Felicity Fenner as Chairperson of the Public Art Advisory Panel for a further term of two years;
- (C) Council approve the draft Revised Terms of Reference of the City of Sydney Public Art Advisory Panel - 2019, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to appoint a Deputy Chair, a member to fill a current vacancy, an additional member and any new members of the Public Art Advisory Panel within the two year term should the need arise.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Resolution of Council - Public Art Advisory Panel - Reappointment of Members 23 October 2017
- Attachment B.** List of City of Sydney Public Art Advisory Panel Members and Short Biographies
- Attachment C.** Draft Revised Terms of Reference - City of Sydney Public Art Advisory Panel (additions shown in underlined text and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~).

Background

1. The creation of a Public Art Advisory Panel was approved by Resolution of Council on 7 March 2007. The Panel was appointed for a two year term. The first meeting of the Panel took place on 5 October 2007. Since this time, the Panel has been reappointed every two years.
2. The Terms of Reference were amended and approved by the Chief Executive Officer and Council on 14 December 2017. These are available on the City's website. The Terms of Reference (Attachment C to this report) have been updated to align with the approved Terms of Reference for the Design Advisory Panel.
3. Since the Panel's previous reappointment in October 2017, the full Panel has met 15 times. In that time it has played a leading role in implementing the City Art Public Art Strategy 2011, and in formulating clear directions, criteria and processes for the commissioning of public art.
4. The Panel has offered advice to staff in City Projects and Property, City Life, City Planning, Development and Transport, City Design, and Strategy and Urban Analytics on a range of projects involving artists.
5. The Panel has provided advice to Council on unsolicited proposals and the provision of public art in private developments to ensure the quality of public art is in keeping with the City's high standards for new development through Design Excellence, Voluntary Planning Agreements and the Development Application process.
6. Panel membership comprises Dr Felicity Fenner (Chair), Judith Blackall, Lisa Havilah, Professor Richard Johnson, Janet Laurence, Anne Loxley and Leon Paroissien. A member of the Design Advisory Panel, Richard Johnson, sits on the Public Art Advisory Panel to ensure appropriate cross over on projects.
7. The Terms of Reference have been amended (Attachment C to the subject report with additions shown in underline and deletions in strikethrough). Changes include: amendments to the language of the Terms of Reference to remove acronyms and align more closely with the approved Terms of Reference for the Design Advisory Panel; clarification of the role of the Deputy Chair and the Panel's role in providing advice and reporting back to Council and City Staff; the establishment of one new position; and, further clarification of meeting procedure.
8. In recent years, the Panel has dealt with an increasingly large workload and have been meeting, on average, 10 times per year. To meet the current demands for meetings and to ensure that there is a sufficient number of Panel members able to attend each meeting it is recommended clause 3.2 of the Terms of Reference be amended to 'nine' permanent members to allow for an additional member to be added to the Panel. (Attachment C)
9. The Terms of Reference allocate one new position to be filled and enable new members to be appointed where necessary due to vacancies or resignations through delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor. The Panel will consist of not more than nine members. The recommendations of proposed appointments will be made by the Design Director. This will be largely based on a skill assessment of the existing Panel members.

10. Public Art Advisory Panel members are included in Evaluation Panels established by the City to select artists and public artworks in the Local Government Area. These panels include approximately two to three Public Art Advisory Panel members. In certain situations, external experts are also invited to participate, for example, in the selection of public art projects proposed for the Eora Journey.
11. Public art projects by the City and third parties can take considerable time to be implemented. The consistency of the Panel through the duration of these projects has been of considerable benefit to the City.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

12. The re-appointment of the Public Art Advisory Panel is consistent with the City's Sustainable 2030 vision for a high quality public domain and vibrant cultural life, and consistent with the City's Public Art Policy and Strategy.

Organisational Impact

13. The Panel provides high-level advice, and peer review of advice given by the City's public art and planning staff on public artworks in private developments. The Panel also provide advice to staff on the development of proposals involving artists and management of the City's public art collection. This advice is a cost-effective tool for achieving high quality public art in our public spaces.
14. Panel members provide advice to Council on unsolicited proposals by external third parties and help guide the development and implementation of the City Art Public Art program. Panel members do not make any decisions and do not hold any delegation from Council to bind it to any position.

Social / Cultural / Community

15. The Panel ensures that public art projects are subject to independent high quality review and that projects are contributing to the public life of the City through the improvement of our public spaces for the benefit of community.

Budget Implications

16. Panel members are paid a flat hourly rate for attendance at meetings.
17. Funding has been included in the 2019/20 City Design operating budget and further funding allocations will be made in City Design operating budget to cover future years.

Relevant Legislation

18. Local Government Act 1993

Critical Dates / Time Frames

19. Reappointment is required by 23 October 2019

Options

20. Not proceeding with the re-appointment of the Public Art Advisory Panel would compromise the City's public art program and negatively impact on the quality of the public domain and cultural life of the city.

Public Consultation

21. Advice offered by the Public Art Advisory Panel is advice to Council staff. Community consultation is undertaken on individual projects as required. CEO Updates are provided to Council to keep them updated on projects. Advice on private sector projects are included in Development Assessments and reports to planning committees (Transport, Heritage and Planning Committee, Central Sydney Planning Committee and Local Planning Panel).
22. The City Art website, the regular City of Sydney newsletter and project Expressions of Interests are advertised publicly keep the public aware of opportunities and progress of projects.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Bridget Smyth, Design Director

Claire Morgan, Program Manager Special Projects Public Art