

Item 11.1**Notices of Motion****Purchase of The Metro Kings Cross**

By Councillor Forster

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) there has been longstanding community support for the iconic Metro Theatre - Kings Cross at 28-30 Orwell Street, Potts Point, to be acquired by City of Sydney Council for use as a community cultural facility;
- (ii) the luxurious Art Deco style theatre and offices were originally built in 1939 as a live entertainment complex called the Minerva;
- (iii) the building was bought and renamed The Metro Kings Cross in 1948 by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and converted into a cinema in 1952;
- (iv) after MGM was bought out by Greater Union Organisation in 1969, Harry M. Miller staged the musical Hair at the theatre and it returned to live theatre use until 1976;
- (v) it was converted into a short-lived shopping centre in 1981 before being acquired in 1982 for use as a film studio by Kennedy Miller Mitchell;
- (vi) The Metro is a building with unique architectural heritage, cultural and historic significance to both the local community and Sydney as a whole; and
- (vii) in March 2019 Abacus Property Group purchased the building for \$19.8 million, but may now be seeking to sell it; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) investigate whether The Metro Theatre – Kings Cross is available for sale, begin negotiations with the vendors and/or their agents over the possible acquisition by Council of the site for adaptive re-use as a theatre, film or cultural facility; and
- (ii) report back to Council as soon as practicable on the results of these negotiations.

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