

## Item 10

### Ad Hoc Grant - Greek Festival of Sydney

File No: X079523

#### Summary

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd has approached the City of Sydney to support the Hymn to Liberty event, as part of the Greek Festival of Sydney, to be held at Sydney Town Hall on 25 March 2021.

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd normally host this event in Darling Harbour, however, this was unexpectedly not able to happen and therefore an approach to the City of Sydney was made at short notice for support.

The Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd is a peak not-for-profit organisation established to serve the needs of the Greek community in NSW. It advocates for and delivers culturally and linguistically inclusive services for the community. The organisation maintains churches, welfare services, childcare centres and aged care, a historical centre and organises key cultural events.

The Greek Festival is one of Australia's largest and longest-running annual cultural events, showcasing Greek heritage through a range of cultural performances and events. The Hymn to Liberty Event is an important dedication and acknowledgment of the historical milestone being celebrated in 2021 by the Greek community; 200 years of Greek Independence. It will be the first time the Hymn to Liberty will be recited in full outside of Greece.

This report recommends a \$13,800 (excluding GST) cash grant and a venue hire fee waiver of Sydney Town Hall up to the value of \$12,375 (excluding GST). The cash grant will support the on costs of holding the event at Sydney Town Hall including equipment and staffing costs; including those necessary to facilitate the event in a CovidSafe manner.

## **Recommendation**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash grant of \$13,800 (excluding GST) and venue hire waiver for Sydney Town Hall up to the value of \$12,375 (excluding GST) to the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd for the Hymn to Liberty event, subject to the submission of and compliance with an acceptable CovidSafe plan; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with Greek Orthodox Community of NSW Ltd in relation to the sponsorship described in (A) above.

## **Attachments**

Nil.

## Background

1. The Greek Festival of Sydney was established in 1980 by the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW, a body representing all the major Greek organisations. In an environment supportive of multiculturalism, it arose out of the Greek Community's need to express and maintain cultural and artistic practices.
2. The Greek Festival of Sydney is one of Australia's largest and longest-running annual cultural events and showcases a variety of artistic and cultural events celebrating the Greek-Australian lifestyle, culture and heritage. The Festival is delivered annually within the City of Sydney and aims to promote the Greek-Australian community in a way that invites interest from all members of the Australian community.
3. This report recommends support is provided to hold an important event within this festival, namely the recital of Dionysios Solomos's poem 'Hymn to Liberty', written after the declaration of the Greek War of Independence in 1821. This will be the first time the poem's 158 stanzas will be performed in full outside of Greece. It is currently proposed that the poem will be performed by four Greek-Australian vocalists; a 30-piece symphony orchestra and a small Greek band.
4. This event is an important acknowledgment of an historical milestone being celebrated in 2021 by the Greek community; 200 years of Greek Independence. The event also provides local artists who have had their work affected by Covid-19 the ability to return to the stage and be appropriately remunerated for their artistic contribution. Ticketing is at an accessible price of \$20. Any proceeds from tickets will go towards paying artist fees. The event is not expected to make a profit.
5. The performance is due to be held at Sydney Town Hall on 25 March 2021, which is National Greek Independence Day. The City has been asked to support a fee waiver of Sydney Town Hall and a cash grant to cover on costs associated with hiring the venue including technical and operational staffing, and equipment.
6. The City of Sydney will be acknowledged as a supporting partner at the event.
7. Venue Management has been in contact with the Organisers to outline the necessary measures to deliver the event in a CovidSafe way. This includes the requirement of the organisers to submit a detailed CovidSafe Plan; engagement of additional staff to facilitate contact tracing, cleaning and ushering; ticketing and the allocation of seating to promote physical distancing; and compliance with NSW Health guidelines. A condition of the event approval and provision of grant funding is the submission of, and compliance with, an acceptable CovidSafe plan.
8. In consideration of the pandemic and changing restrictions, it has been clearly communicated that the event must comply with the Public Health Orders in place at the time of the event, and that changes may occur that impact the nature of the event, including potential capacity.

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

9. 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 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - this event will celebrate the spirit of a community and build opportunities to share its cultural characteristics with a wider public.
  - (b) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - this event will develop new and diverse audiences and provide opportunities for participation and attendance by the City's residents, workers and visitors.

### Social / Cultural / Community

10. This event promotes diversity and will provide artists who have had their work affected by Covid-19 the ability to return to the stage and be appropriately remunerated for their artistic contribution.

### Financial Implications

11. Funding for the grant amount of \$13,800 (excluding GST) will be drawn from savings identified in the 2020/21 grants and sponsorship budget. A total of \$12,375 (excluding GST) revenue foregone/value in kind will be allocated from the 2020/21 grants and sponsorship budget.

### Relevant Legislation

12. 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.

### Critical Dates / Time Frames

13. The Hymn to Liberty Event is due to be held on 25 March 2021 at Sydney Town Hall.

**EMMA RIGNEY**

Director City Life

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