

Grants and Sponsorship - Change of Auspice - Randa Sayed

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, cultural, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to bring to life Sustainable Sydney 2030.

On 29 June 2020, Council approved the allocation of 32 Cultural and Creative Grants and Sponsorships (cash and/or value-in-kind). Sole trader and independent artist, Randa Sayed, was successful in this grant round. She was awarded a grant of \$5,000 to deliver her project 'Scratch Night'; a series of live performances exposing new comic artists from Western Sydney to local City of Sydney communities, across inner city venues.

As required under the Grants and Sponsorship policy, Randa Sayed as a sole trader nominated the Friends of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Inc as her auspice. Unfortunately, Friends of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre can no longer auspice Ms Sayed's project funding, and a new auspice organisation Outloud Inc is proposed.

Grants staff have reviewed this request and are satisfied that the new organisation can satisfy the role of auspice and have conducted the standard eligibility checks for the incoming entity.

With Council's approval to change the auspice for Randa Sayed's grant, the City can enter into a funding agreement with the auspice on Ms Sayed's behalf and release the funding to allow the project to proceed.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the change of auspice for the 2020/21 Cultural and Creative Grants and Sponsorships grant recipient, Randa Sayed, from the Friends of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Inc to new auspice Outloud Inc; and
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer the funding agreement with Outloud Inc for Randa Sayed under terms consistent with the City's Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

Background

1. On 29 June 2020, Council approved the allocation of 32 Cultural and Creative Grants and Sponsorships (cash and/or value-in-kind). Council also delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with the grant recipients under terms consistent with that resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy.
2. Since November 2020, grant recommendations to Council include the recommendation that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and that a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution. As Randa Sayed's application was approved by Council in June 2020, prior to the new delegation, Council approval to change the auspice is required.
3. An auspice is an incorporated organisation that receives, administers and acquits the City's funding on behalf of an applicant. Under the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, individual artists and sole traders are required to be auspiced by an organisation that is eligible to apply in their own right.
4. Randa Sayed nominated the Friends of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Inc as her auspice. Unfortunately, Friends of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre Inc can no longer auspice Ms Sayed's project funding. Written correspondence has been received from Ms Sayed requesting that a new entity, Outloud Inc (ABN 83 997 017 626), be the auspice for her grant. Outloud Inc have also provided written confirmation of their commitment to support her.
5. Outloud Inc have the technical skills to guide and support Randa Sayed in the delivery of her project, while acknowledging project decisions remain with the applicant.
6. Outloud Inc will be required to:
 - (a) enter into a funding agreement with the City;
 - (b) accept grant funds and pay the auspiced grant applicant; and
 - (c) monitor and acquit the use of funds at the completion of the project.
7. Grants staff are satisfied that Outloud Inc has the technical skills to guide and support Randa Sayed in the delivery of her project and can satisfy the role of auspice. Grants staff have conducted the standard eligibility checks for the incoming entity.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

8. 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 grant is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - the grant project will provide opportunities for creative participation, enhance creativity in the public domain and strengthen the sustainability and capacity of the City's cultural and creative industries.

Organisational Impact

9. The change in auspice for this applicant will enable staff to complete the contract management process and issue the identified grant. Staff will set contract conditions and performance measures for the approved project and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Risks

10. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Policy requires individuals applying for funding under the Cultural and Creativity Grants and Sponsorship program to have an auspice. Without this change of auspice, Randa Sayed will not be able to receive funding.

Social / Cultural / Community

11. This grant will enable the recipient, Randa Sayed, to employ several artists to perform at events. The City's Grants and Sponsorship funding program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic and social initiatives from the communities within the local area.

Financial Implications

12. The initial grant of \$5,000 was approved by Council on 29 June 2020 as part of the 2020/21 Cultural and Creative Grants and Sponsorship annual budget allocation. There are no other financial implications to the City.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

13. The funded project event is due to be delivered in June 2021. The funding cannot be released to the grant recipient until the new entity is approved and the funding agreement signed by both parties.

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