

Item 9

Report of the Cultural and Creative Committee - 6 November 2023

Item 9.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by Councillor Worling –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee of Monday 11 September, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 9.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor HY William Chan disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on the agenda, in that he has been involved with the following organisations:

- City2 Surf as a participant in 2022 and 2023;
- University of New South Wales (UNSW) as a guest lecturer in 2023;
- University of Sydney as a casual academic in 2022;
- University of Technology Sydney (UTS) as a guest lecturer in 2022;
- Social Enterprise Council of NSW & ACT (SECNA) Ltd in its activities in 2021;
- Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT as a race volunteer in 2021;
- Spark Festival as a speaker in 2020 and 2021; and
- Museum of Contemporary Art in the GeneratioNext program.

Councillor Chan considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because his involvement in the organisations have been separate to the organisations' grant applications and he was not aware of their grant applications.

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on the agenda, in that she has attended meetings or events, or exchanged emails, as part of her normal work as a Councillor, with, or at events organised by, applicants for the Cultural Grants, over the last 12 months. This includes with the Glebe Youth Service (recommended for one grant, and not recommended for another), Social Enterprise Council of NSW & ACT (SECNA) Ltd (recommended for a grant) and Counterpoint Community Services (recommended for a grant).

Councillor Ellsmore considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she does not have any decision-making or financial connection with any organisations applying for a grant, was not aware of the grant applications before they were made, and did not provide advice in relation to the grant applications.

Councillor Robert Kok disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on the agenda, in that Seymour Nights were recommended for a grant.

Councillor Kok considered that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he was not aware of their application for the grant and the recommendations until the Committee paper became available and he had not discussed these grants with the recipient. Councillor Kok did not have any contact with the applicant nor had they contacted him about their grant application.

Councillor Adam Worling disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 9.3 on the agenda, in that:

- the Sydney Film Festival was recommended for funding for Tier 2 – Major Festivals and Events. He has been attending and an active subscriber to the Sydney Film Festival for 12 years;
- New Life Media Pty Ltd was recommended for funding for Tier 2 – Major Festivals and Events for the Vogue American Express Fashion's Night Out 2024. Councillor Worling recently sat front row at Vogue FNO's 2023 event and represented the Lord Mayor at the trade launch. He has also worked in fashion for 30 years which has meant there has been a lot of cross over with his clients and this event; and
- the Australian LGBTIQA+ organisation, The Aurora Group – A Ruby Foundation Limited, has been recommended for funding. In 2023, he attended the fundraising event Aurora Ball at Sydney Town Hall and made a personal donation to this charity.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he had no prior knowledge about these applications or their success until reading the Committee papers, and he did not discuss the application or grant in any way with the organisations.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee.

The Cultural and Creative Committee recommends the following:

Item 9.3

Grants and Sponsorship – Cultural Grants

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the amendment to the Creative Grant to Elizabeth Margaret Muldoon for \$25,000 in cash funding, which was approved by Council on 19 June 2023 to include Auspicious Arts Projects Inc as the auspicing organisation;
- (D) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

(Note – at the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Gannon, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried on the following show of hands:

Ayes (8) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Chan, Davis, Gannon, Jarrett, Kok, Scott and Worling

Noes (2) Councillors Ellsmore* and Weldon*.

Carried.

*Note – Councillors Ellsmore and Weldon abstained from voting on this matter. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 10.4 of the Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors Ellsmore and Weldon are taken to have voted against the motion.)

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Speakers

Christopher Tooher (Sydney Festival) and Cr Michael Mijatovic (Serbian Festival and Fairfield City Councillor) addressed the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee on Item 9.3.