

Item 14.3

Notices of Motion

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia Congratulations and Funding

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) NSW Arts Minister John Graham MLC recently launched the NSW Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Policy for 2024-2033;
- (ii) this 10-year policy outlines a framework for existing organisations and institutions, highlighting their crucial role in the state's cultural infrastructure and sites of excellence;
- (iii) the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) opened in 1991, funded by the late Australian artist John Power, after his inheritance was left to the University of Sydney to inform the public about contemporary visual art;
- (iv) in 1998, the NSW Government and the Australia Council replaced the University of Sydney and the Power Bequest as the Key Stakeholders;
- (v) in 2012, a new five-storey wing was opened, increasing the MCA floorspace by 50 per cent;
- (vi) on Friday 12 April 2024, the MCA welcomed its 20 millionth visitor since its inception in 1991;
- (vii) the MCA is experiencing significant financial pressures, reducing their opening hours by one day per week and reducing the vibrancy and activation of Sydney's CBD as a result;
- (viii) the MCA is an independent not-for-profit public museum, raising 70 to 75 per cent of its income from sources such as donations, sponsorships, events, exhibitions, and venue hire;
- (ix) significant MCA funding is currently received from the NSW Government through Arts NSW, and from the Commonwealth Government;
- (x) in 2008, the City provided a one off grant of \$1 million to the MCA for the development and expansion of their new site;
- (xi) since 2014/15, the City of Sydney has provided \$941,723 in cash support to the following museums:
 - (a) AGNSW - \$80,000;
 - (b) Australian Museum - \$28,732;

- (c) National Maritime Museum - \$114,991;
 - (d) Museums of History - \$104,000;
 - (e) Powerhouse Museum - \$30,000;
 - (f) Museum of Chinese in Australia - \$50,000;
 - (g) Museums and Galleries NSW - \$26,000;
 - (h) Artspace - \$90,000;
 - (i) National Trust of Australia - \$34,500; and
 - (j) Qtopia - \$383,500;
- (xii) since 2014, the City of Sydney has provided \$2,199,402 in Value in Kind support to the following museums:
- (a) AGNSW - \$140,286;
 - (b) Australian Museum - \$87,087;
 - (c) National Maritime Museum \$42,000;
 - (d) Museums of History - \$67,701;
 - (e) Powerhouse Museum - \$112,866;
 - (f) Museum of Chinese in Australia \$ 1,744,962; and
 - (g) Qtopia \$4,500; and
- (xiii) the NSW Government is currently conducting a review of the funding for the MCA; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) work in partnership with the NSW Government, as part of their review of the MCA, to consider a City of Sydney matched funding commitment for the MCA; and
 - (ii) report back to Council on progress via the CEO Update.

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