

Item 8

Report of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee - 11 November 2024

Item 8.1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural and Creative Committee of Monday 22 July 2024, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 8.2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore made the following disclosures:

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that she has a close personal relationship with Marjorie Tenchavez, founder and Director of Welcome Merchant, who were unsuccessful in their application for a grant.

Councillor Ellsmore stated she will not be voting on this matter.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that a member of the Organising Committee of Disability Pride Sydney made two donations totalling \$40 to the Greens for City of Sydney Campaign in 2023/24. Councillor Ellsmore considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because the donation was of a minor amount and not a reportable political donation. She was not aware the grant application had been made.

Councillor Robert Kok disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that the director of the recipient of one of the grants is an acquaintance whom he met when attending the Serbian Festival, Mr Mihailo Mijatovic. Councillor Kok considers 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 the application by the group until it came to Council and he did not speak to Mihailo or anyone associated with the Serbian Festival about the grant.

Councillor Jess Miller made the following disclosures:

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that Dan Ling from Reco Pty Ltd is a friend. They have not discussed this grant.
- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that she was an Industry and Academic Advisor on the Creative and Environmental programming streams for SXSW in 2024. This was an unpaid position.
- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that she is a Board Member of TEDxSydney.

Councillor Miller stated she will not be voting on this matter.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that she supported Shaun Christie-David from Plate It Forward with his restaurant openings. Councillor Miller considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she has not spoken to him about this grant.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that she is acquainted with James Thorpe from The Old Fitz. Councillor Miller considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because she has not spoken to him about this grant.

Councillor Matthew Thompson disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that a member of the Organising Committee of Disability Pride Sydney made two donations totalling \$40 to the Greens for City of Sydney Campaign in 2023/24. Councillor Thompson considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because the donation was of a minor amount and not a reportable political donation. He also had not discussed the matter with the member or other members of Disability Pride Sydney.

Councillor Mitch Wilson made the following disclosures:

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that SXSW Sydney is a member of the Australian Festival Association, of which they are Managing Director. SXSW Sydney's appointed representative is also a Board Member of the Association.
- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that Sydney Comedy Festival is a member of the Australian Festival Association, of which they are Managing Director. The General Manager of the Festival is also a close personal friend.

Councillor Wilson stated they will not be voting on this matter.

Councillor Adam Worling made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that as an active member of the LGBTIQ+ community, he has worked and crossed paths with various staff at Acon Health Limited, an organisation who is recommended for funding. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this item with anyone associated with Acon Health Limited.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that as an active member of the LGBTIQ+ community, he has a membership with Queer Screen Limited, an organisation who is recommended for funding. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this item with anyone associated with Queer Screen Limited.
- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 on the agenda, in that as an active member of the LGBTIQ+ community, he has formed professional relationships at The Aurora Group – A Ruby Foundation Limited, who is recommended for funding. He also attended The Aurora Ball as a guest for the organisation. Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this item with anyone associated with The Aurora Group – A Ruby Foundation Limited.

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

The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee recommends the following:

Item 8.3

Post Exhibition - Cultural Strategy 2025-2035

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from the community on the exhibited draft Cultural Strategy 2025-2035, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the Cultural Strategy 2025-2035, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Cultural Strategy 2025-2035 in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

(Note – at the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and carried unanimously.)

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Speakers

Tian Zhang and Kerri Glasscock (CEO and Festival Director, Sydney Fringe Festival) addressed the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee on Item 8.3.

The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee recommends the following:

Item 8.4

Grants and Sponsorship - Creative 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 Destination NSW as the recipient of a Festival and Event Grant 2023/24 for the second and third year of the project where funding was previously paid to Premier's Department;
- (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, Creative and Nightlife Committee, this recommendation was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Kok, and carried on the following show of hands –

Ayes (5) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Gannon, Kok, Maxwell and Worling

Noes (2) Councillors Thompson* and Weldon*

Carried.

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

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