

Arts Advisory Committee Minutes



Date: Monday 24 September 2018
Time: 7pm to 8.30pm
Venue: Nillumbik Shire Council, Civic Drive, Greensborough
Chair: Kylie Lethbridge
Minute taker: Michelle Zemancheff

Order of business

1. Welcome

Attendance: Blaise van Hecke, Brian Gilkes, Ute Leiner, Matt Blackwood

Officers: Kylie Lethbridge (Manager Business Tourism and Marketing), Michelle Zemancheff (Coordinator Arts & Cultural Development), Sarah Hammond (Community Arts Officer)

Apologies: Cr Karen Egan (Chair), Cr Jane Ashton (Deputy Chair), Julie Tipene-O'Toole, Eugene Howard

2. Conflict of interest

None reported.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record:

Moved: Blaise van Hecke

Seconded: Ute Leiner

4. Matters arising

None reported.

5. Business items

Details

Action

5.1. Literary Nillumbik debrief

The Committee reported the event as well attended and the anthology very well produced. The surprise announcement of the prize recipients (not having informed the recipients prior to the event) was well received and supported by the Committee.

5.2. Digital Agora Youth debrief

Committee members had not yet seen the Digital Agora installations.
The Committee suggested leveraging ongoing relationships with business and consideration of utilising vacant premises, cellar doors, open spaces or other businesses, for an ongoing program to exhibit work, and the development of a register of local spaces to exhibit.

Committee members to attend Digital Agora installations before closing on 1 October 2018.

5.3. Policy update

The draft Nillumbik Shire Art Collection Policy is almost completed pending the development of the Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan, as the two policies will cross-reference each other. Both policies will be put to the Committee for consideration.

5.4. Arts and Cultural Development grants

Arts and Cultural Development grants have been launched with two specific streams – community arts and performing arts - with a \$30,000 grant pool (increased from \$10,000), in answer to community consultation call for greater access to grants to support community-owned and driven projects. The grant pool will increase next year with the inclusion of a literary grants stream, with existing poetry programs transitioning to a competitive grant process next financial year.

The grants program is accompanied by grant writing workshops available to grant writers beyond Council grants, together with drop-in sessions. All information is available on-line.

Officers to distribute grants information to Committee members to distribute through own networks.

5.5. Regional Gallery Feasibility Study

A Council Plan action was to seek funding for a gallery of regional significance. In order to position ourselves for funding, the foundation work starting with a feasibility study. Consultants, Outside the Square, have been commissioned through a procurement process. Outside the Square will conduct two community consultation evenings that are tentatively planned for 18 and 24 October 2018.

The Committee is asked to attend and assist the consultation evenings by facilitating table conversations and scribing.

Officers will confirm consultation dates for Committee to attend and actively support.

6. Eltham Library Community Gallery panel assessment

Eltham Library Community Gallery call for proposals to exhibit in 2019 received 23 applications, for five exhibition places, with the remaining spaces dedicated annually to Yarra Plenty Regional Library; 2018 VCE students, *Creative Minds*, Nillumbik Artists Open Studios, and Living & Learning Nillumbik's *DiversARTy*. Two special exhibitions will also run in 2019 – *Renewal*, a Black Saturday Memorial Exhibition and an exhibition by the Yarra Plenty Heritage Group.

The Committee's pre-assessment of Eltham Library Community Gallery exhibition proposals were collated by Officers, and further discussed and confirmed. Some exhibition placements will be dependent on availability and willingness to share the exhibition space. Constructive feedback was provided for the unsuccessful applicants.

The Committee noted a decrease in the standard of proposals this year compared to past years, and suggested further development of the exhibition criteria. The Committee also suggested a dedicated group exhibition space for emerging artists without a suite of works to fill a solo exhibition. The assessment criteria and matrix will be reviewed for the 2020 exhibition program.

Officers will ascertain further information from prospective exhibitors in order to finalise the exhibition program and advise the Committee accordingly.

Officers will refine the exhibition criteria and refer to the Committee for consideration.

7. **Other Business:** None reported.

8. **Close:** Next meeting is scheduled for 29 October 2018 at Julie Tipene-O'Toole's studio. Agenda to include the assessment of Arts and Cultural Development grants.