

ARTS ADVISORY GROUP

Wednesday 30 August 2023
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Committee Room
City of Vincent
Administration and Civic Centre
244 Vincent Street Leederville

Attendees:

City of Vincent Councillors

Cr Suzanne Worner (SW)
Cr Alex Castle (AC)

Community Representatives

Chakris Srisuwan (CS) Helen Turner (HT)
Iwan Isnin (II) Marisa Santosa (MS)
Kate Rae (KR) Paula Hart (PH)

City of Vincent Officers

Georgia Lawrence, A/Executive Manager Urban Design and Strategic Projects (GL)
Lauren Formentin, Place Planner – Arts (LF)
Holly Mason, Strategic Planner (HM)

Guests

Michelle Prater, Owner (MP) **COV - OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE**
Simon Venturi, Director and Architect at NOMA* (SV)

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1. Welcome/Declaration of Opening

SW opened the meeting at 5:33pm and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

Carolyn Karnovsky, Claudia Alessi, Elaine Hanlon, Leah Robbie, Sue-Lyn Moyle.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2023 were received and confirmed as true and correct record.

4. Business

4.1 Pickle District Planning Framework and Percent for Art Policy

An update was provided regarding the recent endorsement of the Pickle District Planning Framework (PDPF). Cultural infrastructure will be prioritised in this precinct.

4.2 Public Art Strategy for Sir Charles Quarter (SCQ), 463-507 Newcastle Street, West Perth (SV, MP)

Presentation

The group was given an overview of the SCQ project, Public Art Strategy and Activation Strategy which has been lodged seeking development approval.

- The history and the unique character of the site was discussed, with the intention for sourced artists to integrate the forms and characteristics of the site to define a unique character for the precinct.
- The strategy provides a high-level approach and aspirations for the site.
- Artist briefs will be created for each individual project within the site.
- There isn't anticipated to be any significant changes to the process with the recent endorsement of the PDPF.
- Developers will be encouraged to include cultural infrastructure projects. The Commons public space was referenced as an adaptable space which could be used for outdoor galleries or exhibition spaces. Spain and Portugal were provided as examples of places where this work has been successful.
- A virtual tour/QR code app is going to be developed to provide digital information to visitors to the site.
- Full spectrum of art forms would be considered.

Questions / Discussion

- The artist procurement process was questioned, and whether an Arts Consultant would be engaged for all stages of the project. Questions were raised about the spectrum of artists being employed in each artwork project, with concerns that more senior WA artists might be overlooked. Whilst an Arts Consultant (Simon Venturi, NOMA*) was engaged for the Public Art Strategy, an Arts Consultant has not yet been engaged for the artist procurement and delivery of the artworks. The absence of an Arts Consultant engaged in the management of this project raised further discussion on the possible impact this could have on the overall outcomes. Questions surrounding the support and professional guidance that would be available for emerging artists were raised. Recognition of the challenges faced in delivering realistic and achievable outcomes led to discussions on the significance of understanding the budgeting and programming of various artforms, concepts and materials adding greater weight to the consideration of an Arts Consultant. Concerns regarding the reach of the procurement process to Aboriginal communities that might not have access to this process were also raised. Consideration of engaging an Aboriginal Representative was suggested.
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 - Extending engagement of Art Consultant into procurement and delivery is being considered for the project – the AAG strongly advise that an Art Consultant is engaged for these stages.
 - SCQ has four artists in mind, and other artworks will be opened for expressions of interest.
 - SV using mostly personal experience, networks and contacts which has come about over the last 10 years where he has familiarised himself with a broad spectrum of local WA artists.
 - Artists will be tailored to those that are believed to do well with and be interested in particular works as a starting point. Briefs will be sent out to artists they think will be interested.
 - The process will be limited to Western Australian artists, ensuring that the full spectrum of artists from emerging to very experienced is achieved.
 - An Aboriginal Representative has not been engaged. One artwork has been nominated specifically as an Aboriginal artwork, and Aboriginal Artists will be considered across the other artwork opportunities.
 - The projects will be monitored to ensure they have realistic outcomes, and the artists understand what is achievable.
 - Some very experienced artists will be engaged. Their expertise in budgeting and timeframes will allow for greater capacity in supporting emerging artists.

Guests SV and MP were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting at 6.40pm.

AAG member discussion and collation of feedback

- The AAG appreciate the developer's early engagement regarding percent for art contributions, as this is not a requirement this early in the project.
- Potential missed opportunities in exploring connections to Perth City, Leederville and east of the precinct.
- Opportunities to achieve a larger scale impact external to those residing within the precinct should be considered such as public artworks which are highly visible from the freeway and in the public realm, rather than from within the development.
 - Further opportunities exist with the blank wall on the hotel, facing out of the development toward the freeway and Charles Street.

- The artwork extending internally into the office building was critiqued, there are issues with not meeting percent for art requirements if it's only accessible to those using the building. After discussion it was viewed positively as long as support is provided by the QR codes and virtual art walk to let the public know about the artwork, and that they can enter the building to view the artwork and access The Commons (central public space in the development), also for its ability to engage the building more with street.
 - Would like more detail from applicant regarding the accessibility of The Commons for the public - will there be unrestricted access 24/7, is an access card or reception clearance required?
- Concerns about the visibility, accessibility, and attraction for the public to The Commons. It looks like it could be quite hidden and overlooked by those not living, working, or staying in the area. There is often a cultural priming to look for public artworks – the marketing and guidance in the use of these spaces would really rely on those managing the spaces.
- There are complex site constraints which impact the attractiveness of the site as a destination. The PDPF has been developed to encourage more development in the precinct and is a long-term approach to building a greater residential population in the area.
 - The proposed QR code app could address issues with attracting foot traffic to the area.
- The budget has been updated since previously discussed and is now \$1.07M – LF.
- Proposed Site 7 Artwork (Public Space Infrastructure Works) - this is the only proposed percent for art contribution that addresses the PDPF requirement for the provision of cultural infrastructure and its ongoing programming.
 - Detail mentions direct commission of artist to be involved in architectural and landscape design of the space, also mentions bench seating, bike racks, light poles, canopies, external art exhibition infrastructure. Notify applicant that this alone would not fulfil the requirement, there must be detail and budgeting for ongoing programming of cultural infrastructure. Also note bench seating, bike racks, light poles and canopies do not fulfil the requirement of cultural infrastructure.
 - Consider the specification of programming and the long-term development goal or pillar of execution for the proposed public space infrastructure, as well as more detailed budgeting.
 - Consider the implementation of KPIs of activation built into the approvals process to ensure a level of accountability.
- Concerns over doing too much with the budget they have. Ongoing budget concerns. Reference to Collingwood Yards in terms of activation direction – very successful project, but it took a long time to establish.
- Concerns over the artist selection process – no additional parties or perspectives which would hold the selection process accountable. Percent for Art (PfA) Policy in place for this process.
- More understanding on the ongoing management of the cultural infrastructure component is required. More detailed budget regarding the cultural activation. Consider a public expenditure document.
- Consider the budget breakdowns of PfA applications being made public to allow for greater accountability.
- Consider providing updates to the AAG on the projects they have provided advice on.
- Discussion over the PfA process in development application process. Formal Percent for Art Application will be submitted by developer in the future. The Percent for Art contribution must be completed before the developer can attain Occupancy Permit.
- Discussion over the weight given to the advice provided by the AAG in Council and JDAPs.
- Discussion on the opportunities to provide greater representation of the AAG's position and considerations into the Town Centre Planning Frameworks (TCPF) which are being developed. Consider providing clear provisions within the planning frameworks to ensure that cultural infrastructure is not just considered by the AAG and is embedded into the decision-making process.

ACTION:

- It is noted that the budget for the Arts Strategy shown previously has been updated and has increased to \$1.07M.
- LF to distribute a copy of the Activation Strategy to review.
- Review the TCPF to include the PfA provisions in each town centre.

5. Close/Next Meeting

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

Governance team will be in touch regarding renomination to the Arts Advisory Group.

Signed _____
Councillor (Chairperson)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2023

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