

Confirmed Meeting Minutes

Date: 6 November 2023	Time: 5.30 – 7.00pm	Venue: City Hall Chamber
Meeting Objective: To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA.		

1 Welcome

Councillor Duncan acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1.1 Attendees

Members

Cr Carol Duncan	Councillor Member (Chair)
Dr Shane Bransdon	Community Member
Janice Musumeci	Community Member
Anna Hombsch	Community Member (through Teams)
Jasmine Fletcher	Community Member (through Teams)

Guests

Alissa Jones	Executive Director Creative & Community Services, City of Newcastle (CN), (Committee Facilitator)
Helen Payne	Executive Assistant (CN), (Committee Secretary)
Julie Baird	Director Museum Archive Libraries & Learning (CN)
Sam Bullen	Acting Executive Manager Civic Services (CN)
Leonie Wallace	Manager Civic Theatre (CN)
Lynn Duffy	Executive Manager Community & Recreation (CN)
Dr Jamie MacKee	Newcastle Pride
Sami Zakhil	Mosaic Multicultural Connections
Jawaid Pardehi	Mosaic Multicultural Connections
Hugh Reid	Minecrafting Newcastle

Apologies

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor
Cr Jenny Barrie	Councillor Member
Cr Margaret Wood	Councillor Member
Dr Ann Hardy	University of Newcastle, Stakeholder Member
Lauretta Morton OAM	Director Newcastle Art Gallery (CN)
Nick Kaiser	Acting Executive Manager Media Engagement Economy & Corporate Affairs (CN)

1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held 1 August 2023 were endorsed.

3 Newcastle Pride update

Dr Jamie Mackee presented to the Committee on the success of Newcastle Pride Fair Day in Gregson Park.

4 Minecrafting Newcastle

Dr Hugh Reid presented to the Committee on his concept of bringing Minecrafting Newcastle. Dr Reid showed a visual 3D representation which can be viewed at [link](#) of the Newcastle area from Stockton to Glenrock, Charlestown to the University and across the Tourle St Bridge. Minecraft has 141 million active players a month and is owned by Microsoft. The concept of Minecrafting Newcastle could promote our city as a primary visitor destination in a 3D map showcasing our cultural facilities, restaurants, public transport and much more. The Committee was impressed with Dr Reid's concept and internal stakeholder contacts have been established for the concept to be discussed with CN's Chief Information Officer and Geospatial & Data Manager.

5 Civic Theatre Subscription + Playhouse Programming

Leonie Wallace presented to the Committee on the Civic Theatre Subscription + Playhouse Programming which has a current aim of programming to deliver memorable experiences for all visitors, while playing a key role in attracting and supporting a thriving creative industry, which contributes to the City's economic growth. This type of model positions the Civic Theatre as a cultural destination for local, national, and international visitors.

Programming aims are:

- i) To develop a clear branding strategy which will clarify the distinction between the programming streams of presenting, hosting, and promoting.
- ii) To identify, develop and deliver opportunities for commercial growth, programming and partnerships, including involvement in citywide festivals and other celebrations across the city.
- iii) To create a vibrant cultural destination attraction for local, national and international visitors.
- iv) To become a venue of choice for the world's best performers, performance companies, and producers.

Key priorities:

The Civic Theatre is working to create a clear identity for the Playhouse as a destination for local productions, elevating the Civic Theatre to a destination for national, longer-running productions.

6 General Business

6.1 Accessible Festivals and Events

On behalf of Cr Wood Executive Director Creative & Community Alissa Jones raised with the committee the importance of accessibility at major events to ensure inclusion for all. It was noted that Accessible Arts have ran a number of training sessions on Accessible Exhibitions - Accessible Festivals and Accessible Events during the Count Us In Festival ran by CN's Community Planning & Development Team. People within the sector should attend this type of training to ensure education and awareness of how to adequately plan for an event that offers ease of accessibility.

Jamie suggested that perhaps this criterion would be included as part of the assessment for Special Business Rate (SBR) Grants. In addition, consideration could also be given to the objectives within the Disability Inclusion Access Plan as well as discussion with Newcastle Business Industry Associations. It is important to recognise that when planning for Accessible Festivals and Events often 80% of disabilities cannot be physically seen.

6.2 **MALL - Museum Archive Libraries and Learning Exhibition Update:**

- Australia in Space
- More than Coal - Exploring Significant Natural History of the Lower Hunter Valley and Creative Ways to Love It
- More Than Sport - Culture and Connection in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

For details please see [link](#)

6.3 **Junior Theatre Festival** - Dr Shane Brandson showed a video at [link](#).

6.4 **Anti-Social Behaviour in Hamilton**

Reference was made to a number of issues within the Hamilton Business Precinct and contact made by business owners with the Local Police Commander regarding Police presence. Please be vigilant promoting ways to report anti-social behaviour.

7 **Closing**

Meeting closed at 7.15pm