

## Confirmed Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 2 February 2021	<b>Time:</b> 5.30pm – 7.30pm	<b>Venue:</b> City Hall Chambers
<b>Meeting Objective:</b> 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 and Introductions

#### 1.1 Committee Members present:

Cr Carol Duncan	– Chairperson
Alissa Jones	– Committee Facilitator
Helen Payne	– Committee Secretary
Cr Andrea Rufo	– Deputy Chairperson
Jenny Moody	– Department of Education
Dr Ann Hardy	– University of Newcastle (UoN)
Michelle Frazer	– Community Representative

#### 1.2 Apologies

Cr Kath Elliott	- Councillor
Lauretta Morton	- Director Newcastle Art Gallery
Nick Rendell	- Office of Sport
Chris Dunstan	– Community Representative
Katherine McLean	– Community Representative

#### 1.3 Attendees

Simon Massey	- Economic Strategy & Government Relations Manager
Matt Endacott	- Senior Consultant
Kate Britton	– Project Manager Cultural Event
Leah Fawthrop	- Newcastle Art Space
Zephie Cerny	– Octapod
Delia O'Hara	- Manager Civic Services
Julie Baird	- Director Museum
Suzie Gately	– Manager Libraries and Learning
Lynn Duffy	- Manager Parks & Recreation
Geoff Frost	- Acting Director Newcastle Art Gallery (NAG)
Nicole Swilks	- NAG Audience Programs Officer
Zana Kobayashi	- NAG Audience Development & Visitor Services Coordinator

### 2 Acknowledgement of Country

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

### 3 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Actions arising

- 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held 2 November 2020 confirmed.

## 3.2 Action updates

Meeting Date	Item	Action	Update	Status
7 July 2020	Cultural Strategy 2016-2019	Seek further advice on programs and objectives and seek more advice to be ascertained for input.	A significant review of objectives and discussions have occurred with Community Strategy and Innovation (CSI) on incorporating the elements on the Cultural Strategy.	Ongoing. This work is related to the cultural precinct scoping study status update below.
7 July 2020	Discuss the development a new Public Art Policy	A report from the Public Art Reference Group was tabled at Council on 27/10/2020.	Unanimous support was received by Council.	Resolved by Council - Development of Policy and Framework is being actioned by Public Art Reference Group (PARG)

## 4 City Taskforce response for the Arts

- The Economic Strategy & Government Relations Manager presented the long-term economic opportunities as highlighted in the Economic Development Strategy. CN led a City Taskforce during COVID which included representatives from all business industries which had a significant employment premise within the LGA. Key leaders worked together to support the city during this time. See the full edition of the Newcastle Response for the Arts Sector [here](#).
- Director City Wide Services also gave a brief update on the Councillor Strategic Workshop being a great success.

## 5 Lord Mayoral Minute – Civic Cultural Precinct Update

- Lord Mayoral Minute of 27/10/2020 where Council resolved:  
*“That City of Newcastle:*
  - Supports the Community and Cultural Advisory Committee and Chairperson Cr Carol Duncan who have resolved to explore the creation of a formal Civic Cultural Precinct to ensure appropriate long-term planning for the protection of the City’s cultural institutions, including:*
    - Newcastle Art Gallery*
    - University of Newcastle’s School of Music and Conservatorium*
    - University House*
    - City Hall*
    - Civic Theatre*
    - Civic Playhouse*
    - Newcastle Region Library*
    - Wheeler Place*
    - Newcastle Visitor Information Centre*
    - Newcastle Museum*
    - Victoria Theatre*

- 2 *Includes City of Newcastle's support for the creation of a formal Civic Cultural Precinct, and the benefits of defining such a Precinct for economic development and protection of cultural heritage in Newcastle, in our submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry".*

- *The Committee received a presentation from Matt Endacott and noted an Initial draft concept plan is being prepared with the economic assessment to follow in March-April with a final report by April 2021.*

## **6 Flagship Cultural Event – the 'New Annual'**

- 6.1 Project Manager Cultural Event provided an update on the 'New Annual' event launching Friday 12 February to Sunday 21 February for 10 days.

## **7 Newcastle Art Gallery – WE CAN BE HEROES – a backstage pass and 2021 Programming**

- 7.1 Art Gallery staff provided an overview of the current exhibitions at the Art Gallery and of their roles as Audience Engagement Officers.

### **Engagement over the last few months has included:**

- Filming of Toby Cedar playing and recording a song for release during NAIDOC Week.
- Live streaming of Last Fridays with invited guest hosts such as Shahmen Radha who presented.
- Last Fridays: Unprecedented Times Trivia.
- An Exploration programs and ways of engaging audiences during COVID.

### **The development of successful digital programs has included:**

- On stillness an online exhibition that presented the collection works of seven public regional galleries – the group had 114,000 combined followers on facebook and Instagram.
- HOMEWARD BOUND: the art and life of Tom Gleghorn installation video receiving 19,000 views.
- A virtual tour featuring Pedestrian TV alongside virtual tours from the NGV and QUGOMA and a virtual catalogue (with readership nearly doubling).
- IGN Art Fair with engagement of 17,000 views.
- Instagram Live Conversation Series featuring Ben Gillies with audiences tuning in from Mexico, Ireland, US and UK.
- The summer exhibition WE CAN BE HEROES: a backstage pass opened as well as face-to-face programs Art Cart and Guided tours and Last Fridays which booted out within 12 hours.
- A partnership event with New Annual featuring Paul Dempsey also sold out in under 3 minutes.
- All programs have been very well attended showing that audiences are ready to return to the Gallery. Audience figures for December and January have returned to pre-COVID targets with the Gallery Society events and venue hire also returning.
- For further details of upcoming events and exhibitions please see [www.nag.org.au/home](http://www.nag.org.au/home).

## **8 Civic Services update**

The Committee received a presentation from Manager Civic Services and noted the following:

- The Civic Theatre Season commences February 2021 under new Public Health Orders and is safely operating at 75% capacity with venue hire and bookings increasing.
- Public Programming will commence in City Hall this quarter.
- The Visitor Information Centre is liaising with local industry to develop bookable product.
- A project is underway to relocate ticket counter adjacent to the Civic Digest Café
- Installation of new hearing loops will be occurring at the Civic Theatre
- A project is underway to do a minor interior refurbishment at City Hall including new carpet window coverings and a bar refresh for major function rooms.

## 9 General Business

9.1 Reminder to share [New Annual event details](#)

9.2 Manager Parks & Recreation advised of that the following Masterplans will soon be scheduled for engagement:

- Gregson Park Masterplan.
- National Park Precinct.
- Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan on public exhibition at [CN's website](#).
- Carrington Greenspace Masterplan was adopted by Council on 8 December 2020 and has been published on [CN's website](#).
- The Strategic Sports Plan was presented to the CCAC on 2 November and was adopted by Council on 8 December 2020 and has been published on [CN's website](#).

**10 Closing** – the meeting closed at 7.20pm

**10.1 Future Meeting dates:**

Tuesday 4 May  
Tuesday 3 August