

Confirmed Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 May 2024	Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm	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)
Cr Jenny Barrie	Councillor Member
Dr Shane Bransdon	Community Member
Anna Hombsch	Community Member

Guests

Alissa Jones	Executive Director Creative & Community Services, City of Newcastle (CN), (Committee Facilitator)
David Hampton	Newcastle Museum Head of Exhibitions & Curatorial Collections (CN)
Helen Payne	Executive Assistant (CN), (Committee Secretary)
Sam Bullen	Acting Executive Manager Civic Services (CN)
Leonie Wallace	Manager Civic Theatre
Lynn Duffy	Executive Manager Community & Recreation (CN)
Georgia Lazzari	Destination & Economy Manager (CN)
Adrian Burnett	New Annual Senior Producer & Curator
Cadi McCarthy	Director Catapult Choreographic Hub
Dr Clare Twist	Chairperson Catapult Choreographic Hub
Tina Imig	University of Newcastle, Head of Brand, Reputation & Product
Prof. Kent Anderson	University of Newcastle, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Global
Daniel Stoddart	CEO Stoddart Entertainment

Apologies

Cr Nuatali Nelmes	Lord Mayor
Cr Margaret Wood	Councillor Member (Deputy Chair)
Dr Ann Hardy	University of Newcastle, Stakeholder Member
Julie Baird	Director Museum Archive Libraries & Learning (CN)
Lauretta Morton OAM	Director Newcastle Art Gallery (CN)
Nick Kaiser	Executive Manager Media Engagement Economy & Corporate Affairs (CN)
Janie Gibson	Whale Chorus
Katerina Skoumbas	Big Picture Fest
Zephie Cerny	Octapod
Stephanie Venz	University of Newcastle
Jasmine Fletcher	Community Member
Sami Zakhil	Mosaic Multicultural Connections

1.2 Resignation of Janice Musumeci (Community member)

1.2 The resignation of Janice Musumeci was noted.

1.3 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.3 Nil.

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held 6 February 2024 were endorsed.

3 Catapult Choreographic Hub update and Cultural Infrastructure

Cadi McCarthy and Dr Clare Twist presented on Catapult Dance Choreographic Hub and their vision 'To transform Newcastle into a regional epi-centre of choreographic and multi-disciplinary professional arts practice with regional, national and international recognition; and a leader for the development of choreographers and art-form, and a regional hub committed to creative practices for young people and the community'.

Discussions were shared regarding cultural space and Cultural Infrastructure within the Newcastle LGA including the challenge that Catapult are currently having within their leased premises within the city area.

Committee Action Items

- 1 Notes the challenges pertaining to cultural space and cultural infrastructure within the Newcastle LGA
- 2 Encourages community member submissions to the Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan Review to advocate for cultural issues. For more information visit haveyoursay.newcastle-2040-csp-review.
- 3 Investigates an opportunity to present a briefing on cultural space and cultural infrastructure challenges to Asset Advisory Committee and the Future Fund Committee to enable discussion on the current challenges within the Newcastle LGA.

4 University of Newcastle (UoN) Engagement and synergies with CN and other stakeholders

Professor Kent Anderson and Tina Imig presented on University of Newcastle partnerships.

5 Community & Cultural Investment Projects

Daniel Stoddart presented on the Stoddart Entertainment Group which incorporates the following:

- Hunter Drama (established in 2006 the Hunter Region's largest independent training institution for young people in the dramatic arts).
- The Very Popular Theatre Company (established in 2006 bridging the gap between community theatre and professional theatre in the Hunter Region).
- OzTheatrics established in 2016 the largest celebration of young people in musical theatre in the southern hemisphere.

Committee Action Items

- i) Notes the briefing from Stoddart Entertainment Group.
- ii) Encourages community member submissions to the Newcastle 2040 Community Strategic Plan Review to advocate for cultural issues. For more information visit haveyoursay.newcastle-2040-csp-review.

6 Media Engagement Economy & Corporate Affairs (MEECA) update

6.1 New Annual 2024 update

Adrian Burnett briefed the Committee on New Annual 2024 which will be announced on 27 June and launched 28 June.

- The festival dates are 27 September to 6 October.
- The program summary includes Immersive Storytelling and Amplifying Voices, Celebrating Diversity, Global Gathering, Nurturing Local Talent, Tantrum Youth Arts: Wondercity, Newcastle Youth Orchestra: Mistborn, Catapult Dance Hub: The Cord, Art Thinking: Intra Human X Inter Digital, Upstage at the Playhouse and Curious Legends: Whale Song.
- Updated information can be found at <https://newannual.com/>

6.2 Destination Management Plan progress update

- [Newcastle Destination Management Plan 2021-2025](#) is an ongoing process that engages delivery partners (tourism industry, government and community leaders) in a strong collaborative network to deliver on a clear vision for the future of the visitor economy.
- CN is committed to Newcastle growing as an inclusive and accessible destination leveraging on CN's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026.
- Brand Evolution 'Seek Off Beat' campaign was launched in August 2022 and has received a silver medal at NSW Tourism Awards.
- In 2023, Newcastle won the NSW Top Tourism Award and in 2024 Newcastle is a finalist with voting now open. We need you to cast your vote by sharing you love for our city by voting for Newy as your favourite NSW town [here](#).

6.3 Special Business Rates

- Georgia Lazzari provided an update on the Special Business Rate including previous recipients and dates that the program will open for 2024/2025.

7 2024 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday 2 July

Meeting closed at 7.50pm