



13.1 **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF) RECOVERY GRANTS RECOMMENDATIONS 2021**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present a list of the recommended Cultural Development Fund Recovery grant recipients for Council's consideration and approval.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Cultural Development Fund (CDF) Recovery grants have been provided by Council to support local artists and related creative and community organisations to develop creative projects that will engage our community.
- 2.2 This report presents Council with a list of recommended grants prepared by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee. Funded projects will occur between July 2021 and June 2022.
- 2.3 41 applications were received, requesting Council funding of \$428,587 for projects valued at a total of \$1,504,483. There were 14 first time applicants to a Port Phillip CDF projects grant round; 18 applications were from individual artists; 7 from individual artists representing collectives and 16 from incorporated organisations.
- 2.4 20 projects with a total value of \$ 616,763 have been recommended (of which it is proposed Council would contribute \$199,911). Other funding sources sought for projects include Creative Victoria, Australia Council, Australian Cultural Fund, Film Victoria, the Palais Theatre Community Fund philanthropic funds, fundraising events, private sponsorship and in-kind support from venues, businesses and artists.
- 2.5 Under this proposal for every \$1 invested by Council there is an impact of \$3.08 of this investment given the other funding sources associated with these projects.
- 2.6 Local venues providing support include Theatre Works, Temperance Hall, Gasworks Arts Park, the Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Centre, Poets Grove Family and Community Centre, St Kilda Army and Navy Club, Alma Road Community House, Space2B, Christchurch, and the Torch gallery and various shopfront locations.
- 2.7 Projects are spread across the municipality – St Kilda (9), St Kilda East (2) Albert Park (3), South Melbourne (4) and Elwood (2).

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Thanks those who have submitted applications for funding through the Cultural Development Fund.
- 3.2 Thanks the Cultural Development Fund Committee for their work in assessing each application and making recommendations to Council.



- 3.3 Endorses the Cultural Development Fund Committee recommendations for awarding the Cultural Development Fund Recovery grants as outlined in confidential **Attachment 1**.
- 3.4 Releases details of the successful applicants, once all applicants have been provided with details on the status of their application.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The purpose of the Cultural Development Fund is to assist and encourage local artists and arts organisations to develop projects that are highly creative and innovative. The Recovery grants aim to support new work in a time of Covid19 recovery; to reconnect with our communities; and to re-invigorate and celebrate the creative life of the City.
- 4.2 The CDF- Recovery grants is a competitive funding round and is open to all artforms, including cultural heritage projects.
- 4.3 Benefits of the Fund include:
 - Building the capacity of our local artists and organisations to develop and realise creative projects.
 - Creating more opportunities for our community members to be engaged in cultural projects directly as audience members and participants.
 - Enabling projects that are of a non-commercial nature to offer low cost and inclusive activities for a wide audience.
 - Contributing to the local economy through activity generated by the projects and employment of artists.
 - Applications for funding of cultural projects are required to be environmentally responsible. Applicants are increasingly aware of environmental concerns as a topic for both project process and content.
 - The guidelines and selection criteria support unique projects, as opposed to core programs or projects that are currently funded by another council program.
- 4.4 Selection criteria includes:
 - Projects must demonstrate creativity, artistic intention and innovation.
 - Applicants must live or work in the City of Port Phillip or be a First Nations artist of Boon Wurrung descent.
 - Funded activities must be based in the City of Port Phillip and demonstrate value to City of Port Phillip audiences, readers, viewers, users and participants.
 - Projects demonstrate participation in the arts and partnerships with other organisations.
 - Projects explore the cultural heritage, identity and diversity of the city.
- 4.5 The process for application is as follows:
 - Applications opened on 25 January 2021. The round was advertised through Council's website, social media, Divercity, CoPP this, the Arts and heritage enews, and other cultural websites.



- Applicants could access the guidelines and application form through the website or by contacting staff.
 - Applications were made using the online grants management system, Smartygrants and staff provided access assistance and advice.
 - Applications were assessed by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee according to the criteria at a meeting in April 2021.
- 4.6 The Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee was chaired by Cr Crawford and includes four community representatives: Hanut Dodd, Bree McKilligan Hugo Leschen and Tess Hamilton.
- 4.7 The Committee noted the following:
- 4.8.1 Many projects were deeply embedded in the community with a strong connection.
 - 4.8.2 The importance of support for new or emerging artists or collectives, particularly in a period where artists and the creative community continue to be significantly affected by the impact of the pandemic.
 - 4.8.3 The importance of support for projects that explore the community and cultural heritage of Port Phillip.
- 4.8 The Committee also recommended that Council officers continue to explore ways to build capacity of first time or inexperienced applicants to build their grant writing skills and understanding of budgets. Officers will continue to assist first time or inexperienced applicants by facilitating direct mentorship as well as encouraging applicants to attend Council grant writing training or information sessions for future rounds.
- 4.9 Recommendations made by the Reference Committee are reported to Council for consideration and approval.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The 2021 Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee is chaired by Cr Crawford. Other members of the Committee are community members with specialist arts and cultural expertise, who were appointed by Council for a three-year term following an expression of interest process.

Community members appointed by Council for 2020 – 2022 are:

- Hanut Dodd (state and local government experience, including project and committee management and participation; management of cultural events and programs; special interest in fine art; history and cultural heritage).
- Bree McKilligan (visual arts and literature programming, arts funding, marketing and audience development; local government experience in arts and cultural engagement and programs and arts management, film and screenwriting; community cultural volunteering).
- Tess Hamilton (film and television, festivals programming; arts writing and visual arts curation; community development; community cultural volunteering).
- Hugo Leschen (extensive board and committee experience; programming in visual arts, music, film and training and advocacy organisations; project management).



5.2 Individual artists and unincorporated group or collective projects are supported through the grant process by peak not-for-profit cultural organisations with an auspicing service; Auspicious Arts Projects, Arts Access Victoria and Multicultural Arts Victoria, to improve access to the program and build capacity within communities.

5.3 Feedback from applicants is sought on the process for continuous improvement.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no known risks to Council in adopting this recommendation.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The total amount of funding recommended for the 20 projects is \$199,911 which is provided for in the 2020/21 budget (\$100,000 was allocated to the CDF budget whilst an additional \$100,000 was provided as part of the quarantined St Kilda Festival money).

7.2 Creative practice is recognised as making a valuable contribution to the City of Port Phillip economy. As a sector, creative and cultural practice and industries are the second largest employer in the City of Port Phillip.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Artists and arts and community organisations will be made aware of Council commitment to environmental sustainability through the Council Plan and Cultural Development Fund Guidelines.

8.2 Implementation of Smartygrants (an online grants application system) has led to a dramatic decrease in paper use as both the application and assessment process are online.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 The Cultural Development Fund Recovery grants will support artists and organisations to develop new work and to manage projects during a period of Covid19 recovery.

9.2 Arts, heritage and culture are contributing factors to community health and wellbeing. A high number of projects are concerned with gender, inclusion and environmental sustainability and impact, reflecting community concerns and discourse.

9.3 Funded projects offer free or low-cost access to diverse cultural events across the municipality.

9.4 Artists and participants of all abilities and diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply are included in funded projects.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

10.1 Funding under the Cultural Development Fund delivers on the current Council Plan 2017-2027:

Direction 5: We thrive by harnessing creativity. A city where arts, culture and creative expression are part of everyday life.

10.2 Projects supported through the Cultural Development Fund also contribute to other directions in the Council Plan:

Direction 1: We embrace difference and people belong. Community diversity is valued and celebrated.



Direction 4: *We are growing and keeping our character.* Supporting projects that celebrate and share our local history and heritage.

- 10.3 The proposed recommendation is aligned with of the City of Port Phillip Art and Soul: Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2018-22 through the actions 'Support the community to plan and produce their own festivals, events and cultural projects'. It contributes greatly to the social, economic and cultural vibrancy of place, and engenders a sense of identity and belonging.'

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Successful projects will be listed on Council's website and promoted through the community events listing.
- 11.1.2 Funded projects will be conducted between July 2021 and June 2022 and acquitted within eight weeks of completion.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application soon after Council's decision.
- 11.2.2 Details of funded projects will be available on the Council website.
- 11.2.3 Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and are invited to receive feedback from Council Officers.
- 11.2.4 The voluntary Committee members Hanut Dodd, Bree McKilligan, Tess Hamilton and Hugo Leschen, will be thanked for their contribution to the cultural life of Port Phillip.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS

- 1. CONFIDENTIAL Attachment 1 Cultural Development Fund Recovery grants Recommended applications 2021**
- 2. CONFIDENTIAL Attachment 2 Cultural Development Fund Recovery 2021 Supporting tables**