

STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
3 NOVEMBER 2004 **POLICY AND PLANNING**

A3 **RUPERT BUNNY FOUNDATION UPDATE**
LOCATION/ADDRESS:
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **SALLY CALDER, DIRECTOR**
COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL VITALITY
AUTHOR: **MELISSA HAYES, CURATORIAL**
COORDINATOR
FILE NO.: **06/01/151**
ATTACHMENTS: **NIL.**

1. KEY ISSUES

- 1.1. The Rupert Bunny Foundation (RBF) Fund is invested and administered by the ANZ Bank, Victorian Community Foundation through a Deed of Trust which stipulates that funds are used to:
- further the development of the visual arts, particularly art in public spaces within the municipality of St Kilda (now Port Phillip);
 - enlarge and enhance the St Kilda Art Collection (now Port Phillip).
- 1.2. Currently the RBF fund of between \$6,000 and \$8,000 is allocated to the biannual Port Phillip City Contemporary art acquisition as recommended by council in 2003.
- 1.3. The Rupert Bunny Foundation (RBF) sub-committee are proposing to council that RBF funds in future be allocated to a bi-annual Artists Assistance Award in order to further the development of the visual arts, while Council continues to acquire to the Port Phillip Art Collection.

2. CONTEXT

- 2.1. The RBF Fund was established using a \$170,000 insurance payment received after a Rupert Bunny painting was irreparably damaged during the 1991 St Kilda Town Hall fire.
- 2.2. A Cultural Advisory Board sub-committee was formed to advise Council on the best ways to meet the criteria of the Deed of Trust.
- 2.3. In 2003 following advice from the members of the sub-committee council resolved that the '*...annual interest from the Foundation Fund be allocated to art acquisitions in the City of Port Phillip*'.
- 2.4. In February 2004 Council was notified by the ANZ Trustees that \$49,434.33 in accumulated funds were to be spent before June 30 2004; the amount was allocated to art acquisitions.

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- 2.5. Port Phillip should continue to allow innovative arts practice to occur in Port Phillip has been identified in consultation with stakeholders as part of the Art Heritage and Cultural Development Service Review in 2003.
- 2.6. In April this year, the RBF sub-committee met to discuss ideas around an alternative way of using the Fund; that is, to develop an 'award' that will assist artists in producing their work.
- 2.7. Consequently the sub-committee is now recommending to Council that such an award program be established using the annual interest of the Fund.
- 2.8. We have received written advice from the ANZ Trustees that the proposed award program would be in accordance with the Deed of Trust.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1. To create a biannual award that would provide opportunity for artists to submit and create their own innovative visual art projects within the award criteria.
- 3.2. Award criteria will be broad in scope to allow for the most creative visual arts projects to be submitted; the Award will still require either a donation of artwork or artwork documentation to the City and will require demonstration of submission's benefit to the community.
- 3.3. The award would value add to the intent of the RBF Fund by providing greater avenues of promoting the program and councils support for innovative arts to a wider audience.
- 3.4. The RBF award selection committee would obtain special advice where required to assess project submissions to be sure they can feasibly meet desired outcomes within the resources of the award allocation.
- 3.5. It is proposed that as the interest from the RBF Fund varies from year to year and will every two years amount to between \$12,000 and \$16,000 the award amount be set at a constant \$15,000; the award may require a small contribution from operational funds to top up the fund to this amount.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1. Option 1: Council endorse the recommendation that the RBF Committee develop an Artist Assistance Award and RBF Fund is allocated to it on a biannual basis.
- 4.2. Option 2: The RBF Fund continues to be allocated to City of Port Phillip Contemporary Art Acquisition, consistent with the Port Phillip City Collection Management Policy.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The proposal to allocate RBF Fund to an Artist Assistance Award is consistent with objectives of the City of Port Phillip Arts Plan, June 2003. *To commit to innovation, inspiration and excellence in the arts, and To enhance the City's contemporary art and heritage collections.*
- 5.2. The proposal for a RBF award supports the production of innovative visual arts proposals that will request a donation to the contemporary art collection.
- 5.3. Art Acquisition is conducted according to the Port Phillip City Collection Management Policy 2001-2004. The Policy has the scope to acquire innovative visual art donations.

6. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Option 1

6.1.1. Social

Allocation of funding to an award opens up opportunities for greater participation in the RBF through a wider audience or artist's being made aware of the fund and the potential for them to submit projects for selection and funding.

6.1.2. Economic

Allocation of funding to an award is responsive to the current needs of the broad scope of visual artists in the community, and contributes to the economic viability of a vibrant arts community.

6.1.3. Environmental

Award recipients would be encouraged to consider environmental impacts of their art concept and submission.

6.1.4. Cultural

Allocation of funding to an award will allow for diversity of expression as determined by artists and potential opportunities for community participation in the arts.

6.2. Option 2

6.2.1. Social

Allocation of funding to art acquisition supports arts practice and networking with the arts community.

6.2.2. Economic

Allocation of funding to purchase of an art acquisition represents good value for money, without as comprehensive involvement of the other three pillars.

6.2.3. Environmental

There are no known environmental impacts caused by the RBF program or art acquisition.

6.2.4. Cultural

Allocation of RBF directly to art acquisition does not support a participatory approach to contemporary visual arts or provide opportunities to promote the RBF program as widely.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The RBF net biannual income will be allocated to the award and is estimated to be between \$12,000 and \$16,000 dependant on interest.

7.2. The biannual award amount will remain constant at \$15,000, and may require a small contribution from operational funds to top up the fund to this amount.

7.3. The RBF funds previously were used for the direct acquisition of Artworks. The intent of the proposal is to still acquire, but that the RBF proportion of the acquisition budget be redirected to the proposal. This would reduce the 'traditional' acquisitions budget by approximately \$6-8,000 per annum.

8. INTERNAL CONSULTATION

8.1. The people who have been engaged with in relation to this issue are:

8.1.1. City of Port Phillip Curatorial Co-ordinator;

8.1.2. Manager of Culture and Recreation;

8.1.3. Director of Community and Cultural Vitality;

8.1.4. Cr David Brand as representative on the Rupert Bunny Foundation sub-committee.

9. EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

- 9.1. The external people and/or organizations who have been and will continue to be engaged with in relation to this issue are:
- 9.1.1. Participants of focus groups as part of the Arts and Festivals Service Review 2003;
 - 9.1.2. Rupert Bunny Foundation sub-committee members, Paul Clarkson and Jon Cattapan;
 - 9.1.3. ANZ Trustees, Victorian Community Foundation;
 - 9.1.4. Director, Linden St. Kilda Centre for Contemporary Arts;
 - 9.1.5. Consultation with relevant legal agencies and arts organizations in relation to models for the establishment of an award criteria, promotion and contracts.

10. IMPLEMENTATION

- 10.1. Council Officer with the RBF Sub-committee to manage award development, advertising, launch and liaison with recipient.
- Award development by the RBF subcommittee Nov 2004 to Mar 2005
 - Launch Mar 2005
 - Advertising and submissions Mar 2005 to July 2005
 - Selection and award July 2005 to Sept 2005
 - Recipient liaison Sept 2005 to Mar 2006
 - Artists acquittal May 2006

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1. The development and implementation of an Artist Assistance Award is consistent with the criteria for the Rupert Bunny Foundation, while broadening the scope of the fund to support a diversity of innovative arts practise.
- 11.2. The award has the capacity to be developed with criteria that result in a donation to the collection by the recipient.
- 11.3. Through an advertising and promotions campaign, the Fund will be open to a wider arts audience to potentially participate in applying for the Fund.

12. COMMUNICATION

- 12.1. The key message is that the Rupert Bunny Foundation Fund continues to support innovative visual arts practice in Port Phillip.

13. RECOMMENDATION

- 13.1. That Council endorses the recommendation as made by the Rupert Bunny Foundation sub-committee to develop an Artists Assistance Award using the Rupert Bunny Foundation Funds on a biannual basis.
- 13.2. That Council commits to a biannual award amount of \$15,000 and that any surplus RBF funds be directed to art acquisition.