



8.3	CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS
WARD:	WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER:	VANESSA SCHERNICKAU, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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TRIM FILE NO:	40/05/123
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Confidential- Cultural Development Fund 2017-18 Recommendations 2. Cultural Development Fund 2017-18 round statistics

PURPOSE

To present a list of recommended Cultural Development Fund grant recipients for 2017-18 for Council's consideration and approval.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Endorses the Cultural Development Fund Committee recommendations, as per Attachment 1, for awarding the Cultural Development Fund grants for 2017-18.
- 1.2 Makes public the list of Cultural Development Fund grants 2017-18.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Cultural Development Fund is a competitive funding round conducted on an annual basis each year.
- 2.3 The focus of the Cultural Development Fund is on arts and cultural projects with an emphasis on creativity, artistic intention and innovation. Council provides other funding sources for primarily community development or social outcomes.
- 2.4 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;

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- 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;
- 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.
- Projects will be once-off, but may be funded in stages (eg a creative development and a presentation (performance or exhibition) may be seen as separate projects submitted in different years).

2.5 Selection criteria includes:

- Projects must demonstrate creativity, artistic intention and innovation;
- Applicants must live or work in the City of Port Phillip;
- Funded activities must be based in the City of Port Phillip and demonstrate value to City of Port Phillip audiences, readers, viewers, users;
- Projects demonstrate participation in the arts and partnerships with other organisations;
- Projects explore the cultural heritage, identity and diversity of the City.

2.6 The process for application is as follows:

- A call for applications was advertised in the local newspaper, through cultural websites and on Council's website from 13 February 2017;
- Applicants could access the guidelines and application form through the website or by contacting staff;
- Thirty two people attended two information sessions held at the South Melbourne Town Hall community room and The Gallery, St Kilda Town Hall on 16 and 20 February 2017 respectively. The South Melbourne session was specifically designed to assist people from diverse cultural backgrounds or with a disability and was run in partnership with Arts Access Victoria and Multicultural Arts Victoria;
- Four grant writing workshops were conducted through the Community Grants Training program for community and arts grant-seekers. The workshops were attended by 74 people, including approximately 26% with an interest in applying to the Cultural Development Fund;
- Applications were made using the online grants management system, Smartygrants;
- Applications were assessed by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee according to the criteria at a meeting in May 2017.



- 2.7 The Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee has new members appointed by Council in February 2016. The Committee in 2017 was chaired by Cr Katherine Copsey, Deputy Mayor, and includes four community representatives: sitting members Sue Roff and Matthew Boland appointed from 2016-18, and new members Nicola Klempfner and Robyn Birrell appointed from 2017-19. We thank retiring members Malcolm Blaylock and Julie Skate for their service to the Committee.
- 2.8 Recommendations made by the Reference Committee are reported to Council for consideration and approval.
- 2.9 The following projects illustrate the types of applications funded in the previous funding round (2016-17):

Accounts from the Front 1917

This unique community heritage exhibition highlighted the war service of members of the South Melbourne Albert Park Rowing Club in World War I. The stories explored who these members were, what they experienced and how their absence affected the club.

The exhibition was researched and curated by Grace Blake, a keen rower and member and launched at the Club in time for the annual Regatta. The program included public tours of the exhibition with the curator. A further public talk and a viewing of some of the memorabilia will also be held at a later date at the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre. This project has also been supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Veterans Council.

Songbirdsongs

Songbirdsongs, a collaborative project presented by Tamara Kohler and Rubik's Collective, premiered two newly commissioned works for solo instrument and electronics. The performance at Brightspace also included the world premiere of a new work for flute and live electronics by Melbourne-based composer and Rubik's Collective pianist, Jacob Abela and a world premiere of a new work for percussion, taped bird songs, and field recordings from Japanese temples by Sydney-based composer and Oxford graduate Chris Williams.

Three of the musicians involved are alumni of the Australian National Academy of Music in South Melbourne. This project supported young musicians and composers in their development and these new works have become a part of the Rubik's Collective repertoire.

EVER

Phillip Adams Balletlab completed a successful showing for a creative development project of their new contemporary dance work *EVER*. The work is being developed in two parts and inspired by the music of John Adams *Shaker Loops* (1978) and Richard Strauss's *Metamorphosen* (1945).

The showing was held at the company's new home, Temperance Hall in South Melbourne and was followed by an informal tour of the venue to highlight the works on the building that are in progress to return it to an important space supporting dance and contemporary performance in Port Phillip.



3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Cultural Development Fund (CDF) supports the Port Phillip community to produce creative projects that will contribute to the overall cultural life of the City.
- 3.2 A total of \$136,324 of City of Port Phillip funding will be provided to successful 2017-18 Cultural Development Fund assisted projects.
- 3.3 Forty one applications were received, requesting funding of \$361,594 from projects valued at a total of \$1,502,146. There were 17 first time applicants, 22 were from individuals and 19 from organisations. While there were four fewer applications, there were five more first time applicants than last year.
- 3.4 This report presents Council with a list of recommended grants for 2017-18, prepared by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee.
- 3.5 Sixteen projects with a total value of \$858,445 have been recommended. This represents a leverage of \$6.29 for every \$1 of funding from CoPP.
- 3.6 Other funding sources for projects include Creative Victoria, Australia Council, philanthropic funds, crowdsourcing, fundraising events, private sponsorship and in-kind support from venues, businesses and artists.
- 3.7 Projects will be held across the municipality – St Kilda (8), Albert Park (2), East St Kilda (3), South Melbourne (3), Port Melbourne (1). Some projects will take place in more than one location.
- 3.8 The Committee noted an unmet need of the Fund by approximately \$40,000 being the amount that would have funded these successful and the highly commended (unsuccessful) projects to the extent requested



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Funding under the Cultural Development Fund delivers on the (draft) Council Plan 2017-2027:

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

- 4.2 Projects supported through the Cultural Development Fund also contribute to other directions in the (draft) 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.*

- 4.3 The proposed recommendation supports the principles of the City of Port Phillip Arts and Culture Policy 2011. *'Council believes that arts and cultural activity benefits the whole community. It contributes greatly to the social, economic and cultural vibrancy of place, and engenders a sense of identity and belonging.'*

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The 2017 Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee is chaired by Councillor Katherine Copsey, Deputy Mayor. Other members of the panel are community members knowledgeable in cultural fields, who were appointed by Council for a three year term following an expression of interest process.

- 5.2 Community members appointed by Council are:

- Sue Roff (arts development, venue and project management) 2016-2018
- Matthew Boland (arts policy and funding, project management and community and arts committees 2016-2018
- Nicola Klempfner (visual arts and literature programming, arts funding and marketing and audience development) 2017 – 2019
- Robyn Birrell (arts development, venue and project management, theatre production and performance) 2017-2019

- 5.3 In order to maximise participation and address possible obstacles to applying to the fund, information sessions are run from Town Halls on a rotation basis and special sessions are organised to specifically address diversity and inclusion.

- 5.4 These sessions, as well as feedback from peak organisations like Arts Access Victoria and Multicultural Arts Victoria, are used to improve access to the program and build capacity within communities.

- 5.5 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. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 Many local artists and arts organisations are aware of or have worked with Tipping Point Australia or Climarte, two leading agencies working with sustainability in the arts.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 The Cultural Development Fund supports artists and organisations and assists to the development of new work that contributes to the profile of the City of Port Phillip as an outstanding, vibrant arts environment.
- 7.2.2 Arts, heritage and culture are contributing factors to community health and wellbeing.
- 7.2.3 Funded projects offer free or low cost access to diverse cultural events across the municipality.
- 7.2.4 Artists and participants of all abilities and diverse backgrounds are included in funded projects.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.3.1 Funded projects will contribute to employment of artists in the community.
- 7.3.2 Funded projects create activities which draw people to local economic centres.
- 7.3.3 This round of recommended grants represents a multiplier effect of 1:6 where \$6.29 of project value is leveraged for every \$1 of grant money from Council.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 The total amount of funding proposed, \$136,324, is in line with the draft 2017-18 budget allocation for this program.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

- 8.1.1 Successful projects will be listed on Council's website and promoted through the community events listing.

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8.1.2 The successful applicants will be presented with their funding at a cheque presentation event in July 2017 which provides an opportunity for both celebration and networking among the arts community.

8.1.3 Funded projects will be conducted between July 2017 and June 2018 and acquitted within eight weeks of completion.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application soon after Council's decision.

8.2.2 Details of funded projects will be available on the Council website.

8.2.3 Unsuccessful applicants are notified in writing and are invited to receive feedback from Council Officers.

8.2.4 The voluntary Committee members Sue Roff, Matthew Boland, Robyn Birrell and Nicola Klempfner will be thanked for their valuable contribution to the cultural life of Port Phillip.

9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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