



# DIVERCITY

December 2020



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



## The value of community in a year like no other

**It would be easy to define 2020 by the crises we've faced in Australia, from drought and devastating bushfires, through a smoke-choked summer to the spread and spikes of COVID-19 and Victoria being declared a state of emergency and disaster.**

What this year has taught us, though, is that as part of a strong and supportive community, we can find the resilience and adaptability to weather crises and help others to do the same. Here we reflect on the challenges we've faced together as a community and how Council is supporting our City's recovery.

[Find out more](#)



## Show off your summer smarts

Our City shines in summer but as we all head out to enjoy the festive season, it is important that we all play our part and show off our summer-smarts by playing it safe, watching our waste and beating the heat.

[Find out more](#)

## From the Chamber

**It is so heartening to see our City open up and the community venturing out into summer and a COVID-normal way of life.**

There is no denying the immense impact of the past year on our lives and it will be felt for years to come. Our feature article details the challenges faced by Council and the measures we have put in place to support our community. To best support our City's economic recovery, for example, we are working closely with local traders to have a safe and successful summer. A major initiative is our Live Love Local 'Support Port Phillip' campaign, that I wrote about in the last issue and which you may have already encountered in and around our City.



Further Economic and Cultural Recovery initiatives were recently announced. At the Council meeting on 2 December, we considered proposals to be funded with the budget that was set aside after the cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival. You can read about these [here](#).

As we come to the end of 2020, a year like no other, the Councillors and I wish you a wonderful, safe and happy festive season, and encourage you to Live Love Local to enjoy and support our City's wonderful offerings.

Cr Louise Crawford, Mayor

# City news

## St Kilda Festival spirit lives on

A COVID-safe community event and live music fund and more arts recovery grants and fee waivers for traders are just some of the initiatives flowing from savings created by the one-off cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival.

[Find out more](#)



## Library services update

The holiday season is upon us and we wish everyone a happy and safe time with friends and family. Since late November we have re-opened all of our libraries to the community once again, offering public PCs, wi-fi, onsite browsing and friendly library staff.

[Find out more](#)



## Funding for teens who want to get involved

Do you know a young person who'd like to join a recreational program but money is tight? We have grants up to \$500 to support young people in attending camps, courses, sports and arts programs and more. Also, if you're looking for ideas, the first round of new youth recreation programs has been announced.

[Find out more](#)



## Christmas wrapped up at the Market

South Melbourne Market has an abundance of exceptional seasonal gifts to purchase, from handmade chocolates to hampers, pamper packs, toys and treats. The market has [a guide for you](#). Plus, [online shopping](#) is available.

[Find out more](#)



## Visit Rippon Lea for free



Following the reopening of Rippon Lea Estate gardens to the public after the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions, Port Phillip residents are encouraged to visit their free 'backyard' away from home in Elsternwick.

[Find out more](#)



## Entries open for St Kilda Film Festival

The show will go on in 2021 with entries now open for the 38th St Kilda Film Festival. Australia's largest and longest-running short film festival will bring the best of both worlds, with live and online events from 20 to 29 May.

[Find out more](#)



## Arts in focus



### New sculpture marks history of water

'Waterlines' is a bold new sculpture that tells the story of flooding our City and is now home in Kirrip Park, South Melbourne. With its proximity to the Yarra River, the area surrounding what is now the City of Port Phillip was once a swampy river delta wetland with open grasslands prone to flooding. Divercity spoke to artist Ian Strange to discover his inspiration for 'Waterlines'.

[Read more](#)



### Local Festivals Fund: celebrate our City

#### Applications close 6 January 2021

Do you have a great idea for a festival or cultural event that celebrates our City's community spirit, identity, arts and culture? Our Local Festivals Fund encourages and supports not-for-profit organisations and community groups to develop small to medium-scale local festivals or events for maximum of up to \$10,000 per project.

[Read more](#)

# Shape our City



## Have your say on how we engage

At the start of the year we asked you how you'd like to be involved in decision making in Port Phillip. Your feedback helped shape our Draft Community Engagement Policy, which outlines Council's commitment to facilitating genuine and transparent opportunities for our community to

provide feedback and inform the decisions made by Council. Share your feedback on the draft policy before 23 December.

[Have your say](#)

## Council Plan 2021-31

In the next few weeks, our new Council will start developing the new Council Plan, charting the course for our City from 2021 to 2031. The Council Plan is our strategic plan, aligning our key strategies with community priorities. These priorities will be identified through extensive consultation and engagement with the community.

[Find out more](#)

# Community spirit

## Takeover Melbourne local winner announced

Millar Kuhl from Elwood is Port Phillip's winner of Takeover Melbourne, a competition that invited young people aged 12 to 18 to share a story about their life. One winner was selected from each local government area. Winners have worked with the ABC to have their stories produced to be featured on ABC TV, radio and online.

[Read more](#)

## Inclusive stories: Middle Park Post Office

Council is showcasing local businesses that offer their services in inclusive ways. For our first profile, we spoke to Ray from Middle Park, who wanted to talk about the great work being done at Middle Park Post Office.

[Read more](#)



## We want your stories

We want Divercity to reflect our community and feature the stories and voices of Port Phillip. If you or somebody you know has unique stories from our City, or maybe you know of some unsung heroes, please email us at [divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au) using subject line 'Community spirit'.

Image: Brigitte Dawson, *Mural on Wynyard*, 2020.



## What's on



### Light captures Acland Street Level 2, 82 Acland Street, St Kilda Until 7 February

CAPTURE is a night-time light installation that asks you to consider new ways of relating to the natural environment. Created by PlugInHUMAN, recipient of the Rupert Bunny Foundation Fellowship.

[Read more](#)

Image: Still from CAPTURE by PlugInHUMAN.



### Women in Art exhibition and cafe 307-309 Clarendon St, South Melbourne Until 23 December

sheBuilt and City of Port Phillip are celebrating and supporting local women artists in a South Melbourne pop-up exhibition and cafe. Visitors are invited to view and purchase the work of up-and-coming artists.

[Read more](#)



### Linden Postcard Show

Linden New Art  
Until 31 January 2021

Linden New Art has opened its doors with the annual Postcard Show. Since 1990, this much-loved small artwork prize exhibition has been providing artists – from emerging to established – the opportunity to present their work on the walls of Linden New Art's beautiful Victorian-era building.

[Read more](#)



# Your Councillors

## Gateway Ward



**Cr Heather Cunsolo**  
0466 227 014



**Cr Peter Martin**  
0435 390 821



**Cr Marcus Pearl**  
0466 448 272

## Lake Ward



**Cr Andrew Bond**  
0481 034 028



**Cr Katherine Copsey**  
0466 478 949



**Cr Christina Sirakoff**  
0435 419 930

## Canal Ward



**Cr Tim Baxter**  
0466 495 250



**Cr Rhonda Clark**  
0435 098 738



**Cr Louise Crawford**  
0466 514 643

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# The value of community in a year like no other

Published 10 December 2020



It would be easy to define 2020 by the crises we've faced in Australia, from drought and devastating bushfires, through a smoke-choked summer to the spread and spikes of COVID-19 and Victoria being declared a state of emergency and disaster.



### Back to Divercity

What this year has taught us, though, is that as part of a strong and supportive community, we can find the resilience and adaptability to weather crises and help others to do the same. Here we reflect on the challenges we've faced together as a community and how Council is supporting our City's recovery.

Through 2020, our community has been resilient and adaptable. Early in the pandemic, we adapted in line with our community and responded to community needs, implementing our emergency plan to allow us to make the quick decisions required to keep the community safe and to help us plan for recovery.

Some of the changes included:

- managing the temporary closures of our beaches, playgrounds and outdoor fitness stations as government restrictions were rolled out
- lobbying for virtual Council meetings so Councillors and community members could safely participate in the democratic process
- seeking online alternatives as town halls, public libraries, recreational and leisure facilities, customer service counters, arts and culture centres and youth centres were closed
- organising online versions of events that would otherwise have had to be cancelled, such as the St Kilda Film Festival and Mabo Day commemoration. Library story times and a business forum were also held online

- assisting South Melbourne Market traders and shoppers through the introduction of an order and collect service.

We delivered a 2.8 million emergency relief package to help support those most affected in our community, including many of our traders. Up to \$500,000 from our social housing fund was made available for services supporting people experiencing homelessness and \$180,000 allocated to an arts rescue package.

Unforeseen costs, such as those arising from the COVID-19 emergency and government cost-shifting impacted our Budget and we had to make some big decisions on where to direct our focus and resources, including a comprehensive restructure.

In this climate we have responded to current pressures, but also delivered on our commitments that look to our City's recovery.

We are also supporting the City through Live *Love* Local, as part of our social and economic recovery program, to engage locals and visitors alike to get out and about safely this summer and to eat, drink and shop locally.

Further Economic and Cultural Recovery initiatives were recently announced, with a number of events to be funded by the budget that was originally allocated to fund the 2021 St Kilda Festival.

With initiatives such as these in place, we are looking ahead, and taking the community spirit into 2021 and beyond.



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# Show off your summer smarts

Published 10 December 2020



Our City shines in summer but as we all head out to enjoy the festive season, it is important that we all play our part and show off our summer-smarts by playing it safe, watching our waste and beating the heat.



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## Play it safe

We are asking everyone to Play it Safe, whether it's observing the alcohol ban and not leaving litter behind to following COVID-19 rules.

If you're planning on a trip to the beach, throw in a bottle of hand sanitiser along with your mask, sunscreen, towel and hat.

Council has arranged for extra rubbish bins, bin collections and beach-cleans all summer.

[Read more.](#)

## Watch your waste

Love your parks, protect the bay and use the bins this summer. There's only one place rubbish belongs, and that's in an appropriate bin. When littering occurs, it is likely to end up in one place – in our beautiful bay. The system of stormwater drains connects with our beaches and too often items such as packaging, straws and cigarette butts are washed into the water where they pose a significant threat to marine life and their ecosystem.

Using the bins provided or taking your rubbish with you also helps keep these spaces in great condition for your future enjoyment, and that of your neighbours. Council is playing its part, with additional services all summer including extra bins, collections, signage and education programs to support the community in doing the right thing.

And if you see something that needs attention while out and about, whether it's litter where it

shouldn't be or a broken street sign, you can reach us easily via [ASSIST](#) or using [Snap Send Solve](#).

We know many in our community are ready to take the next step in minimising waste, bringing reusable picnicware and food with minimal or recycled packaging from home. If you're ready too, check out the helpful resources on the Sustainable Port Phillip website or get in touch via [ASSIST](#).

## Beat the heat

Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster. Know the effects of extreme heat, who is at risk and how you can prepare yourself and others.

Extreme heat can affect anybody. It can cause illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which can lead to the life-threatening condition, heatstroke. Heatstroke is fatal in up to 80 per cent of cases.

Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

### Heat tips

- **Drink water** even if you don't feel thirsty, drink water. Take a bottle with you always.
- **Never leave anyone in a car** - hot cars kill. The temperature inside a parked car can double within minutes.
- **Stay somewhere cool.** Seek out air-conditioned buildings, draw your blinds, use a fan, take cool showers and dress in light and loose clothing made from natural fabrics.
- **Plan ahead.** Schedule activities in the coolest part of the day and avoid exercising in the heat. If you must go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and take a bottle of water with you.
- **Check in on others.** Look after those most at risk in the heat – your neighbour living alone, older people, the young, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets.

[Read more.](#)

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# St Kilda Festival spirit alive with arts and economic recovery package

Published 4 December 2020



A COVID-safe community event and live music fund and more arts recovery grants and fee waivers for traders are just some of the initiatives flowing from savings created by the one-off cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival.



## Back to Divercity

A COVID-safe community event and live music fund and more arts recovery grants and fee waivers for traders are just some of the initiatives flowing from savings created by the one-off cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival.

The St Kilda Festival was cancelled in August due to COVID-19 concerns, with the savings held in reserve for a raft of economic and cultural recovery activities.

After considering options, a \$1.21 million Economic and Social Package was endorsed at Wednesday night's Port Phillip Council meeting. A further \$488,888 is available to be considered for more projects as part of the next Budget quarterly review in February.

Mayor Louise Crawford said the varied measures would help keep the creative, cultural spirit of the St Kilda Festival alive until it can safely return.

The St Kilda Festival is also an important contributor to Port Phillip's local economy. "Many of our traders and members of the arts community have been hard-hit by the pandemic so we have made sure the package includes direct ways of supporting traders as well as ensuring our City continues to be known and loved as fun and vibrant destination," Cr Crawford said.

The package, to be delivered under Council's Live Love Local program, includes:

- Creating a COVID-safe community event and live music support fund (\$200,000) to help organisers, including performers, neighbourhood groups and community organisations, safely hold events
- More Arts Rescue Grants for local artists and creative organisations (\$100,000)
- One-off recovery grants to key arts organisations (total cost of \$120,000)
- Reduced registration fees for food premises (25 per cent) and health premises, such as beauty parlours (50 per cent), for 2020/21 (\$166,412)
- Further six-month waiver of footpath trading fees (\$284,000)



- Extended rental waivers for Council tenants most affected by the pandemic (up to \$300,000).

About \$160,000 has been allocated separately to develop a summer music program to provide opportunities for local musicians to perform.

Council also recently provided a total of \$100,000 in Love My Place grants to help bring fun back to many outdoor spaces from now until into next year through unique events and programs including secret laneway concerts, calming sensory rooms and roving circuses.

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Family, youth and children

Diversity magazine

# Youth Access Grants for young people

Published 14 December 2020

## I want to

Youth Access Grants Program



Grants are available for young people who want to take part in recreational activities. Also, the first round of community programs has been announced.

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## Funding for teens who want to get involved

Do you know a young person who'd like to join a recreational program but money is tight? We have grants up to \$500 to support young people aged 12 to 18 in attending camps, courses, sports and arts programs and more.

[Read more](#)

## Recreation programs for teens opening in early 2021

The first four recreation programs for young people funded through our Youth Access Grants Program have just been announced and include dance, drama, conservation, outdoor sports and beach activities.

### Dance and drama classes: National Theatre

**Website:** [nationaltheatre.org.au/](https://nationaltheatre.org.au/)

**Contact:** [sarah.hunt@nationaltheatre.org.au](mailto:sarah.hunt@nationaltheatre.org.au)

The National Theatre will offer dance and/or drama classes for young people experiencing disadvantage. The program will be offered to young people aged 12 to 18 years and sponsor 14 young people to participate in acting or dance classes for two terms across 2021. Young people participating in ballet will receive full sponsorship for their dance shoes and uniform. The National Theatre will host trial days for young people to try classes out.

## Outdoor Connections: Port Phillip EcoCentre

**Website:** [ecocentre.com/](http://ecocentre.com/)

**Contact:** [cecile@ecocentre.com](mailto:cecile@ecocentre.com)

Outdoor Connections will offer free outdoor recreation and hands-on conservation activities for young people aged 12 to 18 years who live, work and play in the City of Port Phillip.

Participants will learn about conserving local plants and animals. Topics will include Indigenous and local history, wildlife watching and monitoring, plant identification and a snorkelling tour in the bay. Activities will be held at St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Albert Park, St Kilda Pier/ beach and West Beach.

## Holiday program: St Kilda PCYC

**Website:** [stkildapcyc.org/](http://stkildapcyc.org/)

**Contact:** [youthprograms@stkildapcyc.org](mailto:youthprograms@stkildapcyc.org)

St Kilda PCYC will offer free of charge recreational activities for young people aged 12 to 18 years during the January and July school holidays. Activities will include surfing, nature walks, trampolining, and beach days. Transport and catering will be provided.

## Mobile Activity Centre at Park Towers: St Kilda PCYC

**Website:** [stkildapcyc.org/](http://stkildapcyc.org/)

**Contact:** [youthprograms@stkildapcyc.org](mailto:youthprograms@stkildapcyc.org)

St Kilda PCYC will deliver a sport and recreational program at Park Towers Estate every Monday afternoon. The program is for young people aged 12 to 18 residing in the estate. Healthy snacks and water will be provided. It will be staffed by two staff members and volunteers as positive role models providing mentoring, referrals and connections to youth support services when needed.



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# Entries open for 2021 St Kilda Film Festival

Published 24 November 2020



St Kilda Film Festival will return in 2021

The show will go on in 2021 with entries opening today for the 38th St Kilda Film Festival. Australia's largest and longest-running short film festival will encompass the best of both worlds next year, with a return to live events complementing a significant online presence from 20-29 May.



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The show will go on in 2021 with entries opening today for the 38th St Kilda Film Festival (SKFF). Australia's largest and longest-running short film festival will encompass the best of both worlds next year, with a return to live events complementing a significant online presence from 20-29 May.

Port Philip Council, which produces and presents the Festival, will partner with local venues for the live component.

The Festival is calling for both established and emerging film-makers to be part of the 2021 event. Mayor Louise Crawford said the Festival attracted a national audience of 47,000 when presented entirely online for the first time this year after the live event was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

“As COVID-19 restrictions have eased, we are looking forward to producing a hybrid format in 2021 which allows film-lovers to experience this festival in our City and in homes across Australia,” Cr Crawford said.

“Whether it’s viewed on big or small screens, the 38th St Kilda Film Festival will continue its proud tradition of showcasing and supporting emerging creatives,” she said.

“Many members of the arts community, including in Port Phillip, have been hard hit by the pandemic so its role in nurturing and supporting talent has never been more important.

“This new format is an exciting opportunity for an event renowned as a champion of Australian short film and we are delighted Richard Sowada will guide it in his second consecutive year as

Director.”

SKFF provides the most comprehensive overview of the national short film industry, screening the top short film entries received each year alongside a rich program of international screenings, special events and a popular free filmmaker development program.

The SKFF also offers an opportunity to go on to win an Academy Award. The Festival is accredited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, with award-winning SKFF films eligible for consideration in the Short Film Awards and Documentary Short sections of the Oscars®.

Entries close on 31 January 2021. For information about how to submit entries, go to [stkildafilmfestival.com.au](http://stkildafilmfestival.com.au)

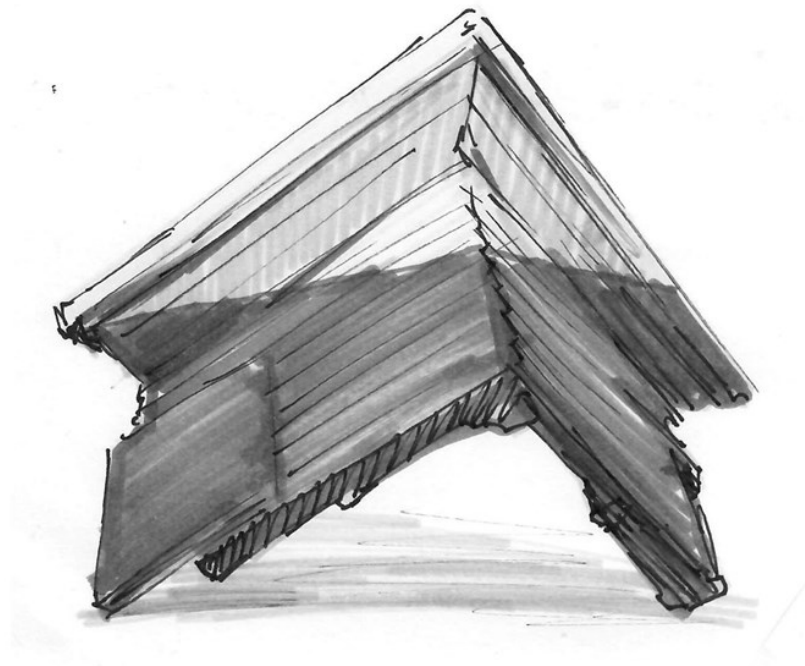
The full program, including which local venues will be participating, is expected to be announced in April 2021.

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# New sculpture marks history of flooding

Published 10 December 2020



A bold new sculpture that tells the story of flooding our City is now home in Kirrip Park. Diversity spoke to artist Ian Strange to discover his inspiration for 'Waterlines'.



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With its proximity to the Yarra River, the area surrounding what is now the City of Port Phillip was once a swampy river delta wetland with open grasslands prone to flooding. In fact, every time there was heavy or prolonged rain, the Montague area near Fisherman's Bend would be deluged with so much water, it became cynically known as 'Salt Lake City'.

To commemorate the history of the area, a sculptural work by esteemed Australian artist Ian Strange, *Waterlines*, has been erected in Kirrip Park, South Melbourne, in partnership with Wonderment Walk Victoria.

*Divercity* spoke to the artist Ian Strange to discover his inspiration for the piece which depicts a fragment of a local Montague house and incorporates accurate flood levels in stain in its design.

### **What is the concept of *Waterlines* and what you hope to express?**

*Waterlines* navigates the scientific past and present of the City of Port Phillip and reflects upon the history of flooding in the area. The work also expands to include an examination of water tables (past, present and rising), water management, global warming and urban flooding. The sculpture's house peak is based on local houses from Montague and features a line through it to represent water levels in this area. The bottom half has been darkened to represent the history of coal that was used in Port Phillip and the materials that were transported down the Yarra River. When the river flooded, it would sometimes literally leave these black waterline marks on buildings throughout the area.

### ***Waterlines* is an expression of the past. How much research did you do before coming up with the concept?**

My team and I did a lot of research on the history of the area and water management in Montague. We were lucky to be able to access historical documents, planning documents and decades of photographs from the Port Melbourne Historical and preservation society and the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre.

This project was a large collaboration between Wonderment Walk Victoria, City of Port Phillip, Orphic, UAP, Ian Strange Studio, South Melbourne Primary School and the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society. We also worked with researcher Sarah Barrow, science writer and editor Sara Phillips and Professor Julian Goddard to collect and build research that informed the development of the sculpture, essays and education plan. All of these experiences directly contributed and shaped the final work.

**What was the most interesting aspect of your research?**

There were a few articles we found during the research phase that documented children playing in the flood waters and holding an aquatic gala in 1927 and 1928. I thought this was particularly appropriate given the proximity of the final artwork to the South Melbourne Primary School. It felt like a great way to anchor the work to its location.

**Your work will be part of the area's history ongoing. What does this mean to you?**

I'm very proud and feel honoured to have a permanent work in the City of Port Phillip. It has been a great experience working with Wonderment Walk Victoria and the City and I hope that the work can facilitate larger conversations about the history and science of water in the area.

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# Local Festivals Fund: celebrate our City

Published 14 December 2020

## I want to

Local festivals fund



Space2b, Laneway Festival 2019. Image courtesy Janine Lawrie.

Our Local Festivals Fund encourages and supports not-for-profit organisations and community groups to develop small to medium-scale local festivals or events for

maximum of up to \$10,000 per project.



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**Who Can Apply:** Not-for-profit organisations and community groups proposing an event will need to consider Victorian Government regulations and advice regarding COVID-safe events

**How to apply:** Applicants can apply online. Go to this webpage to find out more about the grants guidelines and criteria and how to apply:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/arts-and-creative-industries/funding-and-support/local-festivals-fund>

**What type of event festival or celebration can be funded:**

- **Outdoor events/festivals**
- **Indoor events/festivals**
- **A combination of indoor or outdoor**
- **Events can include an online component**

If you have an idea for a small to medium festival or event contact the Arts Administrator on 9209 6217 or [lff@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:lff@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Advice and assistance will be available to help you with COVID safe event planning

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# Shape your City - a new Council Plan

Published 12 November 2020

## I want to

[Have my say](#)

In the next few weeks, our new Council will start developing a Council Plan that charts the course for our City from 2021 to 2031.

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The Council Plan is our strategic plan, aligning our key strategies with community priorities identified through extensive consultation. The Council Plan provides a strong foundation for the continuing rollout of projects, services and initiatives which go to the heart of the health and wellbeing of our diverse community.



This single, integrated plan will include our:

- community vision
- council plan
- municipal public health and wellbeing plan
- financial plan and asset plan
- revenue and rating plan
- annual budget.

## Be involved and have your say

Engaging with our community is at the heart of developing a Council Plan, and we want as many of you to have your say as possible.

You'll be able to participate in several ways, including through surveys and workshops. To make sure you don't miss out on opportunities to help shape the Council Plan, register your interest or sign-up for regular updates at [Have Your Say](#).

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# Inclusive stories: Middle Park Post Office

Published 10 December 2020



### **Where do you live in Port Phillip?**

I moved to Middle Park about 10 years ago, renovated our terrace house with all the modifications that I need. I love it here, there are so many things I can do – visit the bay, parklands and nearby City.

### **Can you please tell us about the local business that you enjoy visiting?**

Yes, Joe runs Middle Park Post Office. He is a great asset to community. I use an electric scooter and can just go down to nearby post office, where I am part of the community. The post office has a step, which means I need to get out of my scooter and up the step with my walking crutches and into the shop. When Joe sees me approaching, he comes out of the post office bringing parcels to me or whatever I might be there to purchase, such as wrapping paper. Other customers have even been involved, offering to pass items along the que to reach me! There is humour and ease – I feel more part of the community.

**It sounds like you have a great neighbourhood, Ray. What would you say to other businesses who would like their customers to feel ‘more part of the community’?**

Be aware of people that have limitations on what they can do, how they walk, how you can communicate with them. It is lovely when a business is making modifications and consider how installing a ramp can be used to get into their space. These things make life easier.

**Thank you Ray for sharing your experiences with our community.**

If you have a story to share about an experience with a local inclusive business, please contact Kelly Armstrong, MetroAccess Project Officer via ASSIST tel 9209 6777 or email:

[access@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:access@portphillip.vic.gov.au)



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