



13.1 **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT
RECOMMENDATIONS 2018-2019**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **CAROL JEFFS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

PREPARED BY: **SUSAN STRANO, COORDINATOR ARTS**

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To present a list of recommended Cultural Development Fund grant recipients for 2018-19 for Council's consideration and approval.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 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.

2.2 This report presents Council with a list of recommended grants for 2018-19, prepared by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee.

2.3 A total of \$136,190 of City of Port Phillip funding will be provided to fifteen successful 2018-19 Cultural Development Fund assisted projects.

2.4 Forty three applications were received, requesting funding of \$387,929 from projects valued at a total of \$1,504,186. There were 22 first time applicants, 21 applications were from individual artists, 9 from individual artists representing collectives and 13 from registered organisations.

2.5 Fifteen projects with a total value of \$627,816 have been recommended. This represents an average of \$4.61 for every \$1 invested by Council.

2.6 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.

2.7 Projects will be held across the municipality – St Kilda (8), Albert Park (2), Middle Park (1), East St Kilda (2), South Melbourne (5), Port Melbourne (1). Some projects will take place in more than one location.

2.8 The Committee noted an unmet need of the Fund by approximately \$87,000 being the amount that would have funded these successful projects to the extent requested and the highly commended (unsuccessful). Three of the highest rated projects (asking \$25,000 in total) could not be supported due to lack of funds.

2.9 Changes to legislation has meant that individuals could not apply without having an auspice organisation, increasing their costs of running their projects.

2.10 The Committee noted that the grant cap of \$10,000 has not risen since the fund began in 2003.



3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the Cultural Development Fund Committee recommendations, for awarding the Cultural Development Fund grants for 2018-19;
- 3.2 Makes public the list for the Cultural Development Fund grants 2018-19 by publishing on Council's website after 30 June 2018.

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.
- 4.2 The Cultural Development Fund is a competitive funding round conducted on an annual basis each year.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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;
 - 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)
- 4.5 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.

4.6 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 12 February 2018;
- Applicants could access the guidelines and application form through the website or by contacting staff;
- Eighteen people attended two information sessions held at the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre and the Carlisle St Art Space, St Kilda Town Hall on 13 and 20 February 2018 respectively. The South Melbourne session was specifically designed to assist people from diverse cultural backgrounds or with a disability and connecting with Arts Access Victoria and Multicultural Arts Victoria networks;
- Three grant writing workshops were conducted through the Community Grants training program for community and arts grant-seekers. The workshops were attended by 67 people, including approximately 24% 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 2018.

4.7 The Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee was chaired by Cr Katherine Copsey and includes four community representatives: Sue Roff, Matthew Boland and Robyn Birrell. Recently retired committee member, Malcolm Blaylock, was co-opted in place of Nicola Klempfner who was unable to attend. Sue Roff and Matthew Boland will be retiring this year and Robyn Birrell will be leaving to take up a new post with Geelong Major Events. Council thanks them for their service to the Committee.

4.8 The Committee noted the following points:

- 4.8.1 There was an increase in first time applicants and a large number of individuals applying.
- 4.8.2 There was an increase in the number of visual arts and multidisciplinary projects.
- 4.8.3 There was a lack of strong applications from some artform areas, particularly dance and heritage and hoped this would be addressed next year.



- 4.8.4 Whilst the total amount of funding that could be sought has not risen since the fund started, costs have increased, especially to individuals who are required to have their project auspiced.
- 4.8.5 Approximately \$87,000 worth of funding requests from projects that more than adequately met the criteria could not be selected.
- 4.9 Recommendations made by the Reference Committee are reported to Council for consideration and approval.
- 4.10 The following projects illustrate the types of applications funded in the previous funding round (2017-18):

Natural Order. Ossicle Duo

This unique contemporary music creative development project devised by Ossicle Duo musicians, Benjamin Anderson and Hamish Upton, aimed to develop a new work in collaboration with highly regarded Melbourne composer, James Hullick. This new piece proposed to relate to organic structures, systems, and symmetries in the natural world. A performance of the new work in progress was held at Temperance Hall in South Melbourne, and was accompanied by performance of two other contemporary Australian works. The performance attracted young musicians and lovers of contemporary music. Ossicle Duo and James Hullick plan to continue the collaboration to refine the work for a full performance season.

Passages – Greeks in Port. Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society

The Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society presented an exhibition at Port Melbourne Town Hall defining the 1970s 'opening up' of Port Melbourne Council to the community, with special emphasis on the Greek community that at that time comprised nearly a quarter of the population. Four local Greek senior citizens groups were engaged with the project and up to three generations of local Greek families attended the launch. The exhibition included some significant objects that had been donated to the City of Port Phillip Heritage collection. The program included a public talk relating to this part of Port Melbourne's history.

Song For A Weary Throat. Rawcus Theatre

This new performance work created by Rawcus Theatre Company in a collaboration with the vocal ensemble, The Invenio Singers, premiered as part of Theatre Works Selected Works program in 2017. This strong work received several nominations for the 2017 Green Room Awards in the Independent Theatre category, and was successful in three awards including Best Ensemble.

Rawcus is unique ensemble of artists with and without disability that aims to reduce barriers to participation and provide career opportunities for artists with a disability through the development of new work, and artist mentoring and participation programs.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The 2018 Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee is chaired by Councillor Katherine Copsey. 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. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The total amount of funding recommended for the fifteen projects is \$136,190 which is provided for in the 2018/19 budget.

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 ofSmartygrants (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 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.

9.2 Arts, heritage and culture are contributing factors to community health and wellbeing.



- 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 included in funded projects.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 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.*

- 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 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 The successful applicants will be presented with their funding at a cheque presentation event in July 2018 which provides an opportunity for both celebration and networking among the arts community.
- 11.1.3 Funded projects will be conducted between July 2018 and June 2019 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 are notified in writing and are invited to receive feedback from Council Officers.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 20 JUNE 2018



11.2.4 The voluntary Committee members Sue Roff, Matthew Boland, Robyn Birrell and Malcolm Blaylock (in place of Nicola Klempfner) will be thanked for their valuable 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. Cultural Development Fund 2018-19 Statistics
2. *Confidential*- Cultural Development Fund Recommendations 2018-19