



12.1 **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF) PROJECTS
GRANTS 2021/2022 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the recommended Cultural Development Fund-Projects grant recipients for 2021/22 for Council's approval.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Cultural Development Fund (CDF)-Projects 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 during COVID-19 recovery.
- 2.2 This report presents Council with a list of proposed grants recommended by the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee. Funded projects will occur between January 2022 and December 2022.
- 2.3 A total of \$186,975 in grants has been recommended for 18 successful projects for this 2021/22 round out of the maximum budget of \$187,000.
- 2.4 34 applications were received, requesting Council funding of \$373,941 for projects valued at a total of \$1,109,506. There were 14 first time applicants to a Port Phillip CDF projects grant round; 18 applications were from individual artists; 4 from individual artists representing collectives and 12 from incorporated organisations.
- 2.5 18 projects with a total value of \$487,100 have been recommended. This represents an average of \$2.60 for every \$1 invested by Council.
- 2.6 Other funding sources sought for projects include Creative Victoria, Australia Council, Australian Cultural Fund, philanthropic funds, fundraising events, private sponsorship and in-kind support from venues, businesses and artists.
- 2.7 Local venues providing support include, Memo Hall, the Powerhouse, Temperance Hall, Theatre Works, Red Stitch Actors Theatre, St Kilda Army and Navy Club, Space2B, the St Kilda Bowling Club, Linden New Art, Gasworks Arts Park and the Alex Theatre. A number of projects have multiple sites and outdoor settings are a feature of a number of the projects.
- 2.8 Projects will be held across the municipality – St Kilda, St Kilda East, Albert Park, South Melbourne, Elwood and Port Melbourne. A number of projects will be seen in multiple sites across the municipality.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the recommended successful applicants (project numbers 1 & 2) as proposed by the Cultural Development Fund Committee for the Cultural Development Fund – Projects grants for 2021/22 as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.



- 3.2 Endorses the recommended successful applicants (project numbers 3 to 18) as proposed by the Cultural Development Fund Committee for the Cultural Development Fund – Projects grants for 2021/22 as outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3.3 Releases details on the successful recipients of the Cultural Development Fund - Projects grants 2021/22 from confidence, once all applicants have been advised of the outcome of their application and those successful have confirmed their ability to proceed with their application.
- 3.4 Notes that in the event a successful applicant is not able to proceed with their project, the Committee's highly commended applications will be submitted to Council for consideration through a separate Council report.
- 3.5 Thanks, the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee for their work in assessing applications and making recommendations to Council.
- 3.6 Thanks, all applicants who participated in the 2021/22 funding round of the Cultural Development Fund.

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 CDF-Projects grants are a competitive funding round, open to all artforms, including cultural heritage projects. Benefits include:
 - Building the capacity of local artists and organisations to develop and realise creative projects;
 - Creating more opportunities for 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;
 - Supporting and engaging diverse communities of all ages and backgrounds, including the development of work that engages with the wider Port Phillip community;
 - Supporting capacity building, mentoring, partnerships or collaborative development, and arts engagement activities.
- 4.3 Applications for funding are required to be environmentally responsible. Applicants are increasingly aware of environmental concerns as a topic for both project process and content.
- 4.4 The guidelines and selection criteria support unique projects, as opposed to core programs or projects that are currently funded by another council program. Selection criteria includes:
 - Projects must demonstrate creativity, artistic intention and innovation;
 - 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:

- A call for applications was advertised from 26 July 2021 on Council's website and social media and through Council's Divercity and webpage News Items, CoPP This and Artshub, arts enews and through other cultural websites;
- A free online information and grant writing training workshop was held on 3 August 2021 with 19 attendees;
- 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 October 2021.

4.6 The Committee noted the following:

- Projects showed a strong connection to the community and place;
- The importance of supporting new or emerging artist collectives, particularly in a period where artists and the creative community continue to be significantly affected by the impact of the pandemic;
- The importance of support for projects that explore the community and cultural heritage of Port Phillip.

4.7 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 Councillor Louise 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.

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 auspice 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 for the process of 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 18 projects is \$186,975 out of the \$187,000 provided for in the 2021/22 budget.



- 7.2 Creative practice is recognised as making a valuable contribution to City of Port Phillip's economy. As a sector, creative and cultural practice and industries are the second largest employer in the City of Port Phillip.
- 7.3 Funded projects support activity in local venues and precincts across the municipality and in Port Phillip public spaces.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Artists as well as arts and community organisations will be made aware of the 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 the application and assessment process are online.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The Cultural Development Fund Projects grants will support artists and organisations to develop new work and manage projects during a continued 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 and 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 2021-2031.
- 10.2 Projects supported through the Cultural Development Fund also contribute to key directions in the Council Plan:
- Vibrant: with a flourishing economy, where our community and local business thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs
 - Inclusive: a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.
- 10.3 The proposed recommendation is aligned with 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 January 2022 and December 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 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 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 material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS 1. ***Confidential-* Attachment 1 Confidential Cultural Development Fund Projects grants Recommended applications 2021**