



Minutes Banyule Arts & Culture Advisory Committee 3 February 2022

Meeting details

Date of meeting Thursday, 3 February 2022

Time 6pm – 7.30pm

Venue Online - MS TEAMS

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Chair/Facilitator Cr. Elizabeth Nealy

Minutes Steph Neoh

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Our meeting is being held on the Traditional Land of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and, on behalf of Banyule City Council, I wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Custodians. I would also like to pay my respects to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, past, present and emerging, and to acknowledge other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders joining us today.”

Diversity Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kate Hansen	YPRL
Caroline Wall	Community Member
Leah Crossman	Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre
Deb Lemcke	Community Member
Amy Stephenson	Community Member
June Gassin	Community Member
Craig Eloranta	Community Member
Janelle Dunstan	Greenhills Neighbourhood House
Kevin Ritchie	Community Member
Cr Elizabeth Nealy	Banyule City Council Councillor
Cr Peter Dimarelos	Banyule City Council Councillor
Hannes Berger	Arts & Culture Team Leader, Banyule Council
Steph Neoh	Art Curator, Banyule Council
Kath Bracket	Director Community Programs

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Paul Higgins	Empire Studios
Genelle Ryan	Community Member
Joanne O'Hara	Community Member

Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Apologies (Cr Nealy)

6:00pm – 6:10pm

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- Diversity Statement
- Apologies
- Actions from previous meeting:
 - Proceed to decommissioning phase of *Sleeping Sentinel*.
 - Artwork has been decommissioned
 - Hannes to distribute Art Collection Policy to BACAC.
 - Art Collection Policy was sent to BACAC with the minutes of the previous meeting
 - Hannes to send details of upcoming events and invitations to Pinpoint Artist Networking Event
 - All events proceeding as planned, summary of events for Jan-June 2022
 - Steph will provide exhibition postcard invites.
 - To be provided as they become available
 - Hannes to invite committee to join BACAC Teams Group. Also distribute info on using Teams.
 - Will be implemented following this meeting, technical issues & Christmas break prevented completion after last meeting

Action

Hannes to invite committee to join BACAC Teams Group. Also distribute info on using Teams.

2. Works on Paper Exhibition & New Art Acquisitions (Steph Neoh) 6:10pm – 6:50pm

- Brief overview of Works on Paper Finalist Exhibition
 - Steph gave overview of Works on Paper exhibition. Exhibition now open until 13 March, but launch event, and announcement of prize winners, will be held on Friday 25 February. Invitation only event (due to Covid indoor gathering restrictions) for participating artists, Councillors & BACAC. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Exhibition showcases the finalists of Banyule's biennial national art prize. Was due to be held in Sept/Oct 2021 but delayed due to lockdown. This time there was a theme of 'Community', in response to lockdowns. Received 202 entries with 34 finalists in exhibition. Winner automatically acquired into collection. Exhibition provides opportunity to acquire purchased work into the collection as well as winning entry.
- Art Collection Working Group - recent activity
 - Working Group – consisting of Art Curator Steph Neoh, Cr. Elizabeth Nealy, Leah Crossman, Caroline Wall, met on 27 January. Working Group was provided with the Art Curator's Acquisition Report prior to meeting, and were invited to view the recommended artworks, and suggest other artworks for acquisition from the exhibition. Working group discussed the 34 works in the exhibition and agreed on which art works for acquisition.

- Recommended art works to be acquired into Banyule Art Collection
 - 11 works by 8 artists were presented to BACAC as outlined in the Recommended Artworks for Acquisition Report. 5 works were chosen from previous exhibitions at ILCH (Sha Sarwari & Wendy Black). Remainder selected from Works on Paper 2021 finalists. See report attached with full details of all recommended artworks.
 - 3 art works are by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists, and Kevin suggested it would be valuable to consider collecting & exhibiting works by Aboriginal artists, such as these that depict Country, in context of each other to enhance understanding of First Nations sense of place.
 - After Steph Neoh's presentation, other members of the Art Collection Working Group spoke of the quality of the artworks, collectability of the artists, the rigour of the selection process, and importantly, how works were assessed carefully against the criteria outlined in the Banyule Art Collection Policy.
- Recommendation formalised by BACAC
 - After the presentation, the committee voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation to Council to acquire these 11 artworks.

Recommendation

BACAC endorses the recommendation that Council use its allocated budget to acquire the 11 artworks listed in the 2022 Art Acquisition Report, into the Banyule Art Collection.

Action

Hannes to prepare the report & recommendation for next Council meeting.
Hannes to distribute Steph's Art Acquisitions Report to BACAC.

3. Public Art Framework (Hannes Berger)

6:50pm – 7:20pm

There is a need to develop a practical companion to the *Banyule Public Art Policy*. A planning tool to guide decision making about how Council allocates its resources toward public art. Work on what this Framework should look like is in early stages. This is a good opportunity for BACAC to feed in to the process.

Discussion

What criteria should we consider for selection of sites, diversity of artworks, etc, to ensure an equitable allocation of resources across the municipality over time?

How do we balance longer term planning with the need to remain responsive to opportunities?

- Hannes summarised the intent, purpose and scope of the Public Art Policy, which was distributed to BACAC prior to meeting, and gave an overview of the Council-managed public art program:
 - Major commission - \$120,000 every two years for one significant piece of public art for Banyule
 - Murals – Street Art Program, Public Toilet Strategy
 - Art in Public Spaces Program – temporary, ephemeral site-specific art experiences
 - Urban Lightbox Galleries
 - Civic Development Opportunities
- Interest in Public Art is increasing from community, Councillors and Council departments.
- Resourcing for major commissions (\$120k biennially) sits within Capital Works Expenditure, treated as asset investment, as opposed to the other public art programs which are funded operationally.
- Establishing a Public Art Framework will assist in long term planning for this asset rollout, help decide where Council commissions public art, and on what basis.
- BACAC were asked to comment / discuss this and think about what questions Council should be asking when it comes to public art planning & selection.
 - Amy – Consider the unexpected. Public art often expected to be in certain places, but also the opportunity to encounter it in unexpected places. E.g. Fairfield – a giant mural of Totoro, that she chanced upon. It created delight and was relatable.

- Deb – need to incorporate a community engagement element. How can community be involved in the conceptualising of public art, in order to create a sense of ownership and connection with the community?
- Do we need to consider and make opportunity available to community to propose sites for public art? A pitch / submission process?
- Leah – clarification of budget (\$20k in first year for scoping & development, and \$100k in second year for implementation). First step is determining location. Successful public art is site-specific. What do we do when demand is so much greater than our resources, how do we choose who gets the public art? Public forum/voting/nomination process for location selection? Policy already has laid the groundwork for how we prioritise and select locations. Framework should include simple criteria to assist with deciding location.
- Steph – care needs to be taken with community proposals for locations – the squeaky wheel usually gets the oil. How do we make sure that every community has access to have a say?
- Deb - You could do submission on a range of platforms too - Insta applications, hard copy at the library, etc
- Kate Hansen - It would be fantastic to see direction drawn from community consultation and (possibly) other Advisory Committees.
- Leah - Community submissions to consider their neighbourhoods need to be assessed against the policy's key priorities and aims for public art. So that it is not just the loudest voices who are successful, but those locations that actually meet the policies goals
- Hannes – consider an internal consultation process for location selection? Work with internal teams to find possible locations, that align with other Council objectives, then public consultation after location is selected
- Kevin – be careful not to impose something on a community. No plonk art. But has continuing engagement and benefit for that community – i.e. the engagement does not end with the installation of the public art.
- Steph – want life cycle of public artworks to be explicitly addressed from the beginning of public consultation, not something we face when it comes time to decommission public art.

Summary of discussion:

- Opportunities to involve community:
 - Potential for process to pitch for locations / projects
 - Need to manage loudest voices, enable all community to engage, adhere to policy's objectives
 - Consultation with local stakeholders is crucial once site / project has been selected
 - Care taken to engage community but not allow them to dictate specifics
 - Foster continuing engagement opportunities
- Internal collaboration:
 - Develop opportunities for internal departments (or other Advisory Committees to pitch project suggestions
- Locations / sites:
 - Consider the unexpected
 - Establish criteria around equitable distribution, placemaking opportunities, community need

4. Other Business

7:20pm – 7:25pm

Opportunity for committee to raise any topics of interest / for discussion.

- Caroline – wants to input into the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan, how to send feedback/input?
- Hannes – new Strategic Plan will be a big part of this committee's work. Process is behind schedule but will be addresses from next meeting. All welcome to send emails to him at any time with input,

questions, ideas, etc. Also, once MS Team group set up, committee can input / discuss between meetings there too.

5. What's On (Hannes Berger)

7:25pm – 7:30pm

- Twilight Sounds – Sat 12 Feb
- Malahang Wellbeing Festival – Sun 6 March
- Reels on Wheels – 25 Feb & 25 March
- ILCH – Exhibitions, Events & Residencies
 - Please visit the website for details of all the upcoming events

Action

Hannes to send links with info on these upcoming events.

6. Close and date of next meeting (Cr Nealy)

7:30pm

- Next meeting – Thursday 5 May at Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub