



City of Nedlands

Agenda

Public Art Committee Meeting

17 August 2020

ATTENTION

This Agenda has yet to be dealt with by the Committee.

The Administration Recommendations, shown at the beginning of each item, have yet to be considered by the Committee and are not to be interpreted as being the position of either the Committee or Council.

The Minutes of the meeting held to discuss this Agenda should be read to ascertain the decision of the Committee.

Before acting on any recommendation of the Committee a check must also be made in the Ordinary Council Minutes following the Committee Meeting to ensure that Council did not make a decision at variance to the Committee Recommendation.

The public can continue to participate by submitting questions and addresses via the required online submission forms at:

<http://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/intention-address-council-or-council-committee-form>

<http://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/public-question-time>

Mark Goodlet
Chief Executive Officer
11 August 2020

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City of Nedlands

Notice of a meeting of the Public Art Committee to be held online via Teams and livestreamed for the public and onsite in the Council Chambers, 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands (Councillors & Committee Members Only) on Monday 17 August 2020 at 5.30 pm.

Public Art Committee Agenda

Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member will declare the meeting open at 5.30pm and will draw attention to the disclaimer below.

(NOTE: Council at its meeting on 24 August 2004 resolved that should the meeting time reach 11.00 p.m. the meeting is to consider an adjournment motion to reconvene the next day).

Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Leave of Absence

(Previously Approved) Nil.

Apologies

None at distribution of agenda.

Disclaimer

Members of the public who attend Council meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. For example, by reference to the confirmed Minutes of Council meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

Any plans or documents in agendas and minutes may be subject to copyright. The express permission of the copyright owner must be obtained before copying any copyright material.

1. Public Question Time

A member of the public wishing to ask a question should register that interest by notification in writing to the CEO in advance, setting out the text or substance of the question. Questions tabled at the meeting may be unable to be answered due to the requirement for technical research and will therefore be answered direct afterwards.

Questions must relate to a matter contained within the agenda of this meeting.

2. Addresses by Members of the Public (only for items listed on the agenda)

Addresses by members of the public who have completed Public Address Session Forms will be invited to be made as each item relating to their address is discussed by the Committee.

3. Disclosures of Financial and/or Proximity Interest

The Presiding Member to remind Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act* to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

A declaration under this section requires that the nature of the interest must be disclosed. Consequently, a member who has made a declaration must not preside, participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making procedure relating to the matter the subject of the declaration.

However, other members may allow participation of the declarant if the member further discloses the extent of the interest. Any such declarant who wishes to participate in the meeting on the matter, shall leave the meeting, after making their declaration and request to participate, while other members consider and decide upon whether the interest is trivial or insignificant or is common to a significant number of electors or ratepayers.

4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality

The Presiding Member to remind Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act*.

Councillors and staff are required, in addition to declaring any financial interests to declare any interest that may affect their impartiality in considering a matter. This declaration does not restrict any right to participate in or be present during the decision-making procedure.

The following pro forma declaration is provided to assist in making the disclosure.

"With regard to the matter in item x I disclose that I have an association with the applicant (or person seeking a decision). This association is (nature of the interest).

As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly."

The member or employee is encouraged to disclose the nature of the association.

5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers

Members who have not read the business papers to make declarations at this point.

6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Arts Committee Meeting 18 May 2020

The Minutes of the Arts Committee 18 May 2020 are to be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 Public Art Guide Booklet

Public Art Committee	17 August 2020
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995	Nil.
Director	Lorraine Driscoll – Director Corporate & Strategy
Attachments	1. Public Art Guide 2020 Booklet

Executive Summary

The purpose of this agenda item is to report back to the Public Art Committee on the completion of the Public Art Guide booklet.

Recommendation to Committee

That the Public Art Committee receives the Public Art Guide 2020 booklet.

Discussion

The Public Art Booklet is a project initiated by the Committee and approved by Council. The aims of the project were to:

- have professional photographs taken of the City’s public artworks;
- make these photographs available on the City’s website; and

- produce a hard-copy booklet of these photographs, making it available for sale at cost.

The project has now been successfully completed. Professional photographs have been taken of the City's public artworks. These are now available on the City's website, including a map showing the location of each work; and have been compiled into a booklet, to be made available for sale to the public, at cost. The booklet is available at Attachment 1 Public Art Guide 2020.

Consultation

The Public Art Committee's Terms of Reference provide for two community members, with an interest in public art, to be full voting members of the Committee, in order to ensure community input into the decisions of the Committee.

Strategic Implications

How well does it fit with our strategic direction?

In its vision statement, the City's Strategic Community Plan states that "we will live in a beautiful place". The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to this vision and therefore fits the City's strategic direction well.

Who benefits?

Local community members, visitors to the City, artists and those interested in public art will benefit from this project, as it makes more accessible the significant public art collection owned by the City. In particular, some of the smaller-scale and more discretely located works will now be easier to find and enjoy. By promoting the public art collection, this project adds to the amenity of area, as well as to its reputation and prestige.

Does it involve a tolerable risk?

There is low risk associated with this project, with the only risk being that the printed copies of the booklet do not sell. The risk has been managed by initially ordering only a low number of printed copies, with further copies to be ordered only when the current stock runs low. Further copies can be printed relatively quickly; and would be funded from the sale of the current copies.

Do we have the information we need?

Yes, the City has retained an electronic copy of the booklet, to facilitate further print-runs.

Budget/Financial Implications

Can we afford it?

Yes. The booklet has been funded from the 2019/20 Council budget.

How does the option impact upon rates?

There is no further impact on rates, given that the project has already been funded.

Conclusion

This guide to the City's public artworks has been a project that was initiated by this Committee and approved by Council to promote the significant body of public artworks owned by Council. The result is a hard copy booklet of high-quality photographs of this significant collection of public artworks. The booklet is a resource that will help community members and visitors to locate, explore and enjoy the works.

The Committee is to be commended for this project, which is completed and presented for the Committee to receive.

7.2 Public Art Committee Budget 2020 2021

Public Art Committee	17 August 2020
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995	Nil.
Director	Lorraine Driscoll – Director Corporate & Strategy
Attachments	Nil.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the Committee about Council decisions in relation to expenditure on public art in the 2020/21 financial year.

Recommendation to Committee

That the Public Art Committee receives the information that Council has approved:

1. **the acquisition of a public artwork that commemorates the work of health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
2. **expenditure of \$50,000 on public art in the 2020/21 financial year.**

Discussion

On 23 June 2020, in response to recommendation from the Public Art Committee, Council decided:

That Council:

1. includes consideration of \$50,000 from the Public Art Reserve Fund in the draft 2020/21 Council budget for expenditure on public art; and
2. approves the acquisition of a public artwork that commemorates the work of people in the health-related industry during the COVID-19 pandemic, from the 2020/21 Public Art Budget allocation, with the following Advice Notes:
 - a. The City will approach the Health Department, Hollywood Hospital, City of Perth and other related stakeholders for potential collaboration in the selection criteria and contribution of funds; and

- b. The Public Art Committee will investigate suitable locations in the City's Parks such as Leura Park, Highview Park, Karella Park.

On 30 June 2020, Council adopted its 2020/21 budget, including approving \$50,000 for expenditure on Public Art.

Therefore, the Public Art Committee now has Council approval to spend up to \$50,000 on public art in the 2020/21 financial year; and to acquire a public artwork that acknowledges the contribution of health professionals during the pandemic.

Further information on this key public art project will be provided in the next item in this agenda.

Consultation

The Public Art Committee's Terms of Reference provide for the inclusion of two community members on the Public Art Committee, as full voting members, to ensure there is community input into the Committee's recommendations to Council.

Strategic Implications

How well does it fit with our strategic direction?

In its vision statement, the City's Strategic Community Plan states "we will live in a beautiful place". The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to this vision and therefore is consistent with the City's strategic direction as stated in the Plan.

Who benefits?

The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to the amenity of the area, benefiting the community generally.

Does it involve a tolerable risk?

The purpose of this item is to provide information to the Committee, recommending that the Committee receives the information. There is little or no risk involved in the Committee receiving this information and accepting the recommendation.

Do we have the information we need?

Yes, the necessary information on the relevant Council decisions is available.

Budget/Financial Implications

\$50,000 has been approved by Council for expenditure on public art in the 2020/21 financial year.

Can we afford it?

Council has considered the matter and decided that the City can afford up to \$50,000 expenditure on public art in the 2020/21 financial year.

How does the option impact upon rates?

The impact on rates has been considered within the context of the approved 2020/21 Council budget.

Legislation / Policy

The Public Arts Committee's Terms of Reference determines that the Committee must have Council approval for any expenditure over \$10,000.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Public Art Committee receives the information that Council has approved the acquisition of a public artwork to acknowledge the contribution of health professionals to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic; and has approved expenditure of up to \$50,000 on public art during the 2020/21 financial year. This budget information will assist the Public Art Committee in its further deliberations regarding its next major project, being the public artwork to acknowledge and celebrate health professionals.

7.3 Health Professionals Recognition Artwork

Public Art Committee	17 August 2020
Applicant	City of Nedlands
Employee Disclosure under section 5.70 Local Government Act 1995	Nil.
Director	Lorraine Driscoll – Director Corporate & Strategy
Attachments	Nil.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Public Art Committee to make key recommendations on its next major project, being the work that will celebrate the contribution to the community by health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation to Committee

The Public Art Committee recommends to Council that:

1. the Health Professionals Recognition Artwork be located on either:
 - a. the perimeter of Highview Park, adjacent to Verdun St, Nedlands;

OR

 - b. the perimeter of Dot Bennett Reserve, adjacent to Aberdare Road, Nedlands.

2. the Public Art Committee's preferred method of acquiring an artwork for the site is by either:
 - a. purchasing an artwork appropriate to the purpose and site;

OR

 - b. commissioning an artwork appropriate to the purpose and site.

Discussion

This project has been proposed in order to express public recognition and appreciation of the work done by health professional during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The idea was initiated by the Public Art Committee and has now been approved by Council.

Background and Purpose

The concept is consistent with the wide-spread community sentiment of appreciation for health workers, that has been expressed in communities throughout the world during the pandemic. Globally, nationally and in our own local communities, we have seen the rainbow campaign and many instances of spontaneous applause for front-line health workers. We have become deeply familiar with the previously faceless health advisors who are providing guidance to our governments at all levels. The concept is an inspiring one.

Given that Council has now approved the broad idea of a public artwork that recognises the work of health professionals during the pandemic, as well as a budget of \$50,000 for public artwork in 2020/21, the Public Art Committee is now able to deliberate on key aspects of undertaking this project.

Two key aspects of project must be determined before it can proceed. These are:

- Site and
- Whether to commission or purchase the artwork.

Site

Site is the first decision to be made for any public artwork, as the site will impact many aspects of the project. All successful public artworks have a strong and integral relationship with their location, with the end result being a work that expresses and augments the site. Therefore, until there is a direction on the location, no further work can proceed.

In selecting a suitable site, Committee members will wish to consider:

- Proximity to health services and
- Prominence.

Proximity to Health Services

The City of Nedlands includes, or is close to, significant hospitals and other health services. Therefore, an ideal location for this artwork would be somewhere in the vicinity of these health services.

Prominence

The nature of this project is one of public recognition and tribute. Therefore, the location needs to be one of prominence and visibility. This is not a project where a human-scale or relatively subtle artwork is designed to blend in with the surroundings, such as is the case with Susan Flavell's *The Odd Couple* in College Park or *Snapshots of Lupin Hill* by Judith Forrest, both of which are designed to be appreciated close up. Because of the very public aim of this project, the location and scale of the work should achieve public visibility.

Site Options

Highview Park and Dot Bennett Reserve are two locations close to a number of major hospitals, including Hollywood Private Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the Perth Children's Hospital, as well as to other health services such as pathology and specialist clinics. Both reserves are adjoined by relatively busy roads, and location near those roads would also increase visibility of the artwork. A table comparing these two reserves as location options is provided below.

Table 1: Comparison of Site Options

Highview Park	Dot Bennett Reserve
<i>Advantages</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in area close to major hospitals • Bordered by at least one major road • Managed by City – no Main Roads approval required • Large site with multiple community usages adding to visibility • Potential for opening event – sufficient space available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in area close to major hospitals • Bordered by 2 major roads • Managed by City – no Main Roads approval required • Smaller site, but the public open space that is available is not compromised by sporting usage • Potential for opening event – sufficient space available; and already an attractive site.
<i>Disadvantages</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plan of reserve yet to be undertaken. 	

In summary, both Highview Park and Dot Bennett Reserve are realistic possibilities for location of this artwork. They both meet the proximity to health services criteria; and could both provide high visibility sites for a prominent work. It should be noted that Highview Park is scheduled for Master Planning in the current financial year and any resulting re-configuration of the reserve uses could impact this project. However, locating the artwork on the perimeter of the reserve should avoid problems, since no sporting or building uses are likely to be located on the perimeter.

The main difference between the two sites is that Dot Bennett Reserve is finalized and already an attractive location that would immediately provide a suitable backdrop for the artwork, without further work; whereas Highview Park would likely achieve this in the longer term, once it is re-developed, but this would be some years away.

To Commission or Purchase?

Once the Committee has arrived at a preference in terms of the site, then the next question is whether to commission a work or to buy an existing artwork.

There are advantages to commissioning a work (such as achieving a very specific outcome – for example, a statue of an historical figure); and different advantages to purchasing an existing work (such as being able to see exactly what you are getting). A summary of the advantages and disadvantage is shown in below.

Table 2: To Commission or Buy?

Commissioning	Buying an Existing Artwork
<i>Advantages</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can tailor the brief to specific requirements – especially important in relation to an historic figure or theme. • Involves on on-going relationship with the artist, developed over the period of the commission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What you see is what you get – certainty of outcome. • Generally, more cost-effective than commissioning. • Option of many choices to consider, whereas commissioned work is restricted to the one artist or group of artists. • A quicker process than commissioning. Eliminates stages of developing Brief, advertising, calling for Expressions of Interest, short-listing, presentations to Committee. Goes straight to purchase.
<i>Disadvantages</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of final work not fully meeting desired outcomes / being different to what was imaged by those commissioning the work • Generally, a more expensive option than purchasing an existing work. • Takes more time than purchasing an existing work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be as satisfying a process for the commissioning body • Does not involve an on-going relationship with the artist over time, as does commissioning

The Committee may wish to consider either commissioning a specific work for the selected site; or purchasing an existing artwork that expresses the ideas embodied in the inspiration behind this project. There are many existing artworks available for sale, beyond just those available through Sculptures by the Sea; and should the Committee elect to consider purchasing an existing artwork, Administration would then bring to the next meeting images of a wide variety of available artworks.

A positive factor about this project is that the ideas behind it lend themselves well to being expressed conceptually. Some of the qualities we value in the work of health professionals are generosity, commitment and care for others. These are qualities that can be represented conceptually, for example in embracing and stable shapes. This is not an instance where the purpose is to recognise and represent an individual health worker, or even just an individual category of health workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, phlebotomists, carers etc. Therefore, in this instance, a conceptual artwork could fulfill the brief and express the intention of the project. Equally, a commissioned work could also do that.

Timing

The Committee is to be congratulated on the timeliness of this project. It is a project of its time, and timing is of its essence.

At this stage, Administration is not aware of any other LGA's or other bodies planning such an artwork. However, it is likely that others may do so, if they are not already doing, given the widespread appreciation of health professionals that the pandemic has inspired. Therefore, completing this project and launching it in a timely way will maximize its impact. Purchasing an artwork "off the shelf" will definitely be a quicker option than commissioning, although that option is certainly available should the Committee prefer it.

Cost-effectiveness

Whether the Committee prefers to commission or to purchase ready-made will depend partly on whether it wishes to commit its entire available budget for this financial year to this one project or retain some funds for another project. As purchasing is likely to be the most cost-effective option, this option will also maximise the chance of having some funds remaining in the budget of \$50,000 for the financial year, to possibly undertake another project.

Where to from here?

Once the Committee has expressed a preference for the site, and on whether to commission or purchase a work that fits that site, Administration will then proceed to the next step and present that to the next meeting. Depending on whether the Committee's decision is to commission or buy, the next step will be:

- If the Committee elects to *commission* a work, Administration will develop a draft brief for calling for Expressions of Interest from artists to create the commissioned artwork.
- If the Committee elects to *purchase* a work, Administration will research suitable artworks available for sale and present images of these to the Committee at its next meeting.

Consultation

The Public Art Committee includes two community members who are full, voting members of the Committee, in order to ensure community input into the selection of public artwork that is recommended by the Committee to Council.

Strategic Implications

How well does it fit with our strategic direction?

In its vision statement, the City's Strategic Community Plan states that "we will live in a beautiful place". The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to this vision and therefore is consistent with the City's strategic direction as stated in the Plan.

Who benefits?

The work of the Public Art Committee contributes to the amenity of the area, benefiting the community generally.

Does it involve a tolerable risk?

The key risk in commissioning an artwork is that the finalized work does not fully reflect what was envisaged by all members of the commissioning group. While this risk is managed through a brief, a contract and an on-going relationship with the commissioned artist, the process is still, by its nature, an iterative one and the final outcome is not one that can be entirely specified in words.

The key risk in purchasing an existing work is one of not being able to find a work that reflects the required purpose. This is managed by ensuring a broad range of works are presented to the selection panel for consideration.

Do we have the information we need?

Yes, Administration will be able to access images of artworks from a wide range of outlets, which include but are not limited to Sculptures by the Sea.

Budget/Financial Implications

Council has approved \$50,000 in the current financial year's budget for expenditure on public art. While the purchase of an existing artwork is likely to be more cost-effective, commissioning a work within the \$50,000 budget limit can still be achieved.

Can we afford it?

Council has determined that \$50,000 on public art in the current financial year is affordable.

How does the option impact upon rates?

Council has assessed the impact on rates in the current financial year as acceptable.

Legislation / Policy

The Public Arts Committee's Terms of Reference determines that the Committee must have Council approval for any expenditure over \$10,000.

Conclusion

It is recommended that the Committee selects a preferred site for this artwork that is prominent and close to the major health services. Either Highview Park or Dot Bennett Reserve would be suitable, although Dot Bennett Reserve has the advantage of providing a more attractive setting for the work and for a dignified launch. It is anticipated that prominent medical and public health officials would be invited to the launch.

It is also recommended that the Committee expresses a preference for either commissioning or purchase an existing artwork. Either option is workable, but the project cannot be progressed until one option is selected. The option of purchasing an existing artwork will certainly progress the project more quickly. This will give the Committee the best chance of purchasing and installing the artwork in a timely way, then bringing the community together at the launch.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Public Art Committee will be held on Monday 12 October 2020.

Declaration of Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member will declare the meeting closed.