



**MINUTES OF MEETING
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD Tuesday 19 May 2015**

PRESENT:

Councillors

Cllr Adele Heasman (Chair)
Cllr Hugh Burns

Manly Council
Manly Council

Other Representatives

Jeanette Bywater
Akky van Ogtrop
Julia Davenport

Community Member
Community Member
Community Member

Staff Representatives

Michael Hedger

Director MAG&M

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNCIL

The Arts and Culture Committee met on 19 May 2015, to consider the matters referred to it and now provides the following advice to Council.

OPEN The meeting commenced at 4.00pm.

ITEM 1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Jean Hay AM, Cllr Candy Bingham, and from Community members Warren Langley, Gina O'Neill and Janie Raffin. Julia Davenport, representing the MAG&M Gallery Society, was welcomed as a new Community Member who will alternate attendance at meetings with Libby Gilkes.

ACTION

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF NOTES OF MEETING OF 17 March 2015 and Matters Arising

Moved: Cllr Burns, Seconded Jeanette Bywater.

ITEM 4 REPORT – Director's Report

Director presented a report on the proposed donations of an edition of the *Days of Summer* (2007-8) woodblock prints by Salvatore Zofrea, the four etchings by Elisabeth Cummings (2005 – 12) and the Amanda Penrose Hart painting (2013).

Director announced that the new roof to be fitted over the Dattilo Rubbo Gallery will be in place within the next week.

Director presented the latest MAG&M refurbishment plans (18 May 2015) and announced that the necessary funds are within the 2015-6 Council

Budget. Following necessary approvals, the refurbishments are planned to be completed by November 2015.

The Committee expressed concerns that the 2015 refurbishment timeframe would compromise the exhibitions program and reiterated its concern about an indoor café taking over the dedicated Museum space.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommended that the report be noted and recommends to the General Manager that due to the current exhibition program commitment, that the refurbishments to MAG&M not commence until March 2016.

The Committee further recommends to the General Manager that because of the loss of the core Museum space, as declared by Council in 1982, and because of concerns about fire risks, noise and food smells, that the proposed café with its tables and chairs be sited in the courtyard area, an area that is currently under-utilized and 'dead'.

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Members expressed their continued concerns about the implications that entry fees were having on the Gallery, specifically: that donations have declined; that the implication of staff only being able to handle cash meant removing them from their core functions; that over 80% of visitors were not paying; that repeat visits would diminish; that the visitors' expectations of the Gallery would be lowered; and that the lower visitor numbers for exhibitions would jeopardize grant funding.

Councillor members expressed their apologies to staff and volunteers for the stress caused by the introduction of entry fees.

Recommendations:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that in the light of the Council resolution of 11/5/2015, that the Gallery henceforth cease charging the current entry fees and that fees only be applied to one or two 'major' exhibitions per year. In clarification, 'major' is to be defined according to the cost of the exhibition to the gallery and / or as to the scale of the exhibition.

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that the Committee and staff look into ways to seek corporate and other philanthropic support as a way of raising funds for the Gallery.

Members expressed concern at the Gallery's website.

Recommendation:

The Committee recommends to the General Manager that the Gallery website be made more accessible and that the Gallery seeks grants to continue with the digitization of the full permanent collection for the site. In the meantime, all of the photographs from the *80 Tales from the Vault* catalogue be displayed on the website, a new front page be created and the link to Council's website be restored. Further, a statement needs to be placed on the front page of the website saying that the site is being progressively added to, according to funds.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 24 July 2015