

10.8. Art installation honouring local women - response to Council resolution

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ATTACHMENTS	Nil
CSP LINK	Outcome 6 – A vibrant LGA where culture and creativity is enjoyed by all C2. Preserve and celebrate North Sydney’s heritage

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to respond to a Council resolution regarding the creation of an art installation in the North Sydney Local Government Area to celebrate the contributions of notable and inspiring local women, both past and present.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Council resolved at its meeting on 12 August 2024 to consider a report on the creation of an art installation in North Sydney to celebrate the contributions of notable and inspiring local women, both past and present.
- It is proposed that an annual art event or installation recognising inspirational local women be timed to coincide with International Women's Day (8 March, annually).
- The annual event or installation will be determined following consultation with the community to identify inspirational women in North Sydney.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council undertake an annual art event or installation to recognise inspirational local women, to coincide with International Women’s Day.
- 2. THAT** Council call on the community to nominate the inspirational woman to be recognised each year.

Background

At the Council meeting of 12 August 2024, Council resolved:

- 1. THAT Council staff prepare a report, considering the creation of an art installation in the North Sydney Local Government Area to celebrate the contributions of notable and inspiring local women, both past and present.*
- 2. THAT the report investigates and highlights the achievements and significance of influential women.*

Report

Art Installations

Art installations are covered by Council's Public Art Policy.

Public Art can be considered as a permanent artwork, mural, or temporary piece of public art.

The policy covers public art as:

- a. artworks created or commissioned by Council as community development projects (Arts and Culture Section) and which form part of the public art program;
- b. artworks created or commissioned by Council as strategic planning, urban design initiative or open space projects;
- c. artworks created or commissioned for new developments in excess of 2,000 sq metres or abutting public open space;
- d. "artworks accepted by Council as a donation" under the North Sydney Public Art Masterplan; and
- e. temporary public art.

Public art is assessed against seven criteria in the Public Art Policy. The criteria are:

- a. connection/relevance to North Sydney - the design process should take into account the unique characteristics and cultural heritage of the North Sydney local government area;
- b. alignment with major urban design projects - options for public art to be included in significant Council construction projects (building and landscaping) will be reported to Council;
- c. recognise and celebrate Aboriginal stories and heritage in public spaces - Council recognises the importance of acknowledging the First Nations people, and of the historical and contemporary significance of their cultural traditions. Public art initiatives by First Nations artists will be encouraged where culturally appropriate and cultural protocols will be respected;
- d. support professional artists and activate North Sydney through temporary art projects - temporary projects and events create an ongoing dialogue about place, community and belonging. Provision of temporary initiatives allows Council to respond flexibly to the innovations of artists;

- e. support vibrant and connected village, commercial and CBD areas - a range of public art projects which enhance and celebrate the distinct characteristics of North Sydney's village and commercial centres and contribute to the identity of each place;
- f. promote public art in private development - Council encourages the provision of high quality and innovative public artworks in private developments in publicly accessible areas;
- g. initiate and implement programs to communicate, educate and engage the public such as the North Sydney Public Art Trail.

The proposed art installation would consider the criteria of the Public Art Policy in the final design post-community engagement.

Inspirational Women

There are many women with a connection to North Sydney who have inspired the community.

In response to part 2 of the resolution: THAT the report investigates and highlights the achievements and significance of influential women; it is suggested that rather than Council staff, the community nominate inspirational women.

The art installation is proposed to be an annual event, to be determined following community engagement and to be delivered in conjunction with International Women's Day each year.

It is proposed the following criteria are given to the community when nominating inspirational women.

A candidate may be living or deceased and must meet the following criteria:

- connection to North Sydney - born, lived, worked, or made a major contribution locally.

A candidate must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- impact and influence - made a significant impact on the community, state, nation, or internationally.
- contribution to society - advanced important causes such as education, health, arts, social justice, business, environment, or leadership.
- recognition and achievements - received awards, honours, or formal recognition for their work (local, national, or international).
- trailblazers or pioneering - first in their field, broke barriers for women or underrepresented groups.
- legacy and enduring relevance -their influence endures beyond their lifetime or career.

The art installation may be a permanent or temporary installation, to be developed in alignment with the public art activities in Council's *Culture and Creativity Strategy*. It could take the form of a mural, a walk, or a series of plaques or installations across the local area.

Consultation requirements

Public consultation is required for permanent artworks and would take place as per Council's standard community engagement protocol.

Financial/Resource Implications

Budget for a permanent artwork would come from Council's existing Public Art budget.

Legislation

There are no significant legislative requirements or considerations relevant to this matter that need to be referenced.