

Resolution of Council

15 December 2025

Item 12.2

Securing The Legacy of The Bookshop Darlinghurst

Moved by Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) The Bookshop Darlinghurst is closing down after more than 4 decades of providing Sydney's queer community with a safe, welcoming, cultural landmark on Oxford Street;
 - (ii) originally opening in 1982, The Bookshop served the queer community through decriminalisation, the AIDS epidemic, marriage equality and has continued to stand at the forefront for trans rights and liberation; and
 - (iii) in the words of the current owner, Charles Gregory, "The Bookshop Darlinghurst has been more than a store. It has been a meeting place, a refuge, and a beacon for queer literature." Its closure will be sorely felt across the queer community in Sydney;
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- (i) in September 2025, Council endorsed the proposal to locally heritage list 3 buildings as part of a Stage 2 Oxford Street LGBTIQA+ Heritage Items including the site of The Bookshop at 207 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst. This proposal will be publicly exhibited soon;
 - (ii) the site of The Bookshop is proposed to be locally heritage listed for its historical, aesthetic, social and representative significance. This significance could be recognised in many ways including by conserving the building's appearance, by continuing the retail use, by recognising the historical significance such a commemorative plaque and by reinterpreting the LGBTIQA+ significance;

- (iii) the City established a LGBTQIA+ collection with State Library funding support in 2007 and continues to grow this collection annually, with the collection based at the Kings Cross, Surry Hills and Newtown branch libraries, however, the City's collection is available across the entire network;
 - (iv) while items in the LGBTQIA+ collection are catalogued and shelved according to standard library practice, they are clearly identified with distinctive markings;
 - (v) City staff have reviewed The Darlinghurst Bookshop's holdings and found that most titles are already within the City's collection or on order;
 - (vi) the collection is actively maintained with new titles added throughout the year, including transgender titles;
 - (vii) all City of Sydney libraries are accredited under the ACON Welcome Here program which promotes a safe and welcoming environment for people of diverse sexualities and genders; and
 - (viii) the City's libraries also support the LGBTQIA+ communities through:
 - (a) a regular LGBTQIA+ discussion group at Kings Cross library afterhours and occasionally led by facilitators/storytellers which provides a welcoming and supportive environment for the community to share stories and connect;
 - (b) monthly Rainbow Storytime as part of an early literacy offering across all branches; and
 - (c) regular LGBTQIA+ programming including exhibitions, talks, creative programs across all branches throughout the year; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) investigate ways in which the City of Sydney can recognise the historic contributions of The Bookshop Darlinghurst to the queer community, should the proposed local heritage listing not proceed;
 - (ii) ensure the stock currently held within The Bookshop Darlinghurst is reflected and made available across the City's library network in far as possible;
 - (iii) assess whether the queer cultural programming currently provided at our libraries and community centres is meeting community need and report back to Council by the CEO Update; and
 - (iv) investigate ways in which library users may be informed about and assisted in accessing the City's LGBTQIA+ collection.

Carried unanimously.

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