

Minutes of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee - 10 November 2025

Members Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore AO (Chair), Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Jess Miller , Councillor Olly Arkins (Deputy Chair), Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore, Councillor Lyndon Gannon, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Zann Maxwell, Councillor Matthew Thompson, Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM and Councillor Adam Worling.

At the commencement of business at 3:53pm those present were -

Councillors Arkins, Ellsmore, Gannon, Kok, Maxwell, Miller, Thompson, Weldon and Worling.

Apologies

The Rt Hon Clover Moore AO – Lord Mayor of Sydney, extended her apologies for her inability to attend the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee.

Councillor Arkins left the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Change Committee at 3:54pm, prior to discussion on Item 8.3, and returned at 3:55pm, after the vote on Item 8.3. Councillor Arkins was not present at, or in sight of, the meeting during discussion or voting on Item 8.3.

The meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee concluded at 3:56pm.

Item 1

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor) –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee of Monday 18 August 2025, as circulated to Councillors, be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

Item 2

Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jess Miller, disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that she is friends with former City of Sydney Councillor, (Waskam) Emelda Davis, who was on the CMIT ticket for the 2024 election.

The Deputy Lord Mayor considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances, because she has not discussed the grant with her.

Councillor Olly Arkins made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they have a community relationship with the Director of Thom Global Pty Ltd, the House of Mince Pride 2025 organiser, who was not recommended to receive a grant.

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances as they did not contact them on this matter.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they work with Finelytuned Productions Ptd Ltd, who is not recommended to receive a grant, in their role as CEO of the Australian Festival Association as they are a member of the Association.

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because they were not contacted by them on this matter.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that they have a community relationship with Amanda Choularton, the organiser of Woolloomooloo Market (Choulartons Australia Pty Ltd).

Councillor Arkins considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because they were not contacted by them on this matter.

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that Anabelle Lacroix is a new housemate as of this week, and has been recommended to receive a grant.

Councillor Arkins stated that they would not be voting on this matter.

- a significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that the General Manager of Sydney Comedy Festival Pty Ltd, an organisation recommended to receive a grant, and Councillor Arkins are close personal friends. The Sydney Comedy Festival is also a member of the Australian Festival Association. Councillor Arkins is the CEO of the Association.

Councillor Arkins stated that they would not be voting on this matter.

Councillor Robert Kok disclosed a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that the Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jacksons) Limited were recommended for a grant.

The Chairwoman of the Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jacksons) Limited is former City of Sydney Councillor (Waskam) Emelda Davis, a fellow councillor for the 2021-2024 Council term, and who was CMIT teammate for the 2024 election.

Councillor Kok considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he was not aware of their application for the grant and the recommendations until the committee paper became available and he has not discussed the grant with the recipient. Councillor Kok has not had any contact with the applicant or (Waskam) Emelda Davis, nor has she or the applicant contacted Councillor Kok about their grant application.

Councillor Adam Worling made the following disclosures:

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that Emelda Davis runs Sugar Fest and she was a former Councillor on the Clover Moore Independent Team.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this grant with Emelda Davis.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in 3 on the agenda, in that he has been doing a lot of work with Amanda Choularton to promote the Oxford Street Markets and recently did a Notice of Motion that will assist present and future markets.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this grant with Amanda Choularton.

- a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he knows Greg Fisher, CEO of Qtopia.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this grant with Qtopia.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he created a video with Benson Wu, CEO of Queer Screen, promoting Queer Screen, in August.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this grant with Queer Screen.

- a less than significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 3 on the agenda, in that he is on the Sydney Dance Company Ambassador Council and created a video promoting the recent production of Continuum, and he is a good friend of Rafaela Bonachela, Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company.

Councillor Worling considers that this non-pecuniary conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances because he has not discussed this grant with Sydney Dance Company.

No other Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of the Cultura, Creative and Nightlife Committee.

The Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee recommended the following:

Item 3**Grants and Sponsorship - Cultural Grants**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

(Note – at the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee, this recommendation was moved by the Chair (the Deputy Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Gannon, and carried unanimously.)

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Item 4**Grants and Sponsorship - Accommodation Grants Program - Joynton Avenue Creative Centre and Banga Community Shed**

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a 3 year lease for Soul Reign Pty Ltd., ABN 36 672 625 580, trading as The Goodways Project at the Banga Community Shed, 3B Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy, with agreement for a further 2 year lease subject to satisfactory performance at a total cost of \$240,342 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (B) Council approve a 3+2 year licence for Season Arts Incorporated, ABN 49 796 837 399, in Tenancy 1 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy at a total cost of \$200,085 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (C) Council approve a 3+2 year licence for Artist Studio Collective, ABN 11 992 435 770, in Tenancy 2 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy at a total cost of \$238,269 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (D) Council approve a 3+2 year licence for Erin Kathleen Keys, ABN 54 764 767 254, trading as The Bench in Tenancy 3 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy at a total cost of \$239,798 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (E) Council approve a 3+2 year licence for Garuwa Creative PTY LTD, ABN 98 618 609 868, trading as WUNAN in Tenancy 4 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy at a total cost of \$168,013 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (F) Council approve a 3+2 year licence for Ashleigh Louise Garwood, ABN 80 851 278 800, trading as Artist Led Photographic Collective in Tenancy 5 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland from 1 February 2026 at 100% subsidy at a total cost of \$177,176 (excl. GST) over the full 5-year period;
- (G) Council note full details of applicants recommended for funding as per Attachment A to the subject report; Recommended for Funding - Accommodation Grants Program;
- (H) Council note the applicants who were shortlisted to the Eligibility List - Accommodation Grants Program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (I) Council note the applicants who were Not Recommended for Funding for the Accommodation Grants Program as shown at Attachment C to the subject report; and
- (J) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with:
 - (i) Soul Reign Pty Ltd., ABN 36 672 625 580, at the Banga Community Shed, 3B Joynton Avenue, Zetland;
 - (ii) Season Arts Incorporated, ABN 49 796 837 399, in Tenancy 1 at Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland;
 - (iii) Artist Studio Collective, ABN 11 992 435 770, in Tenancy 2 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland;

- (iv) Erin Kathleen Keys, ABN 54 764 767 254, trading as The Bench in Tenancy 3 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland;
- (v) Garuwa Creative PTY LTD, ABN 98 618 609 868, trading as WUNAN in Tenancy 4 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland; and
- (vi) Ashleigh Louise Garwood, ABN 80 851 278 800, trading as Artist Led Photographic Collective in Tenancy 5 at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, 3A Joynton Avenue, Zetland,

on terms consistent with this resolution and in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy.

(Note – at the meeting of the Cultural, Creative and Nightlife Committee, this recommendation was moved by Councillor Arkins, seconded by Councillor Worling, and carried unanimously.)

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