

Item 13.8**Notices of Motion****Community Consultation on Future Uses of the City's 107 Redfern Street Building**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) 107 Redfern Street, Redfern, is a large community space owned by the City of Sydney Council;
- (ii) until recently, the social enterprise '107 Projects' managed both 107 Redfern Street, and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre in Zetland, with Council providing long-term discounted leases through its accommodation grants program, and other forms of support;
- (iii) '107 Projects' supported a diversity of cultural and community programs and activities, including courses, art exhibitions and live music performances, to name a few;
- (iv) on 30 September 2024, 107 Projects handed both sites back to the City of Sydney. Loss of '107 Projects' and the diversity of innovative artistic and cultural activities it supported is a major loss for the community;
- (v) the City of Sydney is continuing to support existing tenants at the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre and 107 Redfern Street, and has advised the community that "the City will review and determine new operational models for Joynton Avenue Creative Centre and 107 Redfern Street";
- (vi) there is a high level of need for affordable community and cultural spaces in the City of Sydney Local Government Area. Not-for-profit organisations, including Aboriginal organisations, are increasingly unable to afford spaces in the City of Sydney, due to high rents. In terms of creative uses, along with a lack of affordable housing, a lack of access to affordable creative spaces has been identified as a key driver behind the reduction in the number and diversity of artists in the City of Sydney;
- (vii) the local community is very interested in how the City intends to reactivate both 107 Redfern Street and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre in Zetland;
- (viii) in particular, there has been long running community interest in the space at 107 Redfern Street from Aboriginal organisations. This space is located in the heart of Redfern, near a number of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations; and

- (ix) the City of Sydney needs to take great care in planning the next phase in the lives of these prominent venues, given how precious affordable community and creative spaces have become in recent years in the City of Sydney;
- (B) Council commit to:
 - (i) undertaking an open community consultation to seek feedback from the community, to help determine the best plan for the future, long term uses of 107 Redfern Street and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre in Zetland;
 - (ii) ensuring targeted consultation is undertaken with Aboriginal community organisations, particularly in relation to the 107 Redfern Street property;
 - (iii) ensuring short term and temporary uses of the spaces continue, including continuing to support any pre-existing tenancies, while also ensuring long term tenancies are not advertised, and new tenants are not moved in, before Council has had an opportunity to hear and consider options for the future of the sites; and
 - (iv) prioritising Aboriginal community uses and control in relation to the development of future management options for both properties, but particularly of 107 Redfern Street;
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to 107 Projects to thank them for their work and support for the community; and
- (D) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide advice to the March 2025 Council meeting about:
 - (i) the status of the two properties;
 - (ii) any current tenancies, bookings or committed uses for the properties;
 - (iii) any recommended or proposed temporary or 'pop-up' uses, which could be implemented short term to ensure the spaces remain activated;
 - (iv) any discussions or requests to date, with or from organisations, businesses, individuals and advisory groups (including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel) about the properties; and
 - (v) a proposed consultation and community engagement process to seek feedback from the community about the future of the properties.

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