



13.3 GASWORKS ARTS INC 2020 FUNDING DEED

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: KYLIE BENNETTS, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY GROWTH AND ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

PREPARED BY: PAUL CALLAGHAN, COORDINATOR ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the proposed funding deed for Gasworks Arts Inc for 5+5 years from September 2020 to June 2030

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The current funding deed with Gasworks Arts Inc expired 30 June 2020. This was 'interim' with the expectation that a new ten-year funding deed comprising a five year term and five year extended term would be negotiated in 2020, following the new Council Plan and Creative and Prosperous City Strategy.
- 2.2 The timelines for negotiation and finalising of this new funding deed have been pushed back due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- 2.3 This new funding deed provides new key performance indicators in addition to those in the 2018 – 2020 deed, maximising benefits and outcomes including: increased access to the facility by local arts organisations; increased community access including opportunities for visitation and participation; increasing funding from other sources; and sustainability.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorse the funding deed for Gasworks Arts Inc for ten years from September 2020 to June 2030

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Gasworks Arts Park has been a focal point for arts activity in the City since the City of South Melbourne began operating it as a cultural facility in the mid 1980s. Gasworks Arts Inc has been advising on the use of Gasworks Arts Park since 1986 and has received direct funding since the service was devolved in 1999.
- 4.2 In 1999 Gasworks Arts Inc received funding of \$270,000pa which has grown to \$586,607 in 2015/16. The funding dropped to \$563,302 (2016 – 2018) due to building works, and returned to \$586,500 in 2018 – 2020. The purpose of the funding is to enrich the lives and culture of the community through arts and related activities.
- 4.3 Council invested in a building upgrade to the Gasworks theatre building that cost \$2.6m and took almost nine months to complete, reopening in July 2017.
- 4.4 Council provided support through a loan repayable through recoupment in this deed of \$330,000 over 12 years for a new seating bank.
- 4.5 Building on the performance indicators from the previous interim funding deed, and in consultation with the Arts and Soul Advisory Panel and Council Officers, the new 5+5 funding deed has been drafted with the following principles:



- 4.5.1 Access and Inclusion: Operate under universal access principles, adhere to Council's access and equity principles and work to overcome all barriers to participation be they physical or financial
- 4.5.2 Audience Engagement: deliver content which appeals to diverse communities and audiences from the City of Port Phillip and broader Melbourne.
- 4.5.3 Artistic Vibrancy: Program ambitious, contemporary and diverse works across a range of artforms and practices, creating opportunities for artists to showcase their work
- 4.5.4 Community Outreach: Actively engage the community, including residents, artists and visitors through opportunities to attend, participate and create; work to identify new and underrepresented community groups in both audiences and programming and explore opportunities to engage them; Provide affordable space and collaborative opportunities for local artists and organisations; demonstrate Gasworks Arts Park's impact on the broader community and economy including, but not limited to, arts and social wellbeing, family programming, and support for local tourism and businesses
- 4.5.5 Sustainability and governance: Generate income from other sources with a view to gradual reduction in percentage of Council core funding; invite council officers and managers where appropriate to board and other meetings. Develop appropriate partnerships within the municipality to provide opportunities for cross-collaboration and promotion
- 4.5.6 Future Planning & Impact: Work closely with Council officers to realise potential opportunities and maintain alignment with the Council Plan
- 4.6 Gasworks Arts Inc been meeting current key performance indicators, and these will further maximise benefits and outcomes through the 5+5 term agreement, using the principles above.
- 4.7 Desired outcomes from the funding deed include: increased access to the facility by local arts organisations; increased community access including opportunities for visitation and participation; and increasing funding from other sources.
- 4.8 In their most recent report, City of Port Phillip contributed 43% of Gaswork's income against a FYT of 48%, compared to 50% in the periods 2014 - 2018
- 4.9 Key performance indicators are shown in Attachment 1. These have been informed by previous reports, expectations of the improved facilities and negotiations with the Gasworks Arts Inc board.
- 4.10 A lease exists over the parcel of land that is Gasworks and is aligned with the funding deed, expiring 30 June 2030.
- 4.11 In the period 2020 / 21, Council and Gasworks Arts Inc will negotiate transfer of some maintenance and cleaning responsibilities to Gasworks Arts Inc as an ongoing activity commencing 2021 /22

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The Board and Management of Gasworks Arts Inc has been a critical stakeholder in these and future discussions
- 5.2 Consultation on the KPIs was also undertaken with the Art and Soul Advisory Panel.



6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Per the previous deeds, legal advice suggests the proposed funding deed presents no risk to Section 186 of the Local Government Act as long as it is distinguished as funding for an organisation with conditions, as opposed to a contract for services.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The core funding amount proposed is currently in the operating budget.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Funding deeds seek environmental targets, encourage sustainable transport options and waste reduction.
- 8.2 New KPIs are included to capture environmental targets.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The community, including the creative sector, highly values the City's cultural facilities and expects Council to seek best value in the economic, social and cultural domains
- 9.2 Gaswork's most recent report shows the following indicators of artistic and community engagement:
- 9.2.1 Over 21,000 people attended over 200 performances in their theatres
- 9.2.2 Delivered: 269 performances across theatre, music, dance, circus, puppetry, physical theatre, cabaret and comedy; 25 art exhibitions; 660 creative workshops; 41 kids holiday workshops; 64 community functions
- 9.2.3 Total attendance for the year of approximately 90,000 with café and park visitors in addition to that total.
- 9.2.4 Based on an average of five cast members and five designers, directors, choreographers and writers per performance, with 269 performances in 2019, over 2,000 performing artists worked in our theatres during the year
- 9.2.5 39 artist tenants and local community groups using the buildings; 8 partnerships and collaborations with local arts and community organisations

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 The Council Plan 2017-2027 states, as a priority in the next four years, that it will:
- 10.1.1 Invest in our key arts and culture venues, including continuing to fund the operation of Gasworks Arts Park and Linden Gallery; and
- 10.1.2 Provide grants, funding and spaces for arts and cultural organisations and service providers to ensure access for everyone to relevant services and programs.
- 10.2 The proposed funding deed delivers both of these priority actions in a way that seeks to maximise the use of and engagement with our cultural facilities.
- 10.3 The Art and Soul: Creative and Prosperous City Strategy states as an action:
- 10.3.1 engage with the current boards of Gasworks and Linden and the advisory panel for the Art and Soul Strategy (Action 18) to examine ways to better leverage Council's investment in these facilities and, following this engagement, recommend options to Council to ensure maximum access for



local arts organisations, foster local arts development, attract funding from other sources, increase opportunities for community participation and promote Port Phillip as a cultural destination

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 September: Execution of funding deed before payment in October
- 11.1.2 Evaluation of KPI delivery in year 3 – 2023 / 24
- 11.1.3 Decision on Extended Term of 5 years in year 5 – 2025 /26
- 11.1.4 Evaluation of KPI delivery in year 7 - 2027 / 28
- 11.1.5 Decision on future progress as funding deed term ends 2030 / 31

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Gasworks Arts Inc will continue to program and manage the Gasworks cultural facility for 5+5 years

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS 1. Gasworks Arts Inc Funding Deed 2020 to 2030