

Meeting Minutes

Arts and Cultural Local Democracy Group

Wednesday 25 June 2025

Meeting Room 1, Level 5, Ashfield Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

Meeting commenced at 6pm and concluded at 7.25pm.

Attendees

Community members

Emily Cascarino

Sophie Groom

Rhiannon Hopley

Kay Söderlund

Melinda Vassallo

Vulindlela Mkwanzani

Tim Stackpool

Anne-Marie McGinty

Council officers

Michael Daly (Convenor)

Sarah Guan (presenter)

Chairperson

- Rhiannon Hopley

Acknowledgement of Country

- Rhiannon Hopley

Apologies and membership changes

- Kat Farrugia

Disclosures of conflicts of interest

- No disclosures

Endorse previous meeting minutes

- Endorsed



Discussion Items

Agenda Item	Discussion summary	Agenda item outcome/action (as required)
1.	Introductions – Members arrived and members who were not in attendance at the previous meeting introduced themselves and shared their creative practice and/or motivation for joining the Group	
2	Confirmation of previous minutes and actions	Confirmed
3	<p>Great Inner West Walk presentation and discussion led by Sarah Guan from Strategic Planning</p> <p>Sarah presented on the Great Inner West Walk concept.</p> <p>Group discussed presentation including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to link up cultural walks• Perfect Match is popular and can accommodate tours• Connect IW venues• Wayfinding options• IW Ale Trail <p>Sarah mentioned that this concept could be happening in 20 years so needed long term</p>	

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activities and visioning, needed to look at principle concepts rather than specific sites which might change

- Local heroes concept, need for infrastructure, equipment and activities
- Historical buildings, stroller friendly routes, architecture
- Residential areas – activities to take place on footpaths
- Mosmon walks have QR codes and audio
- Literature walks, have famous writers write for the walk
- Spoken word
- Dog walks
- East Sydney art trails and other walks
- Activate making spaces
- Reflective windows
- How to link the trails
- Community activities
- Writers network database

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Group Brainstorm led by Chair Rhiannon Hopley dealing with Policy Challenge 1.

The Inner West is home to more artists and people employed in the creative sector per capita than anywhere else in NSW. How can Council work with these local networks and



industry experts to support and grow our local creative sector sustainably?

- Funding, Sustainability & Long-term Support
- Training and development
- Networks and collaboration
- Funding – reliance and on-going need
- X period consignment or contracts
- Beginners guides – how to?
- Young creative – linked to opportunities
- Working with existing artists and apces to understand opportunities for work within the arts
- Longevity for sustainable creative income
- Repeating opportunities i.e. Artseat 3 month display of work
- Peer mentoring
- Connecting established, mid-career and emerging
- Young creatives – how to network
- Promotion and visibility
- IW arts centre
- A system to find creative
- Data collection
- “I didn’t even know this was here”
- Comms piece

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- How to incentivise? Database
- Draw programs from database – to show usefulness
- What's on guides/street publication
- Infrastructure: spaces and facilities
- Bricks and mortar HQ
- Arts centre – physical space – all genres, resources
- Culture hub, network
- Spaces closing – music venues 5 in last two weeks
- Creatives moving out of IW – due to closing venues and art spaces
- Landbanking – access to properties
- Lost art – in real life
- How to promote creatives
- Hoardings posters – promoting databases

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Creative Sector Post-Covid Study presented
Michael Daly, Manager Creative Communities.

- Presented a report on work undertaken by the Creative Communities team on a post-covid study of the Inner West creative sector with Leftbank consultants.



- IWC is working with Leftbank to glean existing data on the sector including Profile ID, Micromex survey, Smartygrants info, Culture Counts, etc.
- End of Cultural Strategy in 2025.
- Use of the Creative Toolbox Symposium for focus groups and gleaning data
- Presented a timeline for delivery

Next meeting

- Thursday, 4 September, 6pm