Meeting Minutes

Arts and Culture LDG

Wednesday 26 November 2025

Meeting Room 1, Level 6, Ashfield Civic Centre, 260 Liverpool Rd

Meeting commenced at 6pm and concluded at 7.30pm.

Attendees

Community members	Council officers	Councillors
Kat Farrugia	Naomi Bower	Nil
Sophie Groom	Josephine Touma	
Rhiannon Hopley		
Anne-Marie McGinty		
Vulindlela Mkwananzi		
Timothy Stackpool		
Melinda Vassallo		

Chairperson

Rhiannon Hopley

Acknowledgement of Country

Rhiannon Hopley

Apologies and membership changes

Apologies: Emily Cascarino, Kay Sönderland. Anjo Bian is no longer in the Group. A new member, Kat Katchalova, has been recruited.

Disclosures of conflicts of interest

Nil

Previous meeting minutes were endorsed.

INNER WEST

Discussion Items

Agenda Item	Discussion summary	Agenda item outcome/action
1. **Inner West Creative Sector Snapshot (Michelle Tabet, Leftbank Co.)**	Michelle Tabet of Leftbank Co. presented recent research. ○ Described current challenges of collecting and using data for cultural planning ○ Presented key trends, data, research and cultural strategy directions Feedback and questions from LDG on this presentation: a) Consider who we include in this research and strategic directions - How do we define a professional artist/creative? - Does the scope include creatives who haven't gone through traditional tertiary education? - How do we include artists and creatives who have moved on and account for their continuing influence in the local sector? - There are great emerging initiatives from young people to showcase work—are they included in the scope? - Are we considering entrepreneurs? eg. booking agents, producers, etc.	Naomi to send responses to unanswered questions from this presentation

b) Creative spaces

- Providing affordable creative space is imperative. What's in the Fairer Futures plan/ Community Building plan for creative spaces and infrastructure?
- "Illegal", unofficial, unconventional spaces are important —how do we capture this?
- What support can Council give to current creative space operators who are struggling to stay afloat, but are supporting huge numbers of artists
- Incorporate demographic trends that influence the life cycle career 'exit points' (economic and life stage factors)
- Consider Landbanking, Commbank IQ

c) Other

- Consider loading areas for musicians
- Do we know where audiences for Council events are coming from?

2. **Great Inner West Walk (Stephanie Bhim, Reactivate Consulting)**

Six proposed routes have been developed and feedback was sought from the group as arts experts and as local residents. Feedback included:

- Lilyfield Road:

        - significantly steep for walking, consider a gentler option (hard and easy grades)
        - stretch between Rozelle Parklands and Bay Run not so scenic. Suggest Callan Park, connecting to Bay, as alternatives,
        - Wharf Road is a good alternative—Writers NSW are located there—writing activations?
    - North-south spine:
        - Question the naming of 'Little Italy' – is this holding Norton St back?
        - Food theme: can businesses be incentivised to offer 'tasting' experiences?
        - Art: several Perfect Match murals are located just off this route, as well as Petersham tunnel
        - Are there plans for rest spots and seating?
        - Very long walk – is this achievable as a food route?
        - Workshop opportunities with businesses (eg: florists) to bring this route alive.
    - Stanmore to creeks
        - Attractive areas near Railway Ave
    - Western Link
        - Sustainability Hub a point of interest

        - Yeo Park with the Survival Memorial not far
    - Sydenham to Stanmore
        - Sydenham Road—huge number of live music venues, lends itself to nighttime walks
        - Poor footpath, but upgrades planned
        - Sydney street full of artist studios
    - Other: how to get live input from community? Layers of stories

3. **2026 schedule**	- Naomi will circulate the meeting schedule post-meeting. The current format of a mix of Wednesday and Thursday evenings will be continued.
4. **General Business**	- Naomi shared the Have your say page of Community Building plan.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

INNER WEST

Next meeting: Wednesday 4 February tbc