



# ARTS AND CULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

Location: Sutherland Entertainment Centre

Date: 24 September 2019 commencing at 6.10pm

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## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Nicholls (Chairperson) together with Councillor Forshaw, Sue Bunt (Engadine Musical Society), Pauline Curby (Sutherland Shire Historical Society) Bob Peet (Miranda Musical Society), Col Peet (Miranda Musical Society), David Delaney (Sutherland Theatre Company), Michael Gooley (Arts Theatre Cronulla), Jonathan Karanikas (Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra), Peter Kahn (Sydney Tramway Museum), Robert Mander (Community Representative), Peta Campbell (Community Representative), Natalie Ettingshausen (Ettingshausen's Dance School), Rita Doran, Lindsay Domanford, Brayden Kenny (Root Partnerships), NBR Architects & representatives – Andrew Tripet, Barry Flack & Richard Stuart.

Council Staff: Belinda Hanrahan (Manager Arts and Culture), Deborah Best (Manager Library Services), Caryn Schwartz (Team Leader Visitor Services and Admin, Arts & Culture), Mark Naylor (Strategic Development Co-ordinator), Paul Mourtos (Senior Project Manager Construction)

Belinda Hanrahan declared the meeting open.

### 2. Acknowledgement to Country

Belinda Hanrahan welcomed those in attendance and acknowledged the traditional land owners, the Dharawal people.

### 3. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Councillor Boyd, Councillor Provan, Councillor Simone, Councillor Steinwall, , Tim Dennis (Sutherland Theatre Company), Lyn Buckman (Shire Music Club), Bruce Watt (Sutherland Shire Historical Society).

### 4. Quorum – minimum of four voting members including one Councillor

In accordance with the Charter for the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee, a quorum, being a minimum of eight (8) voting members (which must include at least two (2) Councillors) was achieved.

### 5. Disclosures of Interest

None noted.

### 6. Confirmation of Minutes from the previous meeting, held on 27 February 2019. Decision: (Cr Nicholls / Cr Forshaw)

That the Minutes of the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 7. Presentations

Belinda Hanrahan delivered

- a summary of Sutherland Shire Council's commitment to the Arts in the Sutherland Shire, including Sutherland Shire Council's \$34 million approval of the project one week ago.
- the value of strategic partners and community groups to the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee operations.

Brayden Kenny presented:

- Sutherland Entertainment Centre upgrade including:
  1. Project update
  2. Consultation Feedback
  3. Design Presentation by NBRS Architects & Richard Stuart
  4. Summary of Key Design Features
  5. Questions

As a result of the presentations, the following comments/discussion was received:

- Ground Floor - main access is facing on to Peace Park
- Key features – Lifts, access behind stage, stairs behind stage, piano in climate controlled storage off stage, storage for scooters and frames.
- Black Box – will become a multi-use room.
- First Floor – the current offices will now become an activated public space, including a rehearsal and workshop space.
- Richard discussed the green room space.
- The north side over the park will have a bar overlooking the park.
- Second Floor – keeping existing stairs, more sound locks, dress circle, fire stairs will be opened up. Two chorus rooms, two holding rooms, stairs and cross overs are secure which highlights a much needed upgraded in duty of care for students/children.
- In total 4 occupied levels including a basement and 3 levels – all accessible.
- Summary of key design features – better efficiency of ushers, better sight lines and maximising comfort and leg room, comparable with most regional theatres, generous depth of stage, orchestra pit is under discussion for a manual pit, full counterweight fly system which will result in safe and flexible operations. Stage has been expanded and widened with no crossover on stage – the crossover is now behind the stage.
- The dock could be managed as an extra holding space if managed well.
- Level 3 – Using existing cat walks. Very good access from fly gallery, plant rooms as well on level 3, existing projector room has been re-configured. There will be full tech capability however the focus is on infrastructure built in ready for equipment and various user groups. Existing lighting rig will be re-purposed.

Specific Questions:

Sue Bunt – What are the seating numbers without an orchestra?

Answer: 650 minimum to allow for maximum comfort.

Natalie Ettingshausen – Seating – is there an option for seat types like airlines and people pay more/less.

Answer: Richard advised it becomes discriminatory – we need to maximise inclusiveness.

Natalie Ettingshausen – elevation of stage?

Answer: Richard advised - currently approx. 1400, it will be dropping to approximately 1 metre.

Sue Bunt – Sound box – how many will it hold.

Answer: Richard advised potentially 6 people, but designed to take 2 wheelchairs.

Peta Campbell – asked if there will be a wet space?

Answer: No.

Cr Foreshaw – noted the stage advances compared to current stage.

Richard noted the hard wearing weathertex floor for dance.

Sue Bunt & Natalie Ettingshausen commented on the benefits of good flooring for dance.

Jonathan Karanikas – SSSO – Will the SSSO benefit with the flytower? He was advised that an acoustic consultant will be working on all users.

Jonathan also asked can the wings be closed off for a performance?

Answer: Richard advised the wings will be open and they will be a 1.5 metre space from the side curtains. It is something that will be looked at after the opening to test the sound.

General Feedback:

Sue Bunt – From the Engadine Musical Society perspective stated that she thought the community was going to get a lot more than she thought they would get in relation to amenities, comfort, fly tower and provisions back stage. She is very happy with the proposed plans.

Natalie Ettingshausen – Stated that she has never been so excited to be at a Council event. She is extremely happy with the proposed plans. Happy with the amazing space, especially for November and December dance school times. Safety has been considered with kids and everything else on her wish list. The only exception is the wish for extra seats, but she understood the project constraints.

David Delaney – from a community member perspective – Very Good. He is supportive of design. It takes performers into good consideration.

Rita Doran & Lindsay Domonford form the Choral Society – looks amazing but felt that they wouldn't be able to afford it for their events. They asked if there would be the ability for a smaller concert.

Answer: Richard advised that they could use the stalls only and Belinda advised there would also be the ability to use the foyer.

Pete Campbell – Excellent disabled access and well considered. Question regarding lift capacity.

Answer – to be advised – hoping for 16+ people. Also the ground floor and level 1 will also be accessible by ramps and stairs.

Question regarding handrails and accessibility for walkers etc.

Answer – working to code but trying to avoid guard rails and work with slope and better levels.

Andrew Tripet – the foyer will be very important for the new look and to add to the impression of the building. Banners will also be incorporated into the new design. Timber will soften the current brutalist concrete look.

Cr Forshaw – it is important to bring the inside out and make it look attractive for all.

Brayden Kenny – Park adjoining

- Planned to have performance spaces – Belinda added there will still be flexibility to have Music in the Park.
- Brayden advised that there will be more flexibility with different areas. Eg. Outdoor cinema, night markets/music, more inviting green space and it will become a natural extension of the building.

## **8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (27 February 2019)**

No business arising from previous minutes

## **9. Correspondence**

Nil correspondence.