

MidCoast Council Cultural Plan 2036 Reference Group

Date	Tuesday 21 January 2020	Time	10:00am to 12noon
Venue	Council Chambers Forster, Large Committee Room	Note-taker	Chris Tippett
Chair	Deputy Mayor Clair Pontin	Guests	John O'Callaghan - JOC Consulting
Attendees	Bettina Digby, Carmel Spark, Cr Hutchinson, Deborah Knoke, James Pearson, Jill Watkins, Kevin Williams, Leigh Vaughan		
Apologies	Ann Keen, Michael Thurston, Donna Carrier, Stacey Evans		

Meeting items

Item	Description	Lead by
1	Acknowledgement of Country	Chair
2	Housekeeping: amenities, exits and WHS	Chair
3	<p>Purpose of the meeting and project update:</p> <p>John O'Callaghan gave an introduction to JOC Consulting and suggested outcomes of the meeting. This working session will identify priorities for the Cultural Plan.</p> <p>JOC presented the project timeline and discussed various aspects of the timing and need to progress quickly. Definition of Culture and Cultural Infrastructure were presented by JOC.</p>	JOC Consulting
4	<p>Reference Group survey results:</p> <p>John O'Callaghan presented results of the survey completed by Reference Group members. Some ideas raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater diversity of the arts across the LGA ▪ Inclusion for all – different groups feeling welcome and participating in culture ▪ A degree of flexibility so culture can adapt to the future and be more resilient ▪ Utilisation of various buildings and spaces for creative purposes such as community halls that could operate as galleries ▪ Taking the artist to the audience rather than audience to the artist 	JOC Consulting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An umbrella vision that supports smaller, place-based actions <p>Questions raised at meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the cultural plan to 2036? Timeline aligns with NSW Government planning and acknowledged the plan would also work in with the 4 year planning cycles of councils planning timeframes. • What are the best ways for collecting information from the Reference Group? Most of the group agreed that the online survey method and email was a good way of collecting information. • Kevin W indicated discrepancies between data held by Council and data held by AMNC particularly in relation to Creative Organisations. Action - Rachel P to follow up and update where needed. <p>The need for a public art strategy was re-enforced and how this needs to be coordinated in conjunction with MCC Parks and Gardens section. Action – Rachel P to distribute a Public Art Database, Kevin W to distribute Public Art Trails.</p>	
5	<p>What do we want to achieve out of the Cultural Plan?</p> <p>Cultural planning is underpinned by six key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on values ▪ Directed towards goals/pillars/strategic directions ▪ Focussed on outcomes ▪ Informed by evidence ▪ Underpinned by a theory of change ▪ Constantly reviewed and evaluated <p>Members were invited to have input into what they would like to see achieved.</p>	JOC Consulting
6	<p>Focus areas for the plan:</p> <p>JOC lead group activities to provide opportunity for input. Discussion centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What do we like about other Cultural Plans? ▪ What is the focus of our Cultural Plan? ▪ What types of partnerships and collaborations should we explore in the Cultural Plan? ▪ What does good engagement look like for the Cultural Plan? <p>The group ‘pulled apart’ several other cultural plans and made suggestions on what should be included in the MCC Cultural Plan. A discussion took place on the wording of the plan and what level it should be. The Plan has to be imbedded in community and has to be readable.</p>	Group activities
7	<p>Opportunities for funding ideas/actions and working together:</p>	JOC Consulting

8	<p>MidCoast Cultural Plan 2036 Engagement Ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group discussion guide. • Short article/Media release to local media outlets. • Surveys. • Reaching out to the public. • School engagement evenings/connections. • Speed Dating → Artists and Businesses • Social media pages • Arts MNC Mail out • Artistic experience in 'Other' spaces e.g. Shops and other business... • Service groups (Assist with funding and labour) • Key Words – Advice, Funding, Advocate, Support, Champion... <p><i>Task - Chart of Internal Stakeholders for the Cultural Plan RG.</i></p>	
9	<p>Decide on actions and plan for future meeting:</p> <p>The Reference group will continue to meet monthly and are willing to support and participate in community engagement sessions.</p> <p>Actions and Agenda for next meeting will be distributed early February.</p>	
10	<p>Close</p> <p>Meeting closed at 12 noon</p>	Chair