
Item: 08.13

Subject: HERITAGE & CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Presented by: Community & Organisational Development, Lesley Atkinson

Alignment with Delivery Program

2.5.2 Facilitate, support and/or advocate for cultural and heritage education within the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approve the development of a new overarching Heritage and Cultural Sub-Committee which amalgamates the existing Arts and Cultural Development Committee and the Museums and Heritage Sub-Committee.**
- 2. Call for Expressions of Interest for members from the community.**
- 3. Advise all existing members of the Arts & Cultural Development Committee and Museums & Heritage Sub-Committee of the development of an overarching Sub-Committee.**

Executive Summary

Since February 2013, a number of meetings have occurred separately with the Arts & Cultural Development Committee (ACDC) and Heritage & Museums Sub-Committee as well as some combined meetings of these 2 committees. The purpose of these meetings has been to consider the development of a new overarching Sub-Committee of Council, which will provide advice to Council on a range of matters associated with culture and heritage in the LGA.

Discussion

The strong Hastings arts and cultural sector was recognised through the greater Port Macquarie region being named New South Wales Fourth City of the Arts in 2001 to 2003. This came with a grant of \$150,000 per annum (for two years) , and a \$50,000 contribution from Council. These funds were expended on a variety of projects, many of which are still in place today (predominantly the public art throughout the LGA). Council created a City of the Arts Taskforce and appointed a Project Officer who reported to Council's Cultural Planner. The Arts and Cultural Development Committee was developed out of the Taskforce and had a key role in the lobbying of Council for the Glasshouse (along with the Gallery Advisory Committee), and the planning of a wide range of projects, three of which still continue - namely AquaSculpture, FreshArt and PlayRites. This Committee worked closely with the Cultural Planner, and since the Cultural Planner was made redundant in 2009, the Committee has been very restricted in its activities due to the lack of a designated Council officer to support the group through the implementation of their ideas and plans.

The Museums and Heritage Committee was originally two separate committees which were combined in 2008. With the Heritage Officer also being made redundant in 2009, this combined Committee found it difficult to action items/plans when there was no dedicated officer in Council support or facilitate the ideas or initiatives. This group has continued to meet regularly, primarily focussed on information sharing, the annual Heritage Festival, and discussions with Council's contracted Heritage Officer.

Proposal

The following proposal is put forward for consideration:

That the two Committees be amalgamated to form a new Sub-Committee of Council.

This will result in a streamlined approach to heritage and cultural policy for Council and potentially a broader number of community driven groups, organisations and projects being supported by Council than ever before. It is anticipated that the new Sub-Committee will provide advice, ideas and recommendations to Council regarding policy matters that relate to the combined heritage and cultural sectors in the Hastings.

The main Council staffing resource of this Sub Committee will be the Community Development Officer - Heritage & Culture, who will be focussed on supporting the resolutions of Council and the new Sub-Committee, as well as driving some Council initiated projects from time to time in this sector as required.

As a consequence of this change, it is expected that there will be a refreshing of the level of involvement and ideas from the community coming forward to Council, as well as a greater focus on assisting the community cultural and heritage groups to be more self supporting and sustaining.

Membership of the Committee

Council will develop a Charter for the Sub-Committee and call for Expressions of Interest from the community, seeking representatives from the community as well as a wide range of organisations and community groups in the LGA to become members of the Sub-Committee. Half the positions will be spilt every two years to enable new members to join and also to ensure continuity of knowledge can be maintained. A Councillor appointed by way of Council resolution would be the Chairperson of this Sub-Committee with a second Councillor also appointed the same way as an Alternate Chairperson.

Interested applicants will be asked to submit an application, outlining their interest and experience in the Heritage, Cultural and or Arts sector in the LGA, their ability to commit to regular meetings and possible working groups, the reasons for their seeking involvement on the Sub-Committee, what they can contribute, and their level of commitment to representing the whole sector, not just their own area of expertise. The membership would be no greater than 10 community members, with the goal being to have as many art and cultural forms represented as possible within this group. Should the new Sub-Committee be established, Councillors would be appointed to the new Sub-Committee and Councillor representation on the current committees would cease by default when the existing Committees of Council are ceased.

Once Expressions of Interest have been received, a report would be put to Council with recommendations for Sub Committee membership. This process could be carried out during December/January, with the new Sub-Committee to commence meeting in February/March 2014.

Role of Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee would report to Council, with relevant advice and recommendations pertaining to the heritage, culture, arts and local creative industries.

In the first Term of the Sub-Committee (2 years) the focus will be on working with Council staff to review all current Heritage planning documents, the development of a Cultural Plan for the PMHC LGA, review of the Public Arts Policy/Procedure and have input into Operational Plan development.

It is also proposed that there be discussion with the broader community regarding the possibility of skills development workshops to be provided, with the intended outcome of increasing the sustainability of the heritage and cultural sector.

Sub-Committee Charter

Key components would include:

1. Assist in the assessment of possible heritage and cultural based projects, using a set criteria.
2. Provide input into current heritage and cultural strategic planning and resourcing.
3. Advise Council on the development of comprehensive cultural strategies.
4. Represent community interest and organisations in the formulation of Council Policies relating to arts, culture and heritage.
5. Advise on strategies for fostering community engagement with an active participation in heritage, arts and cultural programs/ projects/ policy.
6. As individual members of the Sub-Committee, facilitate information flow between Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, heritage and cultural organisations and the wider community.
7. As community members, facilitate partnerships and/or links to establish Port Macquarie-Hastings as a major heritage and cultural destination.
8. Promote and support local creative industries and initiatives.

Options

Council could make no change to the two existing Committees - Arts and Cultural Development, and the Heritage and Museums Sub-Committee.

Community Engagement & Internal Consultation

The concept of a combined Sub Committee has been discussed with both the Museums and Heritage Sub Committee and the Arts and Cultural Development Committees, Councillors and internal staff including General Manager, Executive, Group Manager Governance, Group Manager Community Development.

Planning & Policy Implications

The establishment of the Heritage & Cultural Sub-Committee will assist with future planning and policy matters.

Financial & Economic Implications

Nil.

Attachments

Nil