

# Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee Minutes



**Woollahra Council via ZOOM  
Tuesday 2 June, 5.00pm**

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# Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee Minutes

**Minutes of the Meeting held on  
Tuesday 2 June, 5.00pm  
Via ZOOM**

## **1 PRESENT & APOLOGIES**

Present:	Councillor Anthony Marano	Chair
	Lucinda Regan	Councillor
	Stella Downer	Arts Industry Representative
	Elizabeth Hastings	Arts Industry Representative
	Karin Olah	Community Representative
Staff:	Jo Jansyn	Cultural Development Coordinator
	Lynn Garlick	Director Community Services
Apologies:	Nick Maxwell	Councillor
	Professor Ian Howard	Arts Industry Representative
	Alison Renwick	Arts Industry Representative
	Ali Yeldham	Arts Industry Representative
	Christopher Dawson	Community Representative
	Bernard Curran	Community Representative

## **2 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

All matters arising from previous minutes to be addressed in this meeting. Moved: Cllr Regan  
Seconded: Elizabeth Hastings

## **3 PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **3.1 Judges**

No further update for this meeting.

### **3.2 General Project Update**

The number of entries received so far is similar to the number received at this time in previous years. There have also been several inquiries in regards to the acceptance this year of wall mounted work.

### **3.3 Sponsorship**

A sponsorship proposal will be updated following this meeting. The Committee felt that the new gallery space offered sponsors better opportunities.

The Committee agreed that approaches to sponsors in 2020 was best done when some more concrete news of restrictions lifting was known in approximately three to four weeks' time.

**Action:** Cultural Development Coordinator to circulate updated sponsorship documents to the Committee.

**Action:** The Chair, Committee and Cultural Development Coordinator will pursue sponsorship contacts as discussed.

### 3.4 Publicity Development

The Cultural Development Coordinator reported that the PR proposal from Articulate can be revisited when more information is known about easing of social distancing restrictions.

## 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 4.1 2020 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Scenarios

The key objective of this meeting was to discuss the tabled document (Attachment 1) which outlined possible scenarios for the 2020 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition. The Committee were in unanimous agreement for scenario two which would see the exhibition be hosted as the first show of the Art Gallery, over the summer period. Professor Howard was unable to be present at the meeting but had provided feedback in support of scenario two. The Committee recognised that whilst this was the riskier option, it was strongly favoured for reasons including:

- It better marks the important 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Prize
- Allows for a larger audience across summer if social distancing requirements continue
- The Prize can capitalise on the significant historic development for the arts in Woollahra (new Art Gallery)
- It would allow for all previous acquisitions to be brought into the building to be exhibited alongside the finalists

The Committee had some questions regarding the Art Gallery refurbishment works program however the Director - Community Services reported that the works program was on track.

The Committee agreed that further consideration on whether the Thornton Room (scenario one) would be required for the exhibition could be discussed at the next meeting if there were updates on social distancing requirements and/or the works program for the Art Gallery.

**Action:** Further consideration of exhibition scenarios (if required) to occur at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday 28 July 2020, 5pm via ZOOM.

Attachment 1

**Subject:** **WOOLLAHRA SMALL SCULPTURE PRIZE- 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION**

**Author:** Jo Jansyn

**Reason for Report:** Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Exhibition Scenarios

**Recommendation:**

- A. THAT** The Committee should advise the best scenario for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition of finalists.
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**Background:**

Historically, the date for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize (WSSP) exhibition was programmed around the Local Government Conference dates, as this allowed for utilisation of the Thornton Room due to Council meetings not occurring.

As the length of the exhibition expanded, there has been some flexibility with Council and Committee meetings occurring in alternate spaces in the building, but has still been based on Local Government Conference dates where possible.

Exhibition dates generally overlap with Sculpture by the Sea. This overlap tends to boost our visitor numbers as viewers will often see both exhibitions on the same day.

Local Government Conference: 22 to 24 November 2020.

Sculpture by the Sea: 22 October to 8 November 2020.

To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WSSP, it was anticipated that the exhibition would move to Council's new Art Gallery in the St Brigid's building, thereby removing some of the limitations of utilising the Thornton Room and to hold a larger and longer exhibition.

**COVID-19 SITUATION AND RESTRICTIONS/DISRUPTIONS**

Due to the current pandemic, the refurbishment process for the Art Gallery has experienced slight delays. The date for an 'occupation certificate' is now scheduled for the end of October 2020. The interior fit-out would then need to be completed, prior to the gallery being able to open to the public.

As of 20 May, the government has eased some social distancing restrictions and will allow for galleries to commence re-opening from 1 June around some strict measures which currently include no groups/tours, distance markers and sanitisation.

Both the COVID-19 situation and any Art Gallery delays will impact the presentation of the WSSP exhibition of finalists. Therefore a couple of different scenarios should be considered in relation to the 20<sup>th</sup> WSSP exhibition.

**SCENARIO 1**

Exhibition to be held in Thornton Room at Woollahra Council Chambers in October for 3 weeks and 4 weekends - dates TBC

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**Strengths:**

- Utilising existing space where we have produced nineteen exhibitions to date. The parameters of running the exhibition in the Thornton Room are well known.
- The community likes and appreciates the access to this space.

**Weaknesses:**

- No wall hanging works allowed unless faux walls are utilised (wall hanging works have been permitted in 2020).
- Shorter exhibition period than anticipated in 2020.
- The Thornton Room has less floor space than the Art Gallery (less sq<sup>m</sup> for social distancing requirements and therefore less visitors can be in the space at the same time). Few people could be in the exhibition space at one time, but it can be a space with fresh air as the doors can remain open.

**SCENARIO 2**

The 20<sup>th</sup> WSSP exhibition to launch the new Woollahra Art Gallery based around the gallery completion dates. Exhibition planned 4 week/5 weekend exhibition dates or for an extended period over summer.

**Strengths:**

- WSSP is a flagship event for Council and attracts significant numbers. PR and audiences generated around the Prize are of mutual benefit to a new gallery opening.
- Holding it in the gallery would have less impact on Council activities.
- Will allow for wall hanging sculptural pieces as advertised on entry form.
- More floor space in Art Gallery will allow for better flow and social distancing of visitors.
- Will allow for the possibility of displaying all previous acquisitions together with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition.
- Delaying the 20<sup>th</sup> WSSP exhibition will most likely also coincide with lesser restrictions on public gatherings, which would impact on any launch/ award night opportunities of larger gatherings.

**Weaknesses:**

- Have no final confirmation of completion dates for the building.
- Will not overlap with Sculpture by the Sea.
- New space so will need to develop new install procedures.
- There could be unforeseeable circumstances that could further impact Art Gallery completion dates.

Due to social distancing measures being a challenge, in both scenarios we will be required to develop processes for visitors such as booking online ticketing and special hours for high-risk groups.

**Conclusion:**

The Committee should consider and advise the best scenario for the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition of finalists.