



# Public Art Panel

Thursday, 20 March 2025  
11:30 AM

## Minutes



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**Present:** Councillor Toni Zeltzer (Chair)  
Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis

**Staff:** Patricia Occelli (Director - Community & Customer Experience)  
Vicki Munro (Manager - Community & Culture)  
Maria Lacey (Public Art Coordinator)

**Community Members:** Jillian Broadbent  
David Gonski  
Scott Perkins

**Also in Attendance for Item 8.1:** Adam France (UAP) Marissa Bateman (UAP) Bonnie Suen (Neoscape)

### 1. Opening

The Chair declared the Public Art Panel of 20 March 2025 open and welcomed Councillor Jarvis, representing the Mayor, the Public Art Panel members and staff to this meeting.

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country (Gadigal People and Birrabirragal People)

The Chair read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

*I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people, the traditional custodians of the land. On behalf of Woollahra Council, I acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people attending today and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

### 3. Leave of Absence and Apologies

Apologies were received from Liz Lewin.

### 4. Disclosures of Interest

NIL.

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## **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **5.1. Confirmation of Minutes of Public Art Panel meeting on 13 August 2024.**

It was noted that the deliberation on issues of safety in regards to the potential donation of the artwork *Quantum* by Ron Robertson-Swann was not captured in the previous Minutes from 13 August 2024.

**(Gonski/ Broadbent)**

#### **Resolved:**

THAT the Minutes of the Public Art Panel Meeting of 13 August 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

## **6. Items for Discussion**

### **6.1. Bay Street Public Art Commission *Wadhangarii* by Penny Evans - Update**

#### **Discussion:**

Artist Penny Evans was selected with her artwork design proposal *Wadhangarii* for the Bay Street Public Art commission at the Public Art Panel meeting held on 19 April 2024. A final technical design proposal was presented at the 13 August 2024 meeting and the Panel resolved to progress the Bay Street Public Art Commission to fabrication stage, providing the outstanding issues of the longevity of the final surface finish and the stability were resolved.

Council consulted with the Gujaga Foundation, together with Artist Penny Evans and UAP representatives on 16 December 2024, to receive further advice on the proposed artwork design by Artist Penny Evans. It was discussed and decided, in consultation with the Gujaga Foundation, that one design element would be changed from a 'spear-like' design to a 'stem-like' design, referencing the Gadi grass stem. The Artist and Gujaga Foundation were satisfied with this modification, resulting in a very similar design with a different reference.

The Panel noted the change in design as described above, the change to the sandstone base with wording on one side only as well as the recommended measures for stability and load bearing for the artwork. The Panel reviewed the draft Artwork plaque text and layout and noted the possible unveiling date of the sculpture during National Reconciliation Week, 27 May- 3 June 2

**(Broadbent/Perkins)**

#### **Resolved:**

THAT the Panel:

- A. Noted and supported the update provided on the fabrication and artistic design changes of the Bay Street Public Art commission.
  - B. Supported the draft Artwork plaque text and layout.
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## 6.2. Artwork donation offer - *Quantum* by Ron Robertson-Swann

### Discussion:

At the Public Art Panel meeting held on 13 August 2024, the Panel sought additional information in regards to the artwork donation offer, to be able to assist them in providing a recommendation to Council. This information was provided to the Panel in this report. The additional information in regards to final paint colour has been determined and the work has been refurbished and repainted 'Tomato Red' RAL 3013, with confirmation of a concrete plinth requirement. A number of proposed artwork locations have been suggested within the Christison Park to Lighthouse Reserve area in Vaucluse. A valuation of \$380,000 for the artwork has been provided by accredited Art Valuer Stella Downer.

During discussion, the Panel requested that the Public Art Coordinator and Artist view the artwork to ensure the correct colour has been applied, noting the previous reference to a rustic colour to the artwork. There was also further discussion on whether to reconsider the offer of the second artwork by Ron Robertson-Swann, titled *Tony's Tower II* which had been offered for a five year loan. It was noted that the loan offer had been declined and a letter of thanks had been sent, following the August 2024 meeting.

In accordance with the Donations and Sponsorship Policy the acceptance of the donation of the artwork, *Quantum*, by Ron Robertson-Swann is to be considered by Council.

### (Jarvis/Perkins)

### Resolved:

THAT the Panel:

- A. Noted the requested information in regards to the paint finish, proposed location, plinth requirements, installation and maintenance costs, and artwork value for the proposed donation offer of *Quantum* by Ron Robertson-Swann OAM.
- B. Provided the recommendation to accept the artwork donation *Quantum* by Ron Robertson-Swann OAM and for a report to be presented to Council for approval in accordance with Council's Donations and Sponsorship Policy (amended 11 June 2024).

## 6.3. Offer of acquisition of *Spanish Stallion* by Nic Fiddian Green through Olsen Gallery

### Discussion:

The artwork *Spanish Stallion* by Nic Fiddian Green has been placed in Halls Lane Reserve, Woollahra, since December 2014. The artwork was offered by Olsen Gallery as a loan to Council, in relation to a 2013 exhibition of Nic Fiddian Green's work held at Olsen Gallery on Jersey Road, which is located around the corner of Halls Lane Reserve, Woollahra. The Artist, through Olsen Gallery, would like to terminate the Loan Agreement and offer Woollahra Council the opportunity to acquire the artwork *Spanish Stallion* for \$180,000.

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**(Broadbent/Gonski)**

**Resolved:**

THAT the Panel:

- A. Expressed its gratitude towards the Artist and Olsen Gallery for offering the loan of the artwork since December 2014 in Halls Lane Reserve, which has added amenity to the park for over 10 years.
- B. Considered the offer of acquisition of the artwork *Spanish Stallion* by Nic Fiddian Green but declined the offer of acquisition given the limited financial resources that Woollahra Council has towards public art acquisitions.

**7. General Business**

Public Art in Development Advisings

The Panel was informed that Holly Williams from the Curators' Department is no longer in a position to assist the Panel with advice in regards to public art in developments. For future advisings in relation to public art in developments, Elizabeth Hastings from Elizabeth Hastings Art Consulting will be assisting the Panel. The Panel wants to record their thanks to Holly Williams for her assistance on these matters.

Viewfinder II by Joel Adler

The Panel was informed that an offer of artwork acquisition of *Viewfinder II* by Joel Adler will be reported to the Panel at its June meeting. This offer follows from the previous successful placement of *Viewfinder* in Lighthouse Reserve, Vaucluse.

**8. Advisings**

**8.1. Public Art in Development - Public Art Plan for 2-10 Bay Street, Double Bay**

**Discussion:**

Woollahra Council requires developments valued at \$15 million or more to include public art, when the development is located within the Double Bay, Rose Bay or Edgecliff centres. The planning controls requiring public art in developments are set out in the Woollahra Development Control Plan, 2015 (Woollahra DCP). The Woollahra Public Art Guidelines for Developers supports the Woollahra DCP controls.

UAP, as the Public Art Curator for the development at 2-10 Bay Street, Double Bay, submitted a Public Art Plan for two artwork concept proposals for the development, *Always* by Rebecca Selleck and *Grafting of Time* by Camie Lyons. Adam France from UAP presented the two artwork concept proposals at the meeting for the Panel to review.

**(Broadbent/Perkins)**

**Resolved:**

THAT the Panel:

- A. Reviewed the updated Public Art Plan for the development at 2-10 Bay Street, Double Bay as submitted by UAP.
- B. Provided the recommendation that the preferred artwork concept for the development at 2-10 Bay Street, Double Bay is *Grafting of Time* by Camie Lyons.

**9. Conclusion of the Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1pm.