



CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda and Reports

for the meeting on

Tuesday, 3 November 2026

at 6.30 pm

in the Colonel Light Room, Adelaide Town Hall

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Our Adelaide.
Bold.
Aspirational.
Innovative.

CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda, Tuesday, 3 November 2026, at 6.30 pm

Members – The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith

Councillor Snape (Chair)

Councillor Giles (Deputy Chair)

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Couros, Freeman,
Maher, Martin and Dr Siebentritt

Agenda

Item		Pages
1.	Acknowledgement of Country At the opening of the City Community Services and Culture Committee meeting, the Chair will state: 'The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today. We acknowledge and honour their spiritual and cultural stewardship of this Country and recognise their deep and enduring relationship with its lands, waters, the sky, and all living things. We pay our respects to Kaurna Elders past and present and recognise the important role of emerging leaders in sustaining and strengthening culture.'	
2.	Apologies and Leave of Absence Nil	
3.	Confirmation of Minutes - 6/10/2026 That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 6 October 2026, be taken as read and be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings. View public 6 October 2026 Minutes here .	
4.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
5.	Deputations	
6.	Workshops Nil	
7.	Reports for Recommendation to Council	
	7.1 Live Music Circuit Venue Recognition Scheme	3 - 22
8.	Reports for Noting Nil	
9.	Closure	

Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 3 November 2026
City Community Services and Culture Committee

Program Contact:
Martin Smallridge, Acting
Associate Director City Culture

Approving Officer:
Jo Podoliak, Director City
Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the development of the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme and to seek approval of the proposed Framework and Implementation Plan to pilot (**Attachment A**).

At its meeting on 23 June 2026, Council resolved:

That Council:

1. Endorses the delivery of an integrated Live Music Circuit combining physical, digital and promotional elements, subject to stakeholder permissions for rollout as part of the *2026/27 Annual Business Plan*.
2. Endorses Option 2 – Partnered Program, as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Infrastructure and Public Works Committee held on 16 June 2026, as the preferred delivery model for a venue recognition scheme, noting that the detailed implementation approach, budget requirements, governance considerations and concept design will be subsequently approved by Council.

The Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework and Implementation Plan sets out for this pilot:

- The Scheme's purpose, principles and scope;
- Governance, responsibilities and approval pathways;
- Venue identification and assessment;
- Implementation and ongoing management; and
- Evaluation and review.

The proposed Framework and Implementation Plan also proposes the Adelaide City of Music Office as the delivery partner, supported by a time-limited Advisory Group providing sector input into venue assessment and recognition.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 10 November 2026 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL
THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes progress on the Live Music Circuit following Council's June 2026 decision.
2. Approves the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework and Implementation Plan as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 November 2026.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community Supports vibrant, connected and inclusive communities by celebrating live music culture and heritage, increasing participation, visitation and lively cultural experiences.
Policy	This proposal aligns with the <i>Cultural Policy</i> principles of <i>Amplifying Creative Capital</i> , <i>Preserving Cultural Heritage</i> , <i>Embracing Progress</i> , and <i>Creating Space for Cultural Expression</i> . It also supports the Economic Development Strategy goal of strengthening Adelaide as Australia's festival and creative capital by enabling live music, cultural experiences and creative industries.
Consultation	Preliminary discussions with UNESCO City of Music Office; further consultation with partners, venues, owners, heritage stakeholders and peer reviewers will be part of the implementation process.
Resource	Implementation will prioritise existing operational budgets and leverage existing programs, platforms and channels, including the City's partnership with the Adelaide City of Music Office.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Progression of the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme will require stakeholder approvals, property owner consent and compliance with relevant Council policies and requirements. Recognition schemes also carry governance and reputational risks where inclusion is contested, venues close or change, audiences and cultural significance shift, or content becomes outdated. Risks are mitigated through a partnered delivery with the Adelaide City of Music Office, supported by clear eligibility criteria, transparent and arm's-length assessment, peer and expert validation, agreed governance and decision-making responsibilities, and defined review, update, removal and retirement protocols. This approach also helps ensure recognition remains credible, current and clearly distinguished from commercial endorsement.
Opportunities	Drive visitation to City businesses and sites of cultural and heritage significance; deepen connection with Adelaide's live music cultural heritage and venues; amplify Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation
26/27 Budget Allocation	The pilot has an indicative planning allowance of \$10,000–\$15,000, subject to detailed scoping and costing, and will be delivered within existing budget allocations.
Proposed 27/28 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Pilot implementation is proposed to be completed by June 2027, covering development and delivery of the pilot. Any continuation or expansion would be considered as a subsequent phase.
26/27 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Ongoing costs may include content updates, plaque maintenance, promotion and evaluation. Any future intake would depend on pilot outcomes, resourcing and Council direction.
Other Funding Sources	Potential sources include Adelaide City of Music partnership contributions and relevant State Government or sector funding, subject to eligibility and future program scope.

DISCUSSION

Background

1. At its meeting on 10 March 2026, Council resolved to:
 - 1.1. Request Administration investigate options for a walkable Live Music Circuit celebrating Adelaide's live music culture, including:
 - A. expanding the Heritage Plaques Program to recognise Adelaide's live music history;
 - B. establishing a bespoke plaque or footpath inlay recognition scheme; and
 - C. identifying promotional opportunities through AEDA to increase the visibility of historical and existing live music venues.
 - 1.2. Request Administration produce a report detailing these possibilities for consideration in the 26/27FY business plan and budget.
2. At its meeting on 23 June 2026, Council resolved:
That Council:
 - 2.1. Endorses the delivery of an integrated Live Music Circuit combining physical, digital and promotional elements, subject to stakeholder permissions for rollout as part of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan.
 - 2.2. Endorses Option 2 – Partnered Program, as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Infrastructure and Public Works Committee held on 16 June 2026, as the preferred delivery model for a venue recognition scheme, noting that the detailed implementation approach, budget requirements, governance considerations and concept design will be subsequently approved by Council.
3. Administration has developed the venue recognition component and prepared the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework and Implementation Plan (Framework and Implementation Plan) (**Attachment A**).
 - 3.1. The Framework and Implementation Plan establishes the proposed purpose, scope, governance, venue identification, assessment, implementation, lifecycle and evaluation arrangements for recognising both active and culturally significant former venues and sites.
 - 3.2. The proposed model would recognise both active and culturally significant former venues across the City of Adelaide local government area, while remaining distinct from existing initiatives such as the SA Music Hall of Fame and Heritage Plaques Program.
4. Council approval of the Framework and Implementation Plan is now sought to enable Administration and Adelaide City of Music to progress the Advisory Group, assessment and delivery.

Progress on Live Music Circuit Activities

5. Administration has progressed the broader Live Music Circuit, which celebrates Adelaide's live music heritage and contemporary venue network while amplifying Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation.
6. A key milestone has been the development of the new *Adelaide Live Music Circuit: Your Guide to our City of Music* pocket guide, bringing together live music venues, landmarks and stories as part of the Circuit's printed and digital visitor experience.
 - 6.1. Distribution of the new pocket guide will include featured venues and businesses, City of Adelaide public-facing locations and local street press, supported by promotional activity.
 - 6.2. The new pocket guide forms part of the broader Circuit's coordinated visitor experience and will be supported by renewed digital content, wayfinding and promotional activity.
7. Research for the Heritage Plaques / Blue Plaques component has been completed. Engagement with relevant venue and property owners will progress to secure installation approvals, with delivery anticipated across 2026/27 subject to permissions.
 - 7.1. Existing Live Music Circuit elements, including City of Music Laneways, music-themed public art, venue decals and mapped live music venues, continue to provide the foundation for the Circuit.
 - 7.2. A review of the Circuit's online and digital resources is underway across Experience Adelaide and other City platforms, including existing trails, venue profiles and related music content.
 - 7.3. The review will consider how these resources can be better consolidated and structured around precincts and city quadrants to support navigation and discovery.

- 7.4. Development of QR-enabled signage and wayfinding is continuing alongside the digital review and will be refined to align with the new pocket guide and consolidated web assets, ensuring physical and digital elements operate as a coordinated visitor experience.

Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Delivery Partner

8. Administration recommends that the City partners with the [Adelaide City of Music Office](#) (ACOM) noting that preliminary discussions have been undertaken regarding the proposed delivery model.
 - 8.1. ACOM is considered well placed to support the Scheme through its independent sector role, connection to Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation, and established relationships across artists, venues and the broader music sector, providing arms-length expertise and peer input.
 - 8.2. This partnership model has precedent through ACOM's advisory role in the assessment and recommendation of venues recognised through the City of Music Laneways initiative.
 - 8.3. ACOM would convene a time-limited Advisory Group to provide independent sector expertise and peer input.
 - 8.4. The City of Adelaide would retain accountability for governance and delivery, including due diligence, permissions, budget, procurement, assets, evaluation and Council reporting.

Eligibility, Criteria and Assessment

9. The pilot recognition cohort will be limited to venues and venue sites within the City of Adelaide local government area.
 - 9.1. Recognition would be based on cultural significance and community value rather than popularity, commercial success or prominence alone.
 - 9.2. Venue identification will be informed by research and sector expertise rather than an open public callout or application process.
10. A two-stage assessment process is proposed, commencing with an eligibility assessment by Administration and the Adelaide City of Music Office to confirm:
 - 10.1. Evidence of a current or significant historic live music function;
 - 10.2. Sufficient evidence for assessment;
 - 10.3. A viable pathway to operator and owner consent; and
 - 10.4. No material legal, safety, integrity or reputational barriers.
11. Eligible venues would then be assessed by the Advisory Group against four cultural criteria:
 - 11.1. Longevity – sustained contribution to live music.
 - 11.2. Cultural and community significance – influence on Adelaide's music culture, identity and communities, including support for diverse genres, cultures and participation.
 - 11.3. Contribution to the live music ecology – support for artists, audiences and the broader music sector.
 - 11.4. Connection to place – relationship with its precinct and Adelaide's broader music narrative,
12. The final assessment criteria will be refined by Administration with Adelaide City of Music and the Advisory Group before assessment commences.

Next Steps

13. Following Council's decision, Administration will implement the Scheme in accordance with the approved Framework and Implementation Plan, incorporating Council's feedback.
 - 13.1. December 2026 through early 2027: Progress partnership arrangements, detailed assessment criteria, Advisory Group arrangements, due diligence, permissions and concept development.
 - 13.2. Early 2027: Progress venue research and assessment.
 - 13.3. From mid-2027: Implementation coordinated with the broader Live Music Circuit, including the renewed digital content, pocket guide, QR-enabled signage, promotion, launch or showcase activity.
 - 13.4. December 2027: Evaluate pilot cohort to inform any future resourcing of the Scheme.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework and Implementation Plan.

- END OF REPORT -

LIVE MUSIC CIRCUIT - VENUE RECOGNITION SCHEME FRAMEWORK & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Purpose, Governance and Assessment

October 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and gather.

We acknowledge and honour their spiritual and cultural stewardship of this country and recognise their deep and enduring relationship with its lands, waters, the sky, and all living things.

We pay our respects to Kaurna Elders past and present and recognise the important role of emerging leaders in sustaining and strengthening culture.

DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

Contact for enquiries and proposed changes

If you have any questions regarding this document or if you have a suggestion for improvements, please contact:

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Version History

Version	Revision Date	Revised By	Revision Description
1.0			

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1. PURPOSE

The Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework & Implementation Plan (Framework & Implementation Plan) provides a transparent and evidence-led approach to recognising active and former Adelaide CBD venues and sites that have made a significant cultural contribution and demonstrated community value within Adelaide's live music culture and communities.

The Scheme forms part of the broader Live Music Circuit and supports implementation of the City of Adelaide Cultural Policy and Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation and the City of Adelaide's Strategic Plan 2024-28.

The Scheme is intended to preserve and interpret Adelaide's live music stories, strengthen connection to place and encourage discovery of contemporary and historic live music experiences.

1.1 Objectives

The Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme aims to:

- **Amplify Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation** by making the city's live music heritage and contemporary music ecology more visible and accessible.
- **Recognise significant live music venues and sites** including different genres, communities, venue scales and cultural histories, that have made a sustained cultural contribution and demonstrated community value.
- **Preserve and interpret Adelaide's live music stories**, including the contribution of both active venues and culturally significant former venues or sites.
- **Strengthen connection to place and encourage discovery** of Adelaide's live music culture through coordinated physical, digital and promotional interpretation.
- **Provide a transparent, evidence-led and sector-informed recognition process** supported by clear governance, peer expertise, consistent assessment and ongoing review.
- **Recognise the diversity of Adelaide's live music ecology**, including different genres, communities, venue scales and cultural histories.
- **Complement existing civic and sector-led recognition programs**, rather than duplicate or replace them.
- **Establish a sustainable recognition model** that can be evaluated, reviewed and appropriately resourced before any future continuation or expansion.

1.2 Principles

The principles guiding the scheme will be:

- **Culturally focused:** recognising cultural significance and community value rather than commercial success, while reflecting the diversity of Adelaide's live music ecology.
- **Evidence-led:** decisions supported by credible and appropriately documented evidence.
- **Sector informed:** drawing on independent music-sector, cultural, heritage and specialist expertise.
- **Transparent and accountable:** using clear criteria, documented assessment and defined decision-making responsibilities.
- **Place based:** recognising the relationship between live music, venues, communities and the City of Adelaide.

- **Sustainable:** considering permissions, assets, maintenance, review and ongoing resourcing before recognition is implemented.

1.3 Strategic Alignment

The Scheme supports the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024–2028, particularly the Our Community aspiration for a vibrant, connected and inclusive city and the outcome of Adelaide being an interesting and engaging place to live, learn and visit.

It contributes to the Strategic Plan indicator to amplify Adelaide’s designation as a UNESCO City of Music by making the city’s live music heritage, venues and contemporary music ecology more visible, accessible and connected to place.

The Scheme also provides practical implementation of the City of Adelaide Cultural Policy, particularly through:

- *Amplifying Creative Capital:* recognising and promoting the venues, artists, workers and communities that contribute to Adelaide’s live music ecology and strengthening the visibility of Adelaide’s cultural stories.
- Culturally Inclusive and Socially Connected – recognising diverse genres, cultures and communities and strengthening connection and participation through shared music histories.
- *Preserving Cultural Heritage, Embracing Progress:* documenting and interpreting active and former music venues, including cultural histories that may sit outside conventional heritage recognition.
- *Creating Space for Cultural Expression:* increasing awareness and discovery of places that enable live music, creative practice and cultural participation.

The partnered model further supports the Cultural Policy emphasis on collaboration and shared cultural responsibility, leveraging Adelaide City of Music Office, Board and independent sector expertise to deliver recognition credibly and sustainably.

2. SCOPE

The pilot recognition cohort will be limited to venues and venue sites within the City of Adelaide local government area.

2.1 Recognition Types

Recognition may include:

- **Active venues** – operating venues making a sustained and significant contribution to Adelaide’s live music culture.
- **Legacy venues or sites** – former venues or places with significant live music histories and positive community impact that warrant cultural interpretation.

Heritage-listed places with current or historical uses as live music venues may continue to be recognised separately through the existing [City of Adelaide, Heritage Plaques program](#) where appropriate.

2.2 Pilot Recognition Cohort

As a pilot initiative, any establishment of an ongoing intake would require evaluation, appropriate resourcing and further governance consideration, including a decision of Council.

2.3 Nature and Limitations of Recognition

While the Scheme provides formal civic recognition, recognition of a venue or site does not:

- Constitute an award, ranking or popularity contest;
- Represent commercial endorsement of a venue or operator;
- Provide an entitlement to funding or commercial benefit;
- Confer heritage listing, planning protection or regulatory status;
- Guarantee permanent recognition; or
- Automatically follow recognition through another industry, cultural or heritage program.

2.4 Relationship to Other Recognition Programs

The Scheme also recognises the value of existing sector-led and civic initiatives within South Australia and abroad. This scheme is intended to complement, rather than duplicate or replace, programs such as the SA Music Hall of Fame and the City of Adelaide Heritage Plaques Program, with those initiatives continuing to provide their own distinct forms of recognition, commemoration and interpretation.

3. DELIVERY PARTNER

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Council has endorsed a partnered delivery model for the Scheme. Subject to agreement regarding scope, capacity, governance and resourcing, Adelaide City of Music is recommended as the delivery partner, working with the City of Adelaide and a time-limited Advisory Group.

City of Adelaide (Administration)

- Leads development and implementation of the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme within the Council-approved Framework & Implementation Plan.
- Retains responsibility for due diligence, permissions, procurement, expenditure, public assets, content, evaluation and Council reporting.
- Prepares evidence dossiers, coordinates stakeholder engagement and manages the delivery partner and Advisory Group arrangements.
- Ensures implementation complies with relevant City policies, delegations and operational requirements.

City of Adelaide (Council)

- Approves the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Framework & Implementation Plan.
- Provides strategic direction on the Scheme's objectives, principles and governance arrangements.
- Considers any future material changes to the Framework & Implementation Plan or continuation of the Scheme.

Adelaide City of Music Office (Delivery Partner)

- Provides sector knowledge and independent expertise.
- Supports development and testing of criteria, evidence and assessment arrangements.
- Convenes relevant music-sector and specialist expertise, including the Advisory Group.
- Supports sector engagement and connection with artists, venues and music organisations.

- Strengthens alignment with Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music designation and positions the Scheme within a broader international City of Music context.
- Supports the Scheme to complement, rather than duplicate, existing local and sector-led recognition initiatives.

Advisory Group

- Provides arms-length sector and specialist advice to complement the roles of Adelaide City of Music and the City of Adelaide.
- Reviews evidence and supports assessment and moderation of the proposed recognition cohort.
- Identifies gaps, conflicts or areas requiring further research or specialist input.
- Provides advice only, with decision-making, expenditure and formal recognition remaining with the City of Adelaide and Council under the approved Framework & Implementation Plan.

3.2 Advisory Group

The Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme Advisory Group will be convened through Adelaide City of Music, with its membership, scope and participation developed in negotiation with the City of Adelaide.

Membership would be targeted and time-limited, drawing on the expertise required for the pilot recognition cohort rather than seeking representation from every stakeholder organisation.

Potential participants and contributors may include:

- Adelaide City of Music Board and Office, including select members of its Artist Advisory Committee;
- MusicSA, APRA AMCOS and the Music Development Office / CreateSA, providing contemporary industry knowledge and sector connections;
- current and former live music venue operators, promoters and music workers;
- artists and musicians representing different genres, career stages and communities;
- music historians, journalists, broadcasters, archivists and heritage specialists, including relevant collecting institutions where appropriate;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and cultural organisations, and culturally and linguistically diverse artists and organisations.;
- other cultural, community or specialist expertise identified as necessary through the assessment process.

The City of Adelaide would also draw on relevant internal expertise, including Arts and Culture, Heritage, City Experience, Marketing and Communications, Asset Management, Public Realm, Procurement, Legal, Access and AEDA particularly in relation to permissions, interpretation, visitor experience, asset management and implementation.

Participation in the Advisory Group would be distinct from broader stakeholder consultation. Some organisations or individuals may contribute targeted evidence, historical knowledge, factual review or specialist advice without being formal Advisory Group members. This allows the group itself to remain small and workable while still drawing on a broad sector evidence base.

4. IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, AND CRITERIA

4.1 Venue Identification

The pilot venue pool will be developed through a combination of:

- Existing City research and data;
- Adelaide City of Music and broader sector expertise;
- The Live Music Census and Live Music Guide;
- Archival and historical research;
- Existing industry and cultural recognition programs;
- Targeted engagement with artists, venues, historians and relevant communities; and
- Insights from the Advisory Group, including venues or sites that may warrant further consideration.

This approach enables the Scheme to draw on both documented evidence and sector knowledge, helping identify significant venues and histories that may not be captured through formal records alone.

4.1.1 No Public Callout

The Scheme is not proposed to operate through a public callout or open application process. Suggestions and referrals provide an additional source of information to support research and venue identification, rather than a separate or preferential pathway to recognition.

Suggestions will:

- Be recorded and considered by City of Adelaide Administration and Adelaide City of Music alongside other research and sector evidence;
- Not constitute a formal nomination, application or guarantee that a venue will progress to assessment;
- Be subject to the same eligibility requirements and cultural assessment framework as all other venues;
- Be considered having regard to the scope, timing, available resources and size of the relevant recognition cohort; and
- Not receive additional weight because of the number of suggestions received or the profile of the person or organisation making the suggestion.

4.1.2 Progression to Eligibility

Venues identified through these pathways will only progress where there is a reasonable basis for further consideration and will then be subject to the same preliminary eligibility, evidence and cultural assessment process.

4.2 Eligibility

Following venue identification, a preliminary eligibility assessment will be undertaken by City of Adelaide Administration, with input from Adelaide City of Music and relevant technical or specialist areas where required.

A venue or site must satisfy the eligibility requirements before progressing to cultural assessment by the Advisory Group.

Eligibility will consider:

- Location within the approved City of Adelaide local government area;

- Credible evidence of a current or substantial historic live music function;
- Sufficient evidence to support accurate assessment and interpretation;
- Distinct community value without unnecessary duplication of existing recognition;
- A realistic pathway to operator and property-owner consent; and
- City due diligence identifying no unresolved material legal, safety, integrity or reputational barrier.

Where appropriate, venue operators or site representatives may be contacted at this stage to clarify factual matters, permissions or available evidence. Participation will be proportionate and will not require preparation of a formal application or business case.

4.3 Cultural Criteria

Eligible venues or sites will then progress to cultural assessment, informed by City of Adelaide, Adelaide City of Music and the Advisory Group.

Assessment will consider four proposed cultural criteria:

1. **Longevity:** considers the extent to which a venue or site has made a sustained contribution to live music over time, including continuity through changes in ownership, operation or venue identity.
2. **Cultural and community significance:** Considers the extent to which a venue or site has influenced Adelaide's music culture, identity and communities, including significant performances, artistic milestones, recognised cultural histories, and meaningful opportunities for diverse genres, cultures and participation.
3. **Contribution to the live music ecology:** considers how a venue or site has supported artists, audiences, promoters, technicians and other music workers, including pathways for performance, development, collaboration and participation.
4. **Connection to place:** considers the relationship between the venue or site, its precinct and the City of Adelaide's broader music narrative, including how the location contributes to a coherent understanding of Adelaide's live music history and culture.

The Advisory Group will provide peer and specialist advice against the agreed criteria, supported by the evidence prepared through the City and delivery partner process. Final recognition will remain subject to the approved City of Adelaide governance and decision-making pathway.

4.4 Evidence and Assessment

4.4.1 Preparation

The City of Adelaide and delivery partner, Adelaide City of Music, will prepare a standardised evidence dossier for each venue progressing to cultural assessment.

The depth of research will be proportionate to the significance and complexity of the venue and scaled according to available budget, staff capacity and competing program priorities.

Where required, the City of Adelaide and Adelaide City of Music may engage an appropriately qualified third-party researcher, contractor or advisor to support dossier preparation.

4.4.2 Evidence Sources

Evidence may include:

- Venue and artist records;
- Archival and historical material;

- Independent media and published histories;
- Oral histories and community testimony;
- Sector knowledge; and
- Available quantitative information.

Quantitative or commercial information may provide useful context but will not be mandatory or decisive.

4.4.3 Venue and Stakeholder Input

Where appropriate, venues or site representatives may be contacted to verify information, address evidence gaps, identify relevant records or histories, and provide contextual information.

Requests will be proportionate and limited to information reasonably available. Venues will not be required to undertake extensive data collection, provide commercial information or prepare an advocacy submission, and their capacity to provide information will not advantage or disadvantage their assessment.

4.4.4 Evidence Gaps

Where documentation is limited but cultural significance appears credible, additional research, oral-history collection or specialist input may be undertaken where proportionate and resources allow.

Non-response will not automatically exclude a venue where sufficient independent evidence is available.

4.4.5 Assessment Record and Confidentiality

The evidence dossier will record supporting sources, key findings, material gaps and contested information.

Venue-provided information will be considered alongside independent and sector evidence, providing a consistent basis for Advisory Group assessment and moderation.

Evidence dossiers will be internal assessment documents and will not ordinarily be published. Public-facing recognition and interpretation will instead draw from verified and approved content developed through the assessment process.

4.5 Integrity and Moderation

Advisory members will declare and manage actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest, including recusal where appropriate.

Assessment will apply the same approved criteria and evidence standards across all venues and will draw on multiple sources. It will not rely solely on information provided by a venue or the testimony of one individual.

Lobbying or advocacy outside the agreed assessment process will not form part of the evidence considered.

The proposed pilot cohort may be moderated to ensure a balanced and representative recognition outcome aligned with the objectives of the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme.

Where required, the Advisory Group may seek further independent research before reaching a finding.

Assessment and moderation findings will be documented, including the evidence relied upon and reasons for the outcome. Where significant differing views remain, these will also be recorded.

Moderation will support balance across the overall cohort but will not introduce additional criteria or override the requirement for each venue or site to demonstrate cultural significance against the approved framework.

5. DECISION RIGHTS

Clear decision rights are required to preserve the independence of the assessment process while ensuring accountability remains with the City of Adelaide.

The Scheme separates the roles of the elected Council, City Administration, delivery partner and Advisory Group so that advice, assessment, implementation, review and formal decision-making are clearly distinguished.

Council (Elected Body) retains decision-making authority for matters expressly reserved to Council under the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme Framework & Implementation Plan.

- Approves any material changes to the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme's purpose, scope or governance framework.
- Determines whether to continue, expand, materially amend or discontinue the Scheme following evaluation or review.
- May consider matters escalated by Administration where the significance, risk or public interest warrants Council determination.

City of Adelaide (Administration) manages development and implementation of the Scheme within the Council-approved Framework & Implementation Plan, including research, due diligence, stakeholder engagement, permissions, procurement, budget, assets, content and reporting.

- Administrative and expenditure decisions will be made in accordance with relevant delegations and policies.
- Administration may manage factual corrections, routine content updates and lifecycle reviews.
- Where new evidence, process concerns or material changes in circumstances arise, Administration will determine whether further research, Advisory Group consideration or referral to Council is required.
- Temporary suspension of active recognition or promotion may be considered, subject to relevant delegations, while a material matter is reviewed.

Adelaide City of Music – delivery partner supports delivery of the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme through sector expertise, partnership coordination, development of the assessment approach and convening of relevant industry and specialist input.

- The delivery partner may also support further research or reassessment where new evidence or material issues arise.

Advisory Group provides arms-length peer and specialist advice on evidence, assessment and cohort moderation.

- It may reconsider matters where substantive new evidence, an identified conflict or an assessment integrity issue warrants further review.
- Its role is advisory and it does not independently confer, suspend or remove recognition, commit City expenditure or exercise decision-making authority reserved for the City of Adelaide or Council.

Venue operators and property owners may be requested to provide information and permissions where required, but do not determine cultural assessment or recognition outcomes.

- They may raise factual inaccuracies or provide new material information, but do not determine cultural assessment, moderation or recognition outcomes.

6. PERMISSIONS AND DELIVERY

Physical recognition will only proceed once all relevant approvals, permissions and implementation requirements have been addressed, including:

- Venue/operator and property-owner consent;
- Public realm, asset and site-specific technical approvals;
- Accessibility, safety and cultural review requirements;
- Factual verification and content approval;
- Rights and permissions for images, archival material or other content;
- Procurement, fabrication and installation requirements; and
- Confirmation of asset ownership, maintenance and replacement responsibilities.

The standard recognition plaque and installation will be funded through the Scheme and will not be at the cost of the recognised venue or property owner.

Where installation on the venue or property is not feasible or supported, alternative recognition treatments may be considered, including placement on nearby City of Adelaide-managed infrastructure or public realm assets. Any alternative treatment will be subject to site suitability, relevant approvals, accessibility, maintenance requirements and an appropriate cost-benefit assessment.

Digital interpretation may also be used where a physical marker is not practical, feasible or does not represent value for money.

7. RECOGNITION LIFECYCLE

7.1 Changes to Recognition

Recognition will be supported through physical and/or digital interpretation and integrated into the broader Live Music Circuit.

Active venue recognition will remain current through event-based updates where material changes occur. A change of ownership or operator will not automatically affect recognition where the venue's live music function and cultural significance continue.

A review may be triggered where:

- A venue closes, relocates or substantially changes its live music function;
- Ownership or operation changes in a way that materially affects the basis for recognition;
- A recognised building or site is significantly altered or demolished;
- Credible new information affects the accuracy or appropriateness of recognition;
- A marker requires significant repair or replacement; or
- Reputational or integrity concerns arise.

Where a venue closes or changes use, active recognition may transition to *legacy recognition* where the site retains cultural significance.

Where a building is demolished or a marker can no longer remain in place, alternative physical or digital interpretation may be considered, subject to significance, feasibility, approvals and value for money.

7.2 Review and Evaluation

Following delivery of the pilot recognition cohort, the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme will be reviewed and individual acknowledgements evaluated every four years to confirm their continued relevance, accuracy, condition and alignment with the approved Framework & Implementation Plan.

7.3 Administrative and Council Decisions

Routine factual, digital and asset-management updates may be managed administratively between review cycles. Temporary suspension or other interim action may be undertaken in accordance with relevant delegations while a matter is reviewed.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND BRANDING

8.1 Cultural Recognition

Recognition will clearly distinguish *cultural recognition* from commercial endorsement. Inclusion in the Scheme recognises a venue or site's cultural significance and does not represent endorsement of its current business operations, commercial performance or services.

8.2 Branding and Identity

Adelaide City of Music and UNESCO-related branding will only be used in accordance with agreed protocols and approvals.

Use of the UNESCO City of Music identity will reflect Adelaide's designation and connection to the broader City of Music network but will not imply endorsement of individual venues by UNESCO internationally.

8.3 Promotion and Storytelling

Recognised venues and their stories may be promoted through the broader Live Music Circuit, including:

- Digital content and mapping;
- The Live Music Circuit printed guide and related visitor information;
- City of Adelaide and Adelaide City of Music communication channels;
- Social media and media activity; and
- Coordinated launch, unveiling or showcase activity.

Promotional activity will focus on the cultural significance, history and contribution of recognised venues and sites, while supporting discovery of Adelaide's broader live music culture.

The scale, format and frequency of promotional and storytelling activity will be determined by the City of Adelaide and its delivery partners, having regard to available resources, communication priorities, audience value and the most appropriate treatment for each recognised venue or site.

Recognition does not create an entitlement to a particular level, format or frequency of promotional activity.

9. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Evaluation measures will align with the City of Adelaide Cultural Policy and Strategic Plan, enabling the Live Music Circuit – Venue Recognition Scheme to be assessed both on its own performance and on its broader contribution to cultural outcomes.

The pilot cohort will be evaluated against measures that may include:

- Contribution to Cultural Policy and Strategic Plan outcomes;
- Community and sector engagement;
- Representation and diversity across the cohort;
- Quality, accessibility and cultural value of interpretation;
- Digital and visitor engagement;
- Stakeholder confidence in the assessment and governance process;
- Effectiveness of the City of Adelaide, Adelaide City of Music and Advisory Group model;
- Delivery effort, cost and value for money; and
- Asset, maintenance and lifecycle requirements.

Evaluation will be led by City of Adelaide Administration, informed by the delivery partner and relevant stakeholder feedback.

Findings will inform whether the Scheme should continue, expand, be refined or conclude, including any future governance, funding and resourcing requirements. Material expansion or change will remain subject to Council consideration.

The Framework & Implementation Plan will be reviewed following completion of the pilot cohort. Thereafter, the Scheme and individual acknowledgements will be evaluated every four years, or earlier where material governance, policy, integrity or delivery issues arise.

10. CONTACT AND INTERNAL LEAD

The Arts and Culture team within Creative City, City of Adelaide is the internal lead for the Live Music Circuit - Venue Recognition Scheme and will coordinate its development, implementation and ongoing administration.

The Arts and Culture team will:

- Lead delivery of the Scheme within the approved Framework & Implementation Plan;
- Coordinate the partnership with Adelaide City of Music and the Advisory Group;
- Oversee venue identification, research and evidence development;
- Coordinate stakeholder engagement and relevant internal City advice;
- Manage governance, Council reporting and implementation requirements;
- Coordinate permissions, content, procurement and asset considerations with relevant City teams;
- Oversee budget, resourcing, evaluation and periodic review of the Scheme;
- Maintain key Scheme records, assessment documentation and implementation decisions; and
- Escalate material governance, risk or policy matters through the appropriate pathways.

Internal Lead: Arts and Culture, Creative City, City Culture, City Community.
City of Adelaide.