

Kaurna Voices / Cultural Mapping

Strategic Alignment - Dynamic City Culture

Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Reconciliation Committee

Program Contact:

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Public

Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain feedback from Committee Members on the work undertaken to date on Council's cultural mapping project, entitled Kaurna Voices, and the proposed approach to the next stage of the project.

Kaurna Voices will be a web based interactive map that presents information in an accessible format to encourage greater understanding and awareness of Kaurna Culture and relationship with Country, specifically that area known as the Adelaide Park Lands.

On 3 May 2023, Administration provided a presentation to Committee Members on the first stage of this project.

Stage one has included:

- the development of a draft Kaurna Voices webpage
- seven draft webpage entries containing edited recorded interviews (video and audio) with Kaurna Elders
- 13 draft webpage entries containing written text and images informed by a piece of research commissioned by the City of Adelaide as part of the 2015-2025 Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Review.

Feedback is sought from Committee Members on the draft webpage design and content developed to date, and the proposed approach to the next stage of the project.

A presentation of the draft webpage and content will be provided at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Notes the work completed to date on the interactive web based cultural mapping project, Kaurna Voices and proposed next steps.
 2. Endorses Stage One of the Kaurna Voices project to go live by Q3, 2023-24.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Dynamic City Culture 3.1 Support, promote and share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and pay homage to the Kurna people as Traditional Owners
Policy	This project is an action of the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan, which states - 'utilise the Kurna cultural mapping project to capture sites of significance in the city and North Adelaide.'
Consultation	To date, Administration has provided an update on this project to the Reconciliation Committee and two updates to Board Members of the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation. The first stage of this project has included interviews with Kurna Elders, which have been conducted by Kurna staff members of Southern Cultural Immersion.
Resource	The knowledge and skills of the Kurna Community and organisations will be utilised to complete the second stage of the Kurna Voices project.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	We will continue to engage with the Kurna Community to mitigate risks associated with collecting and sharing Kurna Culture that is culturally sensitive.
Opportunities	Kurna Voices will encourage greater understanding and awareness of Kurna Culture and Kurna's relationship with the Adelaide Park Lands and contribute to other initiatives including the development of City Plan and the review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy.
23/24 Budget Allocation	\$75,000 is allocated to stage two. This includes \$50,000 for further content, \$15,000 for further webpage development and \$10,000 for promotion of the webpage including a launch.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	It is our intention to launch the Kurna Voices webpage by Q3 2023-24.
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. On Wednesday 3 May 2023, the Reconciliation Committee was provided with a Kurna Voices and Cultural Mapping project overview – [Link 1](#). This overview included:
 - 1.1 An explanation of the project, being the development of an interactive educational web-based map that celebrates Kurna Culture and connection to Country through various mediums including the collection of stories relating to the Cultural significance of the Adelaide Park Lands to the Kurna people.
 - 1.2 Council utilising Southern Cultural Immersion (a Kurna owned and operated business) to collect video recorded stories from Kurna Elders.
 - 1.3 Council Administration collating images, written stories and historical accounts relating to sites of cultural significance identified in the report ‘Community Land Management Plans: Adelaide Parklands and City Squares Aboriginal Heritage 2005’ – [Link 2](#).
2. Stage one of the project saw seven video recordings completed, featuring stories from Kurna Elders and Kurna Community members as well as a Welcome to Country filmed at Mount Lofty overlooking the Adelaide Plains (Kurna Country).
3. Kurna Elders and community members who shared their stories are listed below:

Kurna Member	Description
Welcome to Country- Mount Lofty	Jack Buckskin, a proud Kurna, Narungga and Wirangu man, welcomes you to Country on behalf of the Kurna people
Pirtawardli / Possum Park	Aunty Rosemary Wanganeen speaks about the importance of the Park Lands, her childhood memories and her hopes for the Park Lands in the future.
Kainka Wirra / Botanic Gardens	Aunty Lynette Crocker speaks about the cultural significance of Kainka Wirra (the Botanical Gardens) and the importance of preserving the gardens
Wauwi / Light Square	Aunty Yvonne Aguis, a Kurna Elder, speaks about her childhood around Wauwi (Light Square) and how it’s important for her to continue the work her Elders fought for.
Tarntanyangga / Victoria Square	Uncle Lewis O’Brien, a Kurna Elder and his son Uncle Mickey O’Brien speak about the cultural significance of Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) as the centre of Adelaide.
Tarntanya Wama / Pinky Flat	Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch and Nasyah Turner, speak about his role as a Kurna Elder, the emotional significance of Tarntanya Wama (Pinky Flat) and his hopes for future generations.
Tulya Wardli / Bonython Park	Aunty Rosalind Coleman speaks about the cultural significance of Bonython Park

4. Combined with the above videos, the following points of interest have been mapped to date on the draft web page:

Area	Format	Cultural significance
Pirtawardli/Possum Park	Images and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School site • Brick sheds built as Aboriginal housing • Mullawirraburka (also known as King John or Onkaparinga Jack), a Kurna man who came from the Mullawirra area. • Fringe camps
Kainka Wirra/Botanic Gardens	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunty Lynette Crocker speaks about the cultural significance of Kainka Wirra (the Botanical Gardens) and the importance of preserving the gardens

Area	Format	Cultural significance
Wita Wirra/Peppermint Park	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurna shield made from a culturally modified tree
Pityarilla/Pelzer Park	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kardi Munta (emu net) and the Kardi (emu) sculptures
Tanda njapari/Karra Wirra Pari/ River Torrens	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sheds near the Torrens Weir (religion and dispossession of culture site) • Tarnda Kanya/Kangaroo Rock • Pinky Flat
Tulya Wardli/Bonython Park	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunty Rosalind Coleman shares her story about the cultural significance of Bonython Park
Pakapakanthi / Victoria Park	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngadlu Padninthi Kumangka 'We Walk Together' (log carving)
Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Lewis O'Brien, a Kurna Elder and his son Uncle Mickey O'Brien speak about the cultural significance of Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) as the centre of Adelaide.
Mount Lofty looking across to the Park Lands	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Buckskin, a proud Kurna, Narungga and Wirangu man, welcomes you to Country on behalf of the Kurna people.
Kainka Wirra/Botanic Gardens	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kainkawirra waterhole located in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Traditional Kurna camping area • Main lake located in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens
Tarntanya Wama/ Adelaide Oval	Image and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boarding school
Tarntanya Wama/Pinky Flat	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch and Nasyah Turner, speak about his role as a Kurna Elder, the emotional significance of Tarntanya Wama (Pinky Flat) and his hopes for future generations
Wauwi/Light Square	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunty Yvonne Aguis, a Kurna Elder, speaks about her childhood around Wauwi (Light Square) and how it's important for her to continue the work her Elders fought for.
Pirtawardli /Possum Park	Video and audio transcript	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aunty Rosemary Wanganeen speaks about the importance of the Park Lands, her childhood memories and her hopes for the Park Lands in the future.

Stage Two

5. In addition to the content collected and the draft webpage developed to date, feedback is sought on Council Administration's proposed approach to Stage Two, being:
 - 5.1 Increased emphasis on audio and written content that demonstrates a broader geographical connection between Kurna and the Park Lands. Content included to date has primarily focused along Karra Wirra Pari / River Torrens, reflecting the significance of the riparian environs to Kurna.
 - 5.2 Finalise video content. While these are a core interactive element of the Kurna Voices webpage, they are expensive to produce (eg the seven edited interviews utilised most of the Stage One budget). It is recommended that a maximum of three additional videos are created in Stage Two.
 - 5.3 Remaining focused on mapping sites of significance in the Adelaide Park Lands (including the Squares), as opposed to the built form of the city.
 - 5.4 Incorporating elements of truth telling through research and interviews with Kurna Community members.

- 5.5 Allocating approximately \$10,000 of the Stage Two project budget to promotion of the webpage including a launch to ensure there is broad community awareness of Kurna Voices, once finalised (noting that the webpage will be designed so it can be added to as opportunities arise).
6. City of Adelaide seeks any additional feedback from the Committee on this project, including in relation to the seeking, recording and presentation of material, ways to ensure that the project is relevant and accessible for everyone's ongoing learning and how the project might strengthen the acknowledgement and celebration of Culture and Country.

Next Steps

7. Following feedback received from this meeting, a project brief will be developed in consultation with the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation Board to commence Stage Two of Kurna Voices.
8. An update on progress of Stage 2 of the project will be provided to the Reconciliation Committee in February 2024.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Reconciliation Committee 3 May 2023 – [Kurna Voices / Cultural Mapping presentation](#)

Link 2 - Community Land Management Plans: Adelaide Parklands and City Squares Aboriginal Heritage 2005

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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