

Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden

Wednesday, 29 November 2023
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

Program Contact:
Jennifer Kalionis - Associate
Director, City Culture

Public

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis - Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Trust (the Trust) is seeking support and guidance from the Reconciliation Committee about the approaches for Kaurna language dual naming or alternatives for the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden (the garden), which is located in Karrawirra / Red Gum Park (Park 12).

The Trust seeks guidance from the Reconciliation Committee in relation to the naming of the Garden itself, recognising opportunities for Truth Telling and healing and for the growth of a relationship with the Kaurna community and strong engagement into the future. Following Kaurna consultation and advice, as with other naming proposals, this would be subject to Council approval.

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden was officially opened on 19 April 1941. The origin of the garden was in South Australia's centenary celebrations, held in 1936, when the women of South Australia raised £6250 to create a befitting memorial to the pioneering women of the State. Its name is linked to an acknowledgement of South Australia's colonial past.

This item will be tabled for discussion with a Trust representative in attendance to answer any inquiries from Committee Members.

This report also seeks guidance on Kaurna-led engagement, and ways that City of Adelaide may respectfully and ethically support and empower the sharing of Kaurna knowledge about Country through place-making activities, signage and promotion on Country, and throughout the Park Lands in particular.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Notes the intent of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden Trust to seek advice about approaches and opportunities the potential inclusion of Kaurna language in the title of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden.
 2. Authorises Administration in consultation with the Chair, to formalise feedback in writing from the Reconciliation Committee to inform the Pioneer Women's Memorial Trust on options and processes for naming approaches and any other opportunities for the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden.
-

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

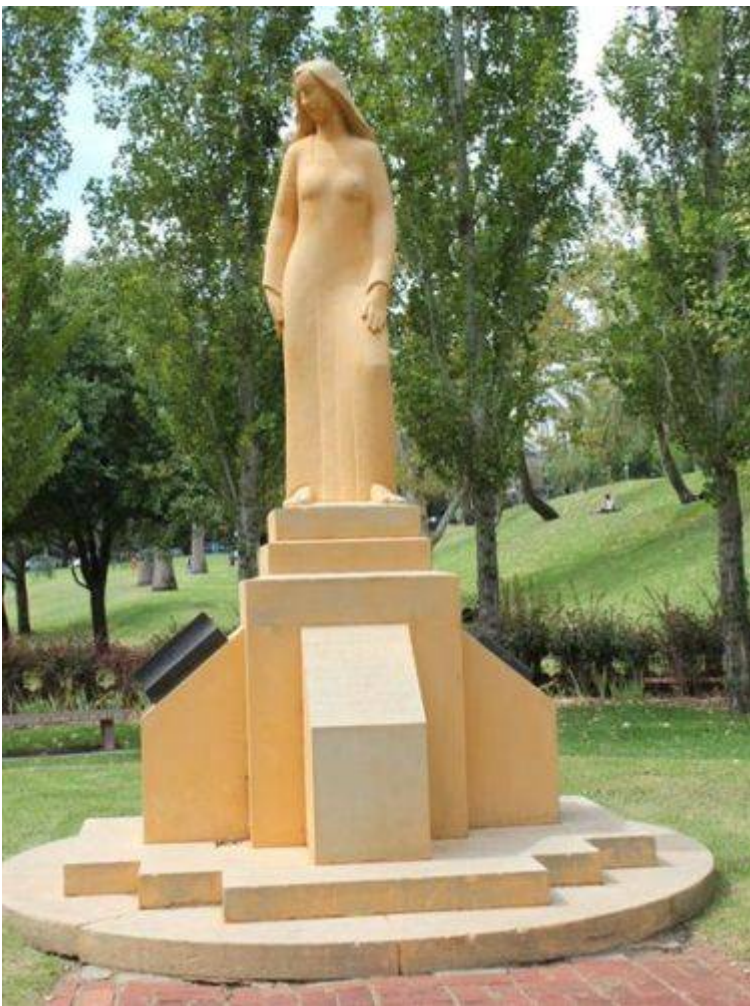
City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Dynamic City Culture 3.1 Support, promote and share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and pay homage to the Kaurna people as traditional owners
Policy	The City of Adelaide's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2021-2024 includes reviewing physical landscape to enhance Kaurna visibility as a key action.
Consultation	Consultation with Kaurna Elders and community stakeholders.
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report.
Opportunities	Increased use of Kaurna language across city monuments. Dual naming referenced in the RAP.
23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report.
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. The Pioneer Women’s Memorial Trust (the Trust) is seeking the opportunity to consult with the Reconciliation Committee about the potential to change the name of the garden. The Trust has stated that they are looking for advice about the use of Kaurna language in the title of the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Garden (the Garden), to replace the use of the word ‘Pioneer’.
 - 1.1. A Trust representative is scheduled to attend the meeting to answer any questions from Committee Members.
2. The Garden originated from South Australia’s centenary celebrations, held in 1936, when the women of South Australia raised £6250 to create a befitting memorial to the pioneering women of the State.
 - 2.1. It was the responsibility of the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Trust to determine how to spend the sum raised and the Trustees ultimately decided to donate £5000 to build the Royal Flying Doctor Base at Alice Springs. The remainder of the money was used to create the Garden to remember the pioneering spirit of South Australia’s women.
 - 2.2. In 1938 the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Trust commissioned Adelaide-based garden designer Elsie Cornish (1870-1946) to design and build the garden. Melbourne sculptor Ola Cohn (1892-1964) was also engaged to carve the sculpture of the timeless woman from a three tonne pillar of Waikerie limestone. Set into the base of the sculpture is a sundial designed by George Dodwell (1879-1963), the South Australian Government Astronomer, to accurately reflect Central Standard Time.
 - 2.3. Elsie also represented the five original trustees of the Pioneer Women’s Memorial Trust in the Garden by planting a Lombardy poplar for each of them. The row of poplars, replanted in 2002, stands tall behind the sculpture of the timeless woman and represents Adelaide Miethke OBE, Phebe Watson, Gisela Sibert OBE, Dorothy Dolling OBE and Margaret McQuire OAM.
3. Noting previous feedback from the Reconciliation Committee, there may also be opportunity to incorporate truth telling, and education for the community in relation to the historic activities undertaken by the Kaurna people at the location of the Garden, including if relevant cultural mapping.
4. Location of the garden:



5. Images of the garden:



ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -