

# Honouring Women in Leadership: Portrait of Iparrityi Commission

Monday, 26 February 2024  
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

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Public

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## PRESENTATION SUMMARY

At its meeting on 28 January 2020, Council noted the lack of female leaders represented through the portraits on display in the Adelaide Town Hall, Council Chamber. Council resolved to re-curate and commission portraits to include women who have contributed significantly to shaping our city and state.

On 10 March 2020, Council approved a list of proposed portraits of six female leaders of historical significance to the City and the State including Aboriginal and Kurna Elders past and present, widely acknowledged for the long-term impact of their leadership, influence, and social reform. The project was called 'Honouring Women in Leadership'.

### Portrait of Iparrityi (Ivaritji)

The last remaining portrait to be commissioned for the Honouring Women in Leadership portrait project is of Kurna woman, Iparrityi.

Iparrityi (Ivaritji) (c. 1849–1929), respected Kurna Elder, Kurna language speaker, and weaver, also known as Everity and Amelia Taylor/Savage, was born at Port Adelaide. By 1909, Iparrityi was possibly the last known speaker of Kurna language. In 1919 she provided seventy Kurna words and information on Aboriginal place names in the Adelaide area to a non-Aboriginal linguist. In 1927 she provided the South Australian Museum with approximately one hundred Kurna words. Iparrityi also shared with anthropologist Norman Tindale, genealogical details and information about Kurna history and culture, contributions of knowledge that have expanded our understanding of Kurna Culture and history. During this time, Iparrityi asked to be photographed wearing the museum's wallaby-skin cloak. This photograph has now become the iconic image associated with Iparrityi.

In 1928, when Iparrityi was living in Moonta, the Adelaide City Council requested the Moonta Town Clerk to obtain information from her about the Kurna people and the city's early days.

An action in the City of Adelaide's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-2012 was to provide Kurna names for public squares that only had European names at that time. Whitmore Square was officially renamed Whitmore Square/Ivaritji (later Iparrityi) in 2012 to commemorate her cultural significance to the City of Adelaide and acknowledge the square as a significant gathering space for Aboriginal communities.

The City of Adelaide-led project team is committed to ensuring a culturally respectful process and outcome for this portrait commission. At this meeting, we will:

- share the proposed artwork commissioning process for the portrait of Iparrityi
- seek advice regarding artist and medium suitability
- seek advice regarding key stakeholders for this project
- seek advice regarding membership of the Project Advisory Group.

With this commission, the City of Adelaide Honouring Women in Leadership portrait project will be completed.

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## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<b>Strategic Alignment – Our Community</b> An interesting and engaging place to live, learn and visit: Drive social change and strengthen communities through locally-led arts, cultural and recreational activities
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	The commissioning process will involve consultation with Aboriginal arts practitioners and communities, as well as appropriate consultation with Elders and other leaders, prior to undertaking the work. Further consultation involves internal teams such as Creative City, Social Planning and Inclusion, and external partners such as the State Library of South Australia, South Australia Museum and other key stakeholders associated with Iparrityi, such as family or any estate of the subject.
Resource	The Creative City team will deliver the commissioned portrait in close collaboration with the City Archives, Social Planning and Reconciliation, and Civics teams.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	An opportunity exists to honour, celebrate, and showcase revered Kurna Elder and educator Iparrityi alongside other significant women leaders and their unique contributions to the city and state. This commission is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate Aboriginal culture further, particularly Kurna and its significant role and contribution to our community identity and cultural heritage.
23/24 Budget Allocation	An allocation of \$16,000 from the Public Art budget is committed to commission the Iparrityi portrait and frame.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The commissioned artwork will be accessioned into the Civic Collection and will become a permanent asset of the City of Adelaide.
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. At its meeting on 28 January 2020, Council noted the lack of female leaders represented by the portraits of prominent South Australians in the Council Chamber.
  - 1.1. Requested that the Administration undertake a review of the Civic Collection in relation to the representation of South Australian women and explores ways in which they can be given more prominence within the Council Chamber.
  - 1.2. Requested that the Administration commission a portrait of the first female Lord Mayor in Australia, Wendy Chapman AM, to be hung in the Council Chamber. Six women were then identified for new portrait commissions to be created by local female artists. The subjects and corresponding artists are:
    - 1.2.1. Wendy Chapman AM by painter Tsering Hannaford
    - 1.2.2. Dame Roma Mitchell AC, DBE, CVO, QC by painter Kate Kurucz
    - 1.2.3. Aunty Shirley Peisley AM by multimedia artist Dr Ali Gumillya Baker
    - 1.2.4. Mary Lee by Painter Jess Mara
    - 1.2.5. Catherine Helen Spence by painter Deidre But-Husaim
    - 1.2.6. Iparrityi – artist for commission to be selected.
2. To date, five portraits have been commissioned and completed. The sixth and final portrait in this commission series honours a prominent Kaurna woman, Iparrityi.
  - 2.1. Born in Port Adelaide in the late 1840s to Tangkaira (Charlotte) and Ityamaitpinna (King Rodney).
  - 2.2. A fluent and knowledgeable speaker of Kaurna language and a revered ancestor of the Kaurna community.
  - 2.3. She was known as a Kaurna cultural educator, sharing her knowledge about Kaurna culture and language, including place names and important sites throughout Tarntanya (Adelaide) with the City of Adelaide, South Australian Museum and many others over many decades.
  - 2.4. In 2003, Iparrityi was one of five Kaurna women identified in consultation to be honoured in the proposed renaming of Adelaide City squares.
  - 2.5. On 27 March 2012, Council formally renamed Whitmore Square to Whitmore Square/Iparrityi.
3. To ensure a culturally respectful process and outcome, the Project Team is seeking advice and guidance from the Reconciliation Committee for this specific commission in the following areas:
  - 3.1. The most culturally respectful representation of Iparrityi (artistic medium and approach).
  - 3.2. Key eligibility for suitable artists to undertake this commission for this subject.
  - 3.3. Identification of key stakeholders to advise on this commissioning process.
    - 4.3.1. These portrait artworks are unique commissions. The commissioning process recognises that key stakeholder input is vital in the creation of the artwork.
    - 4.3.2. The key stakeholders for these commissions are usually the subject or the estate of the subject being commissioned to gain their support for and approval of the commissioned portrait.
    - 4.3.3. For this subject, key stakeholders might be family members, descendants of Iparrityi, or appropriate cultural authorities and or experts.
    - 4.3.4. Key stakeholders are informed of the progress of the commission at regular intervals and invited to participate in significant milestones, such as the unveiling of the commission.
  - 4.4. Nomination of a Reconciliation Committee member or other cultural expert or authority to join the Project Advisory Group.
    - 4.4.1. A Project Advisory Group will be established to provide advice and guidance to inform the commissioning process.
    - 4.4.2. The Project Advisory Group will advise on the eligibility of artists to undertake the commission and the content of an artist brief, provide feedback on the concept design (preliminary portrait studies), and provide advice to the Civic Recognition Working Group.

- 4.4.3 It is estimated that the Project Advisory Group will be asked to meet four times during this commissioning process, which could take six to 12 months, depending on the extent and complexity of the required consultation process and the cultural protocols to be followed.
  - 4.4.4 Key external stakeholders participating in the Project Advisory Group will be remunerated at a rate consistent with the NAVA Code of Practice for their time engaged in the provision of professional and/or cultural advice to support the commissioning process.
4. Council has also committed to creating and installing a statue of Iparrityi in Whitmore Square/Iparrityi as key deliverables in its Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2024 to support Kaurna Visibility: Action Item 12 – Review physical landscape to enhance Kaurna visibility throughout the CBD.
- 4.1. Advice and recommendations received from the Reconciliation Committee and the Project Advisory Group for the portrait commissioned of Iparrityi for the Honouring Women in Leadership project (as outlined in this report) will also help inform the commissioning process for this statue of Iparrityi.
  - 4.2. A presentation and report on this project will be prepared for the Reconciliation Committee for consideration and discussion at a future meeting.

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## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A** – Presentation – Honouring Women in Leadership: Portrait Commission of Iparrityi.

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