

Her Majesty's Theatre Commemorative Artwork

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 5 March 2024
City Community Services and Culture Committee

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting of 12 December 2023, Council resolved to work with the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and Foundation to progress the manufacture and installation of an artwork to commemorate the long-standing relationship of the late Barry Humphries, AO CBE with Her Majesty's Theatre, the City of Adelaide and multiple significant heritage conservation projects in Adelaide and South Australia.

This report responds to Council's additional request for a report to be returned to Council by the end of March 2024 outlining a project plan, final design and potential for funding between the City of Adelaide and the Foundation to realise a commemorative artwork of Barry Humphries to be located outside the Her Majesty's Theatre on Grote Street, Adelaide.

RECOMMENDATION

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

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes that Administration is currently working with the Adelaide Festival Centre and Trust to develop a project plan and proposal for a commemorative artwork celebrating Mr Barry Humphries, AO CBE for Council's consideration.
 2. Notes that Administration will bring a further report to Council following receipt of a formal proposal from the Adelaide Festival Centre.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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| City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan | Strategic Alignment – Our Community Elevate the City’s reputation for exceptional and unique arts and cultural experiences by encouraging and providing arts, culture and events partnerships, grants, and sponsorship opportunities. |
| Policy | The City of Adelaide Memorials Operating Guidelines sets out the administrative processes and responsibilities for the development, delivery, maintenance, management, and de-accessioning of memorials enabled by the City of Adelaide. The Public Art Operating Guidelines sets out the administrative processes and responsibilities for the delivery relating to the public artworks and public art activity in the City. |
| Consultation | The City of Adelaide Memorials Operating Guidelines require that a proposal for a memorial includes evidence of community support. Any proposed artwork outcome would need engagement with the Public Art Round Table, Reconciliation Committee, Kadaltilla / Adelaide Park Lands Authority, and across Council programs. |
| Resource | Estimated at 90 hours for consultation (with external parties such as the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and Foundation alongside internal teams across planning), commission of a concept design, community engagement, engagement with Public Art Round Table, as well as report preparations for Committee and Council. Delivery of an artwork project management would need to be negotiated with Infrastructure Delivery, supported by a project team comprising members across Creative City, Technical Design and Asset Management. |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative | Council has been working collaboratively with Adelaide Festival Centre staff in its exploration of a proposed public artwork. Due to the high-profile nature of the subject and project partner, considerable media and community interest is associated with this undertaking. Obtaining written confirmation from the Estate and family of the subject of their support for the proposal is an essential requirement as a next step. |
| Opportunities | New artwork in City by Robert Hannaford AM (growing strong representation of his sculptural practice in the public realm), enhancing public realm, and commemorating cultural heritage. |
| 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 | A commemorative artwork would be an enduring public artwork donated to the City of Adelaide with an expected lifespan of 25 years or more. |
| 23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable) | Not as a result of this report |
| Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost) | A commemorative artwork would be registered as part of the City of Adelaide public art collection, with a requirement for ongoing protection, care, maintenance, and cleaning over the life of the asset. |
| Other Funding Sources | A contribution is anticipated from key stakeholders and it is anticipated that Council would be a co-funder for the works. |

DISCUSSION

1. At the Council meeting of 12 December 2023, Council resolved to:
 - 1.1. Request Council staff work with the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and Foundation to progress the manufacture and installation of an artwork to commemorate the long-standing relationship of the late Barry Humphries AO CBE with Her Majesty's Theatre, the City of Adelaide and multiple significant heritage conservation projects in Adelaide and South Australia.
 - 1.2. Request a report be returned to Council by the end of March 2024 outlining a project plan, final design, and potential for funding between the City of Adelaide and the Foundation.
2. This report responds to Council's additional request for a report to be returned to Council by the end of March 2024 outlining a project plan, final design, and potential for funding between the City of Adelaide and the Foundation to realise a commemorative artwork of Barry Humphries to be located outside the Her Majesty's Theatre on Grote Street, Adelaide.
3. Following the Council resolution on 12 December 2023, the City of Adelaide has been liaising with the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust and Foundation on the associated proposal and has outlined the guideline and processes associated with establishing a public artwork commemorating Mr Barry Humphries, AO CBE in the City of Adelaide.
4. Following discussions with the Adelaide Festival Centre, a public artwork partnership is currently being prepared but is yet to be submitted to the City of Adelaide for consideration.
 - 4.1. The partnership is still in the early project initiation phases including the development of the Concept Design, establishment of the project team, timeline, and budget.
 - 4.1.1. Initial discussions with the Adelaide Festival Centre indicate that their role in the proposed artwork to be:
 - 4.1.1.1. Initiate and develop the concept design for the proposed artwork.
 - 4.1.1.2. Fundraise and contribute towards the funding of the final artwork through activities and campaigns.
 - 4.1.1.3. Assist in the marketing and promotion towards the delivery of the artwork.
 - 4.1.2. The Adelaide Festival Centre will be requesting the City of Adelaide as part of the proposal to oversee, project manage and administer the proposed artwork including:
 - 4.1.2.1. Detailed design, approvals process, fabrication, installation, and asset handover.
 - 4.1.2.2. Manage relationships with key stakeholders including the Estate and Family of Barry Humphries, AO CBE throughout project delivery.
 - 4.1.2.3. Provide funding towards the delivery of the artwork.
 - 4.1.2.4. Promote and launch the artwork.
 - 4.1.2.5. Care and maintain the artwork as part of the collection.
5. The Adelaide Festival Centre is currently in discussions to commission celebrated South Australian sculptor and painter, Robert Hannaford AM to undertake the artwork.
 - 5.1. Robert Hannaford AM (b. 1944) is a celebrated and award-winning artist who has been a finalist in the Archibald Art Prize over 25 times and painted portraits of many significant public figures.
 - 5.2. His work can be found in major collections around Australia such as the Art Gallery of South Australia, Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Portrait Gallery, Parliament House, Canberra, and many others.
 - 5.3. The City of Adelaide has several significant public artworks by Robert Hannaford including:
 - 5.3.1. *Roy Rene*, 2010, a bronze sculpture of comedian and performer, Roy 'Mo' Rene (1891-1954) on Hindley Street.
 - 5.3.2. *Simpson and His Donkey*, 2012, a bronze sculpture memorial to Australian Defence Force Health Services located in Angas Gardens.
 - 5.3.3. *The Cover Drive*, 2002, a bronze sculpture of Sir Donald Bradman, 2002, at Adelaide Oval near Cresswell.
 - 5.3.4. *The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial*, 2013, located in Torrens Parade Ground near Victoria Drive.
 - 5.3.4.1. Robert Hannaford was part of the artist team who realised the Memorial alongside Lee-City Community Services and Culture Committee – Agenda - Tuesday, 5 March 2024

Ann Tjunypa Buckskin, Michelle Nikou, Tony Rosella.

5.3.5. *Sir William Henry Bragg*, 2015, a bronze bust of Nobel Prize winner, Sir (William) Henry Bragg in Prince Henry Gardens on North Terrace.

6. Pending further information and details for Council, discussions with the Adelaide Festival Centre have outlined the following.
 - 6.1. The artwork is intended to be an approximate life-size sculpture of Barry Humphries at 1.8 metres in height and viewed from 360°.
 - 6.2. The artist, Robert Hannaford has been privately commissioned and is currently developing a concept design, and maquette to inform the proposal and the final artwork.
 - 6.2.1. The artwork would most likely be made of bronze in keeping with the artist's aesthetic.
 - 6.2.2. Designed to be installed and displayed on an accompanying plinth with feature lighting through either up-lights or a spotlight.
 - 6.2.3. Featuring a plaque celebrating Barry Humphries achievements and connection to the City of Adelaide and the Adelaide Festival Centre.
 - 6.3. The sculpture is intended to be part of a larger tourism destination experience of Her Majesty's Theatre as part of an accompanying illuminated Walk of Fame in keeping with the existing promenade walk found at the Adelaide Festival Centre between Festival Theatre and Dunstan Playhouse.
 - 6.3.1. The Adelaide Festival Centre intends to engage architects to work with the project team to design this accompanying aspect.
 - 6.3.2. There are no City of Adelaide future planned or scheduled footpath renewals on Grote Street.
 - 6.3.3. Any Walk of Fame or similar paving would be a gifted asset to be installed and managed by the City of Adelaide.
 - 6.4. The artwork is proposed to be in front of the Her Majesty's Theatre, near the building façade or entrances on Grote Street.
 - 6.4.1. As part of the proposal, the Adelaide Festival Centre will also need to propose several alternative locations for the artwork and accompanying rationale for each site.
 - 6.4.2. Additionally, the preferred artwork locations will need to consider the footing and engineering requirements of the artwork, alongside safety in design considerations and accessibility guidelines for the public realm.
 - 6.4.2.1. City of Adelaide has recently undertaken site investigation which has shown that the footpath in front of Her Majesty's Theatre and the neighbouring Metropolitan Hotel might be a challenging site for the artwork.
 - 6.4.2.2. The survey identified the area has a significant number of underground services limiting potential locations for the artwork.
 - 6.5. The process for the fabrication of the artwork may require approximately 12 months and is subject to permissions, development approval, material resourcing, installation, and contractor availability.
 - 6.6. To fund the artwork, the Adelaide Festival Centre will establish a fundraising committee that will seek philanthropic support to realise the outcome.
 - 6.6.1. Preliminary figures provided for the creation of the artwork is \$150,000 excluding project management, engineering, plinth, lighting, footings, installation, and plaques.
 - 6.6.2. Upon submission of the partnership, the Adelaide Festival Centre may seek to request additional support either financial or in-kind by the Council decision.
 - 6.7. If Council were to support a proposal from the Adelaide Festival Centre, the City of Adelaide would enter into a partnership agreement that would outline:
 - 6.7.1. The Project Governance framework including roles and responsibilities of parties involved.
 - 6.7.2. Project budget including the commitment of funding contributions from partners and fundraising strategies.
 - 6.7.3. Artwork Concept and Documentation.
 - 6.7.4. Project Timeline and Milestones.
 - 6.7.5. Handover and artwork maintenance.

7. Next step is for City of Adelaide to obtain written confirmation from the Estate and family of the subject of their support for the proposal as an essential requirement before further action can be taken.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -