

BARRY HUMPHRIES SCULPTURE – REPORT DRAFT

11 June 2024

1. Scope of Project - CA

- 1.1 Adelaide Festival Centre is in discussions with Robert Hannaford AM to create a celebratory public artwork commemorating Mr Barry Humphries, AO CBE for permanent installation on Grote Street in front of Her Majesty's Theatre.
- 1.2 Her Majesty's Theatre has a rich history of presenting world famous artists. Mr Barry Humphries often described it as his favourite theatre. To honour the artists that have connection with Her Majesty's Theatre, the Barry Humphries sculpture will form the centrepiece of a new Walk of Fame that enables recognition of these figures in the public realm.
- 1.3 This report provides detailed overview of the Barry Humphries Sculpture and Walk of Fame concept.
- 1.4 Adelaide Festival Centre will commission Robert Hannaford to create the Barry Humphries sculpture and fund-raise for the costs.
- 1.5 The sculpture will then be gifted to the City of Adelaide.
- 1.6 The City of Adelaide will be required to undertake the required risk assessments, install, maintain and insure the sculpture at their own cost.
- 1.7 Once commissioned and contracted, the sculpture will be within 12months.
- 1.8 The Walk of Fame requires separate costing and detailed engineering and design analysis.

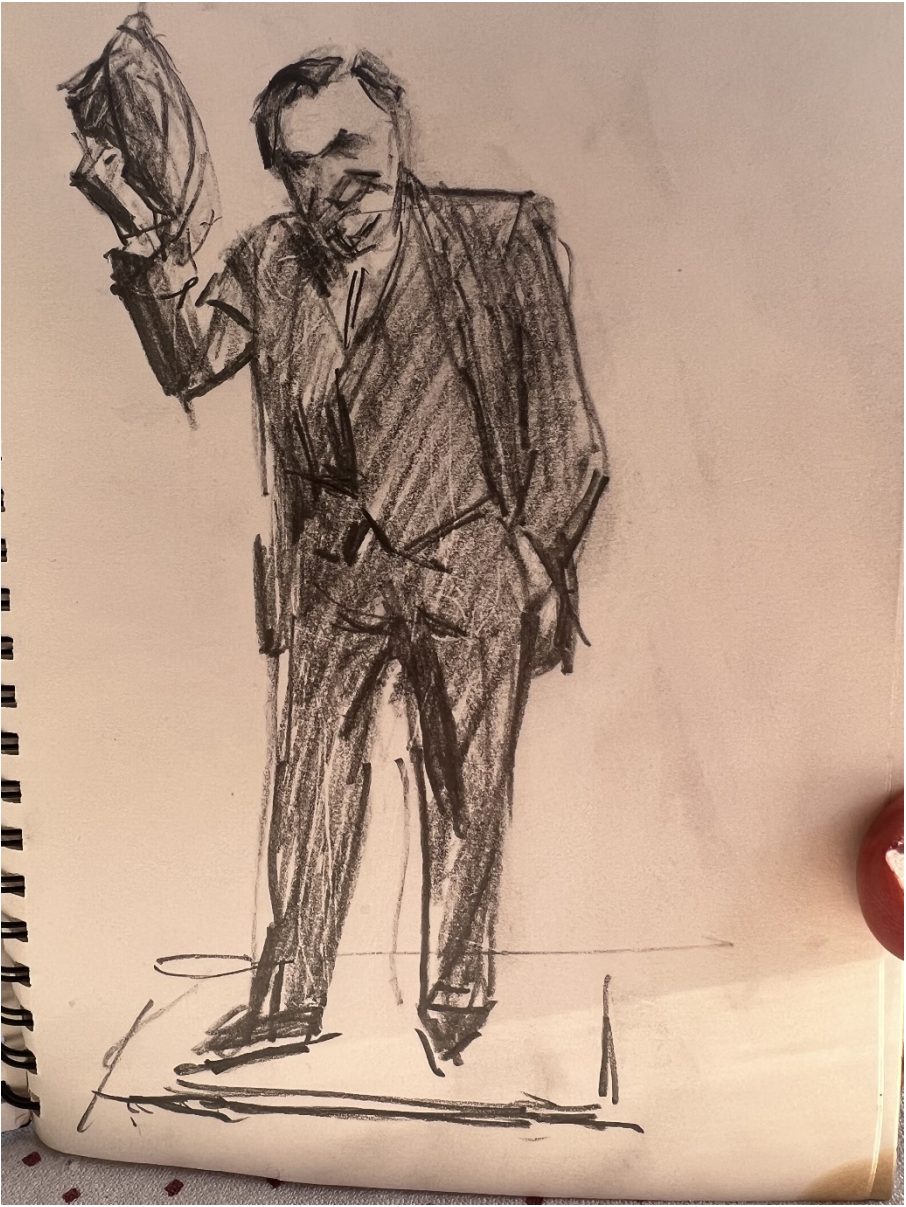
2. Concept

- 2.1 The bronze sculpture of Barry Humphries will be 1.8metres in height and viewed from 360°.
- 2.2 Designed to be installed and displayed on an accompanying plinth with feature lighting.
- 2.3 Featuring a plaque celebrating Barry Humphries achievements and connection to the City of Adelaide and Adelaide Festival Centre.
- 2.4 The name of the artist and significant donors that have funded the work to be included on the plaque.
- 2.5 The Walk of Fame to include name plate footpath inlays that identify well know celebrities and stars that have performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, Barry Humphries being a significant highlight.

3. Statue detail

- 3.1 Robert Hannaford AM is one of Australia's leading portrait, landscape painter and sculptor.
- 3.2 Born in 1944 he lives and works in Riverton, South Australia his place of birth. He has been an Archibald finalist 23 times and won the people's choice 3 times. He has won the Doug Moran Portrait Prize and was the inaugural winner of the Fleurieu Art Prize.

- 3.3 It is proposed that Robert be commissioned to create a life-size (1.78mtrs high) bronze sculpture of Barry Humphries AO CBE will be located directly in front of Her Majesty's Theatre on Grote Street, Adelaide.
- 3.4 Humphries was an Australian comedian, author, and satirist. Best known for his stage and television characters Dame Edna Everage and Sir Les Patterson. Humphries's characters brought him international renown. Humphries has had a long association with Adelaide Festival Centre in particular a special relationship with Her Majesty's Theatre which commenced in 1953 when a then 19-year-old Humphries performed in *The Wind of Heaven* as part of an Australian Universities Drama Festival. That performance heralded a long association with Her Majesty's Theatre with Humphries, often describing it as his favourite theatre. This sculpture will honour and celebrate Humphries remarkable career after his passing in 2023.
- 3.5 The sculpture will feature Barry tipping his hat to theatre patrons and public as they walk by or enter the theatre. Viewers will be able to move around the sculpture to gain a 360-degree view. The sculpture would sit atop a plinth 10cm high with a plaque to acknowledge the artist Robert Hannaford and major donors and sponsors. The footprint would be roughly 1mtr square.
- 3.6 Lighting would be required within the plinth or externally facing the sculpture, so it can be viewed at night.



Artist concept sketch not for reproduction.



Sculpture mock-up.

4. Location rationale for Her Majesty's Theatre

- 4.1 The bronze sculpture of Barry Humphries AO CBE would be located directly in front of Her Majesty's Theatre on Grote Street, Adelaide on the left-hand side of the entrance doors. This location is preferred as it sits slightly back from the footpath but would still be in a prime position for the public to view. It could also be seen from inside the theatre when patrons look out. This position would not interfere with patrons lining up to enter the theatre or public waiting at the bus stop.
- 4.2 Other locations in the precinct will be determined by the COA based on assessment of installation requirements.



Location mock-up.

5. Key Stakeholder Support

- 5.1 A fund raising committee has been established through Adelaide Festival Centre, to raise the necessary funds to cover costs of the bronze sculpture. Donors have already expressed interest in this project, such is the respect for the connection the late Barry Humphries AO CBE had with Her Majesty's Theatre
- 5.2 The fund raising committee will be given a timeframe to raise funds once the approval for the sculpture is received by the City of Adelaide and the Barry Humphries Estate
- 5.3 The artist, Robert Hannaford has given permission for AFC to re-produce the Marquette images to assist with fundraising.
- 5.4 It is estimated that fundraising will take between three and six months

6. Cost

- 6.1 Artist Robert Hannaford is yet to send through official quotes, so the following cost estimates are based on conversations and relevant comparisons.
- 6.2 The Plaster Marquette will be approx. \$9,000. Robert will retain ownership of the Marquette
- 6.3 The cost of the Marquette has been privately commissioned and work has commenced.
- 6.4 In total, the bronze statue will approx. \$200,000.
- 6.5 This does not include the plinth, or plaque, nor engineering and installation – all of which will be delivered by the City of Adelaide.

7. Her Majesty's Walk of Fame

- 7.1 The Barry Humphries Sculpture forms an integral part of the concept for Her Majesty's Walk of Fame.
- 7.2 One hundred and ten stars could be included, to celebrate the famous stars who have performed at HMT over the past 110 years.
- 7.3 Going forward each year a star will be added via a public vote – as is the case for the Walk of Fame at the Adelaide Festival Centre on King William Road.
- 7.4 Learning from the AFC Walk of Fame, the HMT Walk of Fame would include stars designed in-house by the AFC Design Studio
- 7.5 CoA have quoted approx. \$3,000 per plaque
- 7.6 Comparatively, the current stars on AFC Walk of Fame cost approx. \$1,500 per plaque. The cost is lower as the infrastructure such as electrical for the lighting underneath already exists.



HMT stars mock-up.