

Kurna Welcome Art Installation

Wednesday, 3 December 2025
Reconciliation Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Program Contact:
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Public

Approving Officer:
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Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the public art commissioning process and key considerations for a Kurna Welcome Art Installation and seeks the nomination of three members of the City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee to join the Project Steering Group.

The proposed Kurna Welcome Art Installation is a key deliverable of the City of Adelaide Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2027, Action 10.3: ‘Co-designing with Kurna Traditional Owners a Kurna Welcome Art Installation at the intersection of Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace’. Aligned with the City of Adelaide Cultural Policy, this public art project aims to create a culturally significant and highly visible statement at one of Adelaide’s key entry corridors. It will acknowledge Kurna Country, welcome all who arrive in the city, celebrate Kurna identity, connection to Country and living heritage.

Representatives of the Reconciliation Committee are sought to join a Project Steering Group (PSG) for the Kurna Welcome Art Installation project. The PSG will provide guidance on co-design principles, engagement processes, and cultural protocols to support the development and delivery of the project.

The project will follow the City of Adelaide’s public art commissioning framework and has an estimated 24-month project delivery timeframe. In 2025/26, the project will be in its preliminary investigation stage, including cultural consultation and the public art commissioning process. The Kurna Welcome Art Installation, a major public art commission, is planned for delivery in 2026/27.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

1. Nominates three members of the City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee to be put forward to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration of appointment to a Project Steering Group for the Kurna Welcome Art Installation, at least one of whom has significant ties to or is a representative of the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC).
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community The Kurna Welcome Art Installation action supports <i>Our Community</i> by championing Reconciliation, celebrating Kurna culture, and fostering an inclusive, equitable city where everyone feels welcome and connected to country.
Policy	The Kurna Welcome Art Installation is a key deliverable of the City of Adelaide (CoA)'s Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024–2027 and supports the implementation of the Cultural Policy. It also aligns with the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy – Towards 2036, particularly Goal 1: The Park Lands are a place to meet and enjoy diverse experiences, and contributes to Kurna cultural recognition, heritage, and wellbeing as outlined in Kadaltilla / Adelaide Parklands Authority's (Kadaltilla) Strategic Plan 2024–2028 under the Cultural Value pillar.
Consultation	The Kurna Welcome Art Installation calls for a culturally respectful co-design approach with the Kurna community and other Aboriginal community stakeholders. The project will also include consultation with internal and community stakeholders including substantial engagement with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) and the Kadaltilla.
Resource	This report seeks the resourcing of up to three Reconciliation Committee Members to be appointed to the Project Steering Group (PSG).
Risk / Legal / Legislative	The PSG will provide guidance on the co-design process, contribute to a stakeholder engagement plan and provide advice regarding the size, scale, type and location for the Kurna Welcome Art Installation, overseeing the direction and delivery of the project through to completion.
Opportunities	Adelaide is on Kurna land, and the opportunity exists to commission a significant art installation co-designed with the Kurna Community and created by a Kurna artist. Since 2018, Adelaide is the only capital city over which Native Title rights are currently held.
25/26 Budget Allocation	\$20,000 from Public Art Capital allocation to support preliminary investigation, cultural consultation and public art commissioning process.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	A budget allocation to realise this project will be made through the annual Business Plan and Budget process and will require an investment of \$100,000 - \$250,000 depending on size and complexity.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The anticipated outcome is a permanent artwork that will be a CoA managed asset with an expected lifespan of at least 25 years.
25/26 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	Opportunities to attract funding from state and federal government or philanthropic partners will be considered.

DISCUSSION

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan 2024 – 2027 (S-RAP) includes as Action 10.3 to 'Co-Design with Kaurna Traditional Owners a Kaurna Welcome Art Installation on Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace.'
2. This action sits within the broader S-RAP commitment to increase awareness, understanding, and visibility of Kaurna as the Traditional Owners of Adelaide through physical interpretation across the city.
3. To realise this action, CoA intends to commission a lasting and substantial acknowledgement of Kaurna Country through an art installation in the public realm.
4. Public art is a powerful and lasting way to celebrate cultural identity, as outlined in the CoA's Cultural Policy. The proposed Kaurna Welcome Art Installation, identified in the S-RAP, embodies these shared principles, aspirations, and commitments.
5. The Cultural Policy describes the principle of 'Reconciliation and Truth-Telling' as 'the CoA delivers and works with First Nations peoples, communities, and organisations to honour Kaurna culture, support self-determination, and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in city planning, public art, events, and cultural initiatives.'
6. The CoA has commissioned many significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks, created in collaboration with Elders, artists, and communities. These works embed culture, storytelling, and truth-telling in major projects, reflecting connection to Country and the city's living cultural narrative. Recent examples include:
 - 6.1. The *Place of Reflection* and *Empty Arms*, 2023 sculpture by Aunty Yvonne Koolmatrie and Karl Meyer with Exhibition Studios features sculptural elements, seating and landscaping dedicated to members of the Stolen Generations.
 - 6.2. *No Fixed Address Lane*, 2021 by Elizabeth Yanyi Close, Shane Mankitya Cook, and Thomas Readett celebrates the pioneering reggae rock band No Fixed Address and their contribution to South Australia's music scene and Adelaide's UNESCO City of Music status.
 - 6.3. *Kardni Munta (Emu Net) & Kardi (Emu)*, 2019 by Paul Herzich, sculptures inspired by community consultation and early paintings of Emu nets on the Adelaide Plains held at the Art Gallery of South Australia.
 - 6.4. *The Riverbank is a Kaurna Market*, 2017, by Paul Herzich is a sandblasted artwork in Topham Mall, symbolising cultural and trading connections between the river and market and celebrating Kaurna heritage.
 - 6.5. The *Tarntanyangga Cultural Marker*, developed with Kaurna community as a reconciliation initiative, features an integrated artwork by Jacob Logos created with the Kaurna and wider Aboriginal community to celebrate Kaurna language and connection to Country.

Public Art Commissioning Process and Co-Design Approach

7. Major public art commissions are delivered in accordance with CoA Public Art Commissioning processes and Operating Guidelines (Link 1 - [operating-guidelines-public-art.pdf](#)).
 - 7.1. For this project, CoA will also follow best practice principles from Creative Australia's *Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts*.
 - 7.2. CoA respects Aboriginal communities' right to self-determination. These are important principles and commitments of the S-RAP and Cultural Policy. A co-design approach is proposed to realise this public artwork installation in accordance with these principles and commitments.
 - 7.3. This approach ensures projects meet the CoA's standards for integrated planning, cultural integrity, and public art excellence, while respecting cultural protocols and maintaining transparency throughout commissioning and delivery.
8. The timeframe for delivery of major public art commissions is usually 24 months (minimum).

Project Steering Group

9. Administration will establish a Project Steering Group (PSG) for the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation to guide the project.
 - 9.1. The PSG will include cultural advisors and experts in public art, landscape design, and asset management, with members remunerated for their time under a Terms of Reference.

- 9.2. PSG members will contribute to a stakeholder mapping and engagement plan, and provide advice regarding the size, scale, type and location for the artwork.
- 9.3. The PSG will oversee project delivery of the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation and support ongoing engagement with stakeholders, including members of the Kaurna Community.
10. Nominations are sought for three members of the Reconciliation Committee, at least one of whom has significant ties to or is a representative of the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), to join the Project Steering Group.
11. Through membership on the PSG, the Reconciliation Committee can provide ongoing advice and oversight on appropriate engagement and cultural protocols throughout the delivery of the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation project, including the principles and processes for co-design and engagement with Kaurna Traditional Owners.

Location

12. The S-RAP identifies a preferred location for the Kaurna Welcome Art Installation near the intersection of Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace within G.S. Kingston Park / Wirrarninthe (Park 23).
13. The proposed location offers prominence to visitors arriving in Adelaide, particularly those travelling by vehicle from the airport to the city and cyclists and pedestrians using nearby paths and facilities.
14. Historical or cultural considerations will also inform the proposed location and artwork brief.
 - 14.1. The *Adelaide Parklands Management Strategy – Towards 2036 (APLMS)* states that the name of Park 23, Wirrarninthe in Kaurna language means 'to become transformed into a green, forested area' and the area has been revegetated with native vegetation and protected indigenous flora.
 - 14.2. The APLMS references regular use of this area as a camping venue by Aboriginal peoples pre-contact and post-contact and there is also a record of a stone flake artefact found on these grounds.
 - 14.3. The APLMS also references significant nearby sites, including Ellis Park / Tampawardli (Park 24), where a planned encounter between Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri peoples was prevented by police in 1884.
 - 14.4. In recent times it has been the site of the Annual Kids on Country Event.
15. Within the vicinity there are artworks that respond to Aboriginal cultural knowledge, histories and stories.
 - 15.1. *Lie of the Land: Universal Symbols of Home*, created by Aleks Danko and Jude Walton, was commissioned in 2004 by the South Australian Government through Arts SA, with assistance from the CoA. The artwork features Kanmantoo stone structures on either side of Sir Donald Bradman Drive, interplanted with Black Mallee Box and Kangaroo Grass, and conceptually references the lie of terra nullius.
 - 15.2. The 2.1 km Wirrarninthe Environmental Education Trail in G.S. Kingston Park / Wirrarninthe (Park 23) invites visitors to explore the park's natural features and history, marked by sculptures by Silvio Apponyi and Martin Corbin, with carved poetry by Kimberly Mann.

Budget

16. The total project commission budget will be determined by the scope, scale, and requirements, confirmed through the consultation and the co-design process.
 - 16.1. The CoA will identify and pursue as appropriate funding sources to support delivery, including through the CoA business plan and budget processes, State and Federal grants, and philanthropic or strategic partnerships.

Next Steps

17. Following feedback from the Reconciliation Committee and the nomination of representatives, Administration will begin early project scoping and establish a Project Steering Group.
 - 17.1. The Project Steering Group will help identify key stakeholders and guide the development of an engagement plan to initiate the co-design process,
 - 17.2. A site feasibility study will be undertaken to assess the suitability of the proposed location at Sir Donald Bradman Drive and West Terrace.
 - 17.3. Progress updates and milestones will be reported to the Reconciliation Committee.

LINKS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Link 1 - [Public Art Operating Guidelines](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – SRAP Kurna Welcome Art Installation presentation

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