

# Councillor Maher - MoN - Creation of a walkable 'Live Music Circuit' recognition program

Tuesday, 10 March 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Patrick Maher

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Jo Podoliak, Director City  
Community

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Patrick Maher will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

'That Council:

1. Requests Administration investigate options for a walkable 'Live Music Circuit' of Adelaide's live music culture, including;
  - a) the expansion of the Heritage Plaques Program to include a category for recognising Adelaide's live music history.
  - b) a bespoke plaque or footpath inlay recognition scheme.
  - c) promotional options available through AEDA to increase public visibility of historical and existing live music venues.
2. Requests Administration produce a report detailing these possibilities for consideration in the 26/27FY business plan and budget.'

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## ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

### Heritage Plaques Program

1. Heritage properties in the City of Adelaide are eligible for the voluntary [Heritage Plaques Program](#).
2. Heritage buildings with an historical connection to live music are already eligible to apply for a blue plaque.
3. The Heritage Plaques Program does not include contemporary live music venues or venues that play live music that are not associated with a heritage building and historic use.
4. If a landowner indicates interest in participating in the Heritage Plaques Program, research into the heritage of the property is undertaken.
  - 4.1. The City of Adelaide could encourage property owners to nominate their heritage listed property if they believe it was historically used for live music.
  - 4.2. This would trigger the investigation process through the Heritage Plaques Program which would confirm, or otherwise, the connection with historical live music. This activity could be achieved within existing operational budgets.
5. Alternatively, Council could proactively identify and research heritage properties with a historical live music connection.
  - 5.1 This would require a dedicated budget allocation to enable this research. The costs for such a project would need to be tested with the market, and a report outlining costs brought to Council.

- 5.2 Once properties have been identified, property owners could be encouraged to participate in the Heritage Plaques Program.

**AEDA Promotional Activity**

- 6. AEDA has established digital promotional channels that could effectively amplify the walkable Live Music Circuit. These could include:
  - 6.1. Experience Adelaide website featured blogs and landing page including a trail listing and interactive map.
  - 6.2. Inclusion in Experience ADL newsletter.
  - 6.3. Encouraging venues to contribute event schedules to ATDW (Australian Tourism Data Warehouse) for inclusion on Experience Adelaide.
  - 6.4. Social media post and story mentions on Instagram and Facebook.

**Existing City of Live Music Trail Activity**

- 7. The City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024–2028 includes the success indicator, ‘Amplify Adelaide’s designation as a UNESCO City of Music’, under the Our Community outcome: An interesting and engaging place to live, learn and visit. The following initiatives relevant to this motion deliver on this objective:
  - 7.1. [City of Music Laneways trail](#), a Council initiative with five laneways launched since 2018, named for Sia Furler, Cold Chisel, Paul Kelly, No Fixed Address, and The Angels. Hilltop Hoods Lane will be launched in 2026, and planning is underway for Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach Lane.
    - 7.1.1. These laneways are cultural tourism destinations and an invitation to find out more about our musical trailblazers, our world-class artists, and support our live music venues.
    - 7.1.2. The location of each laneway is chosen specifically for its close association with each act being honoured and venues they have performed in within the precinct.
    - 7.1.3. Each laneway features dynamic public art, street signage, and commemorative plaques. QR code plaques were installed in each laneway in 2025 linked to our webpage to encourage self-guided tours and deepen awareness of Adelaide’s musical history, including venues both past and present, celebrated in text, visual and video storytelling.
  - 7.2. Adelaide: Your Guide to our City of Music, a pocket guide highlighting venues, landmarks, music retailers, and festivals was created with distributed 12,500 copies distributed to date. A 2026 edition is in development and will be available this financial year.
  - 7.3. ‘Discover Music Here’ vinyl decals have been distributed to all known music venues and retailers, creating a cohesive and visible City of Music identity.
  - 7.4. An interactive GIS map integrated with the [City Plan](#) details all known music venues including contact details. The map specifically identifies venues that are heritage listed or dedicated to the presentation of live music.
- 8. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, Administration will prepare a report addressing the budget and resourcing requirements to confirm if heritage listed properties were previously used as live music venues, options for a bespoke plaque or footpath inlay recognition scheme and opportunities to utilise AEDA social media channels to promote historical and live music venues for consideration in the 2026/27 annual business plan and budget.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Potential consultation to include SA Music Hall of Fame, South Australian Music Museum, Adelaide City of Music Board, Independent Live Venues Alliance (ILVA) South Australia.
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	A Live Music Circuit could be promoted through other activations and placemaking activity where it aligns. An example of one of these

	promotional opportunities is the placemaking activity in the West End including digital storytelling.
Budget reallocation	This is a new activity and would require a new budget allocation.
Capital investment	Approximate cost for individual plaques is between \$1,000-\$3,000.
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.

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- END OF REPORT -