

North Adelaide Public Artwork – Illuminate Adelaide

Tuesday, 2 May 2023
City Community Services and Culture Committee

Strategic Alignment - Dynamic City Culture

Program Contact:
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Public

Approving Officer:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the final concept design for the commissioning of a permanent light-based public artwork for North Adelaide.

On 9 August 2022, Council noted that the proposed concept design for the commissioning of a permanent light-based public artwork for North Adelaide. This project forms part of Council’s public art commitment over three years towards Illuminate Adelaide. Council requested that the final artwork concept designs for this particular proposal be brought to Council for approval.

It should be noted that Administration also reviewed the approach in the context of the Melbourne Street Main Street planning which includes an entry statement public artwork. As a result, Administration used this opportunity to broaden the scope and work with an additional South Australian artist before selecting and formalising the concept design proposed within this report for Council’s consideration.

This project was initiated as the third and final deliverable of Council’s commitment to delivering public art as part of Illuminate Adelaide. The \$900,000 commitment (\$300,000 annually over three years) was to deliver legacy illuminated public artwork for the City.

This report presents the final concept design, and if approved by Council, detailed design work will commence immediately. Artwork fabrication and delivery is to be completed in late 2023.

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 May 2023 for consideration

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

That Council

1. Approves the concept provided in Attachment A to Item 5.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 May 2023.
2. Notes that updates on delivery and launch will be provided via E-News to Council.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Dynamic City Culture Deliver public art throughout the city in collaboration with the private sector as a contribution towards dynamic city culture
Policy	Adelaide, City of Art: Public Art Action Plan 2019-22
Consultation	Internal engagement, Illuminate Adelaide, and the City of Adelaide Public Art Round Table. Kaurua engagement as well as engagement with relevant traders and businesses adjacent to the work will be undertaken as part of the detailed design stage.
Resource	Project support will be provided by the Infrastructure Delivery and Creative City teams.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Any potential relationship or reputational risk will be mitigated through a consultation process in the planning and delivery of the work and the expert advice provided to inform Council's decision.
Opportunities	Reinforce the city's reputation as a place of quality arts and cultural experiences. Provide a cultural tourism destination that will attract local, regional, national and international visitation, leading to visitor expenditure in the city.
22/23 Budget Allocation	City of Adelaide's budget for this project is up to \$300,000 allocated in the 2022-23 BP&B to 'Commission a permanent light-based public artwork' under the heading Illuminate Adelaide Public Artwork.
Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result as of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	A permanent artwork with an expected lifespan of ten years or more.
22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Annual maintenance costs are anticipated to be in the order of \$5,000 or less and will be factored into the Long Term Financial Plan. The actual maintenance costs will be confirmed as part of the detailed design stage.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. At the 9 August 2022 meeting Council:
 - 1.1. Noted the City of Adelaide has commissioned a multi-piece permanent light-based public artwork by Carla O'Brien which will be announced as part of Illuminate Adelaide 2022, as shown in Attachment A to Item 10.10 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 9 August 2022.
 - 1.2. Requested Administration brings back the final artwork concept designs to Council for approval.
2. At the August 2022 meeting the preferred artist provided early concept renders for the proposed artwork. Council noted this needed further development and asked that Administration bring back the final artwork concept designs to Council for approval.

Status

3. In response to this request, Administration worked with the artist from the 2022 proposal to further develop concept designs for consideration.
4. In consideration of the Melbourne Street Main Streets, another South Australian artist, Sam Songailo, was invited to develop a public art concept design for the site.
5. The Internal Commissioning of Public Art Operating Procedure's outline that concepts will be reviewed by a Public Art Reference Group (PARG) or by an assessment panel.
6. A PARG was established to discuss these proposals, which were also reviewed by Illuminate Adelaide.
7. PARG members unanimously recommended Sam Songailo's concept be put forward as the preferred concept design on the basis that:
 - 7.1. It best responded to the site and area.
 - 7.2. The scale, cost and ability to deliver was more realistic against the budget.
 - 7.3. More proven experience in delivery of public artwork.
8. PARG members suggested considerations for the design and documentation stage including more sympathetic integration to the local material pallet, review of accessibility and development of storytelling in relation to the work.
9. Advice from PARG members, along with any from Council, will be provided to the artist to respond to in the next stage of the process.

Budget Allocation

10. This project was initiated as part of the Illuminate Adelaide commitment of \$900,000 over three years to 'commission a permanent light-based public artwork'.
11. Council received a report on 14 March 2023 regarding the Ouch Studios proposal for Light Square / Wauwi as part of the Public Art commitment for Illuminate Adelaide. Whilst the public art proposal had significant merit, the project budget was not viable in its current form and Council determined not to proceed with that proposal and to return the unallocated budget for that proposal.
12. The proposal for North Adelaide will be the final project to be delivered under Council's public art funding commitment as follows:

	2020-21 / 2021-22	2021-22 / 2022-23	2022-23 / 2023-24
Artist and work	Jason Sims <i>Golden Rhombohedron</i> (Obtuse)	Ouchhh Studios	Sam Songailo – Proposed
Location	Grote Street	Light Square / Wauwi	Melbourne Street, North Adelaide
Status	Complete	Not proceeding	Concept Approval
Budget	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Actual costs	\$263,556	\$79,537	\$15,000

13. Following the 14 March 2023 Council decision on the Light Square artwork, a legacy light-based public artwork of scale and significance to the City will be explored and brought back to Council. It should also be noted that the remainder of the funding allocated to the Light Square proposal will be returned to Council through the Quarter 3, quarterly budget review.

Preferred concept design

14. Internally, the Creative City team has also consulted with the City Experience Place Coordinator on the integration of the proposed work into Melbourne Street, as part of the Melbourne Street Masterplan.
15. The preferred concept is by artist Sam Songailo (**Attachment A**).
16. Following these discussions and advice, an illuminated, integrated artwork concept which also act as pieces of street furniture by Sam Songailo is the supported concept for Council approval.

Next Steps

17. If approved by Council, the concept design provided in **Attachment A**, will move immediately into detailed design for fabrication and delivery by late 2023. Public artworks are delivered in a five-step process:
 - 17.1. Step 1 – Project Initiation and Stakeholder Engagement – complete
 - 17.2. Step 2 – Artist/s Selection – complete
 - 17.3. Step 3 – Concept Design – current step
 - 17.4. Step 4 – Detailed Design – concept design is fully detailed and developed with the Infrastructure Delivery team and will go to the Project Control Group before approving implementation
 - 17.5. Step 5 – Implementation – installation and maintenance manual created.
18. This work will report through project governance within the City of Adelaide, and report regularly to the Project Control Group (PCG). PCG includes representation from asset management, procurement, infrastructure delivery, and design teams within City Services. This internal reporting, review and management will include an asset assessment on future maintenance and care.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Recommended Artistic Concept for Melbourne Street, North Adelaide

- END OF REPORT -