

1.3 **ENHANCEMENT OF J.W. HURST RESERVE, OAKLEIGH. PUBLIC ART PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT**

(FA:ARTS49)

Responsible Director: Carolyn McClean

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the Progress Report and notes the following:

a) The development of an art competition involving local schools and the delivery of an Indigenous art and culture workshop as part of the process.

b) The involvement of Artists who will reflect an Indigenous theme to produce the public art installation at the J.W. Hurst Reserve in collaboration with local schools.

2. A report to be presented in July 2009 recommending the winning design(s) resulting from the art competition.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the current progress of the public art project connected to the J.W. Hurst Reserve, Oakleigh. This report also presents to Council a proposed project plan for the future delivery of the project.

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting of 28 October 2008, a Notice of Motion was submitted by Cr Dimopoulos entitled 'Enhancement of J.W. Hurst Reserve, Oakleigh.' This Notice of Motion proposed that Council 'investigate opportunities for enhancement of J.W. Hurst Reserve with consideration given to additional tree canopy, public art and beautification works...' The Notice of Motion also recommended undertaking a school art competition to involve students in the project and reward the school with the best idea and design.

In undertaking research about the site, the Arts and Cultural Development Unit identified that J.W. Hurst Reserve has historical and Indigenous significance. In particular, tales have been told of the Bunurong people holding corroborees at this site.

The Cultural Development Officer, in consultation with Oakleigh Ward Councillors, has developed a public art project that involves engaging with local schools and school communities in an art competition introduced by a workshop exploring Oakleigh history especially in relation to its Indigenous history. The proposed project will also involve the commissioning of artist to create a public artwork inspired by the work submitted to the art competition.

ANALYSIS

Due to the cultural significance of the J.W. Hurst Reserve site, there is an opportunity for Council to engage in a meaningful way with the Indigenous

culture of the municipality. It is therefore important that Council seeks quotes from artists or groups of artists that have a demonstrated connection to Indigenous art, to design and produce a public art installation. It is also important that these artists collaborate with local schools and are inspired by the artwork and feedback from students. The art project would have the following objectives:

- To celebrate and promote Indigenous culture and history in line with the Monash Strategic Plan;
- To provide an opportunity for community engagement in the development of the work;
- Enrich the experience of the public space;
- To develop partnerships with Indigenous organisations and community groups;
- To consult and work closely with the Indigenous community;
- To be of high professional standard;
- To enhance the aesthetic of the architecture and landscape.
- To demonstrate the artistic connection to the winning design of the school art competition.

IMPLEMENTATION

Letters of participation were sent to all local secondary schools inviting their involvement. The competition offers a prize of \$1,000 with a judging panel choosing a winner for the best concept idea and design. The students will be free to create an artwork in any medium including: writing; drawing; painting; collage or photography. In addition, the selected artist will use the artworks produced by the students as a point of reference and as inspiration to create the public artwork. Once the artist starts producing the artwork in February 2010, students will be invited to meet with the artist and discuss how the artist uses the student's work in the process of developing their concept.

Schools that have indicated their interest are South Oakleigh College, Ashwood College and Mazenod College.

Council will facilitate a one-hour workshop with an Indigenous facilitator who will talk about Indigenous art and culture. The workshop is to provide students with support information about the site in order to create their artwork.

After the workshops have been conducted, the students will be asked to submit their artwork that will then be judged by a panel consisting of: Oakleigh Ward Councillors, Council Officers, an Indigenous representative and an Oakleigh community representative. The artwork will be on public display before and after the judging process.

In the development of the enhancement project Council will work across the relevant departments to create a plan that will incorporate the beautification and additional tree canopy improvements to J.W. Hurst Reserve as well as the public art installation.

Proposed project time lines:

Stage One

Letters to local schools

Jan 2009

Local schools confirmed	20 Feb 2009
Indigenous facilitator confirmed	27 March 2009
School Holidays	6 April – 17 April
Indigenous workshops 2009	27 April – 8 May
School art competition opens	18 May 2009
School art competition closes	12 June 2009
Judging panel to choose the school winner	15 - 19 June 2009
School winner to be announced	26 June 2009
Council Report	14 July 2009

Stage Two (next stages are subject to Council's 09/10 budget approval for the public art installation)

Expression of interest application opens	27 July 2009
Expression of interest application closes	21 August 2009
Review Expression of Interests	10 Sept 2009
Short-listed artists notified	28 Sept 2009

Stage Three

Information session for short-listed artists	19 Oct 2009
Artwork Project team meeting: Artist presentations	Mid Nov 2009
Artwork Project team meeting: Artist selected	End Nov 2009
Successful artist notified and awarded contract	Dec 2009

Stage Four

Production of the work commence	Feb 2010
Artist to deliver info session to school students	April 2010
Installation of the work to be completed	May 2010
Official Launch of public art	June 2010

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report supports the aspirations and key objectives to the following Council's strategies:

- City of Monash Council Plan particularly Strategic Objective 4 – A Liveable City, Strategic Objective 1 – An Inclusive and Committed Community by garnering community and public input, discussion and ideas in the realisation of a significant community and Council project.
- Council's *Public Artwork Program*, which is in accordance with the *Creative Community: Monash Arts & Cultural Development Strategy*. Adopted by Council in June 2007, the strategy states:

1.3 To plan for the inclusion of public art in all major Council development and redevelopment projects including streetscape works and community facilities.
- Council's Indigenous Framework and Action Plan, which states to *Promote and Celebrate Indigenous Culture* and *To encourage a positive approach to Indigenous Community Engagement*.

This project will ensure an appropriate outcome to support the above strategies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are required to produce a workshop for students and for the \$1,000 competition prize. These funds are available in the current Cultural Development budget allocation. It is proposed that Council allocates \$75,000 in the 2009/10 budget process for the expression of interest process, design and delivery of the artwork.

The balance of works being the additional tree canopy and beautification works are proposed to be funded out of the Improvements – Passive Recreation Areas, Unspecified Passive Reserve Improvements.

CONCLUSION

Council's endorsement is requested of the proposed project plan. This project acknowledges an important Indigenous historical site, involves the local school community in the development of the art project and supports the installation of a public artwork at a 'gateway' location in Monash.