

6.2 MULTICULTURAL MOON LIGHT FESTIVAL

Submitting Councillors: Cr MT Pang Tsoi and Cr Paul Klisaris

MOTION

That Council approves the allocation of \$58,000 for the Multicultural Moon Light Festival, a community and cultural celebration in Glen Waverley to be held on the evening of Saturday 22 September 2018.

INTRODUCTION

The annual Mooncake Festival is a celebration of Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian, Cambodian, Japanese, Korean, Filipino and other South East Asian cultures, marking the harvest during the eighth month of the lunar calendar. It marks the full moon and is an opportunity for family, togetherness and an evening celebration.

To highlight this important event in our multicultural community calendar, we commend to our colleagues the opportunity to introduce the Multicultural Moon Light Festival to Monash, with a celebration that is intended to embrace these and all cultures of Monash's diverse community.

BACKGROUND

The Mooncake Festival has its foundation as an autumn celebration of harvest and thanksgiving. Occurring here in Spring, its Australian context is a celebration of family, togetherness, food and wellbeing; the important features of our community's cohesion. We are proposing that the event is held in Glen Waverley, where the vibrant activity centre provides a great space for conducting an evening celebration. The Multicultural Moon Light Festival will bring together our people, cuisines and a sense of belonging, extending its traditional profile to embrace people of all cultures and backgrounds from across the community.

DISCUSSION

The site proposed for the Multicultural Moon Light Festival is the western end of the Central Car Park, at the northern end of the Kingsway activity precinct. The Festival will feature stage performances by community cultural groups, a hawkers' market of food trucks featuring a range of diverse cuisines, and engaging activities including lantern making.

It is proposed that the event will run from 5pm to 10pm, providing the opportunity for the community to enjoy the lanterns and lighting offered as part of the festival, as well as a unique outdoor evening event in Monash's events calendar. We hope that our colleagues will share the vision of this event, which seeks to bring people together and extends the Kingsway

precinct for an evening of togetherness, stargazing and fun. To develop and deliver the event, the services of an external event coordinator and attendant event staffing are required, outside Council's adopted events and festivals program. Funding of \$58,000 is required to deliver this event.

Council Plan Strategic Context

The proposal speaks to the *Healthy and Resilient Monash Integrated Plan*, notably the commitment to Participation in an Engaged, Confident and Connected community:

Community engagement

- Community engagement is a dynamic process that builds resilient relationships and the community's strength.

Programs and activities

- Community based programs, activities, events and celebrations that respond to community needs, interests and aspirations impact positively on health.

Creative expression

- Community based arts and cultural activities, services and events that celebrate cultural diversity, support artistic expression and strengthen community.

The proposal also demonstrates the vision of the *Monash Arts and Cultural Plan 2015-2018*:

To inspire strong, vibrant, creative and connected communities

It addresses the strategic intent of the Plan to:

- Encourage and support participation in arts and cultural activities at a local level and within communities of interest; and to
- Ensure opportunities to participate in cultural activities that are reflective of the cultural diversity of the Monash community.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Mooncake Festival is traditionally a festival for Chinese, Vietnamese and many other South East Asian cultures. The Multicultural Moon Light Festival aims to broaden the reach to embrace to these and all other all cultures of Monash, presenting an evening of celebration and fun.

Council's events calendar features an engaging range of community events that provide opportunities for highlighting the creativity and dedication of the city's cultural groups and bringing people together. The idea for this Multicultural Moon Light Festival is a fresh perspective on the traditional Mooncake Festival. It introduces a new Monash event in school holidays that will welcome families and add a further reason to visit the Kingsway precinct.

CONSULTATION

Consultation for the project will be conducted with members of the Glen Waverley Traders' Association and the Monash Chinese Event Organising Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Multicultural Moon Light Festival is a great opportunity for inclusion, community and food in a unique evening celebration. I urge my fellow councillors to support this initiative as an exciting feature of Council's events calendar.