



**MINUTES FOR GLEN EIRA
ARTS AND CULTURE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 17 October
5pm-6pm**

Rippon Lea Room - Glen Eira Town Hall

Purpose:

To assist and advise Council regarding key issues relating to arts and culture; to contribute views on the cultural needs of the community; and to collaborate on strategies to encourage participation in the cultural life of Glen Eira.

Assembly of Councillors Record

The meeting commenced at 5:04pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Margaret Esakoff (Chair) Cr Sam Parasol	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
<i>Community Representatives:</i>	Jytte Holmqvist Louis Balis Kathleen Plastow	Community Committee Member Community Committee Member Community Committee Member
<i>Council Staff:</i>	Harley Moraitis Deidre Pellizzer Russell Fletcher Siân Clark	Acting Director Community Wellbeing Manager Libraries, Arts and Culture Team Leader Arts and Culture Business Support Officer Libraries, Arts and Culture

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1. **Apologies:** Cr Li Zhang
Cr Anne-Marie Cade
Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member

2. **Conflicts of Interest Declaration**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. **Action Items Update from last Committee Meeting**

Harley Moraitis

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Arts and Culture Marketing Strategies	Officers will respond to question on notice – what percentage of the Arts and Culture budget goes to Carols?	Budget is under review. Ongoing budget discussions will be held in 2024.	Deidre Pellizzer	Active
My Brother Jack Awards 2024 (Item 3.1 from last Committee Meeting)	Officers will include all Committee suggestions and the change of date when planning for the 2024 My Brother Jack Awards.	Response to be discussed at Item 5.1.	Deidre Pellizzer	Closed
Glen Eira Community Awards 2024	Officers will include improvements as discussed when planning next year's event.	Improvements noted and will be included in planning of 2024 Awards.	Russell Fletcher	Closed
National Reconciliation Week 2023 feedback	Feedback for this event will be shared with the Committee at a future meeting.	Response to be discussed at Item 5.2.	Russell Fletcher	Closed
Summer Storytelling Festival 2024	The Glen Eira Events Schedule will be updated to include the My Brother Jack Awards program.	Events Schedule 2023-24 published on the website including the Awards.	Russell Fletcher	Closed
Summer Stories Festival 2024 (Item 5.2 from last Committee meeting)	Officers will discuss the inclusion of the GE Community Engagement Van at suitable events starting with the Rolling Shows at Caulfield Racecourse.	The GE Community Engagement Van was not available for the Rolling Shows but will be requested for inclusion at other future events.	Russell Fletcher	Closed

Note: Any items still active to be carried over to future meetings.

4. Summary of meeting minutes from previous meeting

Harley Moraitis

At the Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2023, the following items were addressed:

- Officers presented an update on recent events.
- Officers presented the Glen Eira Events Schedule 2023-24.
- The Committee discussed the My Brother Jack Awards 2024, including commencing earlier in the academic year.
- The Committee discussed inclusion of the GE Community Engagement Van at suitable future events.
- Officers presented a suggestion to move the Guy Boyd sculpture *Swimmer entering the Water*. The sculpture will remain at GESAC for now.

Noted by the Committee.

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 Our Priorities, Our Future

Alex Leamy

Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy presented on the *Our Priorities, Our Future* engagement project currently being undertaken. Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the project and community members were encouraged to participate in the *Our Priorities, Our Future* survey through *Have Your Say*. The survey is open till 20 November 2023.

Action:

Officers will send a copy of the presentation slides to the Committee members with the minutes.

Noted by the Committee.

5.2 My Brother Jack Awards

Deidre Pellizzer

Entries for the My Brother Jack Awards closed on Monday 11 September 2023, with a record number of entries (713), seeing increases in every category. The number of entries in the Senior Secondary and Open Poetry categories were double the previous year.

Judging is currently underway, with the Awards presentation taking place on Sunday 5 November 2023.

Beginning in 2024, the *My Brother Jack Awards* will be held earlier in the year, with entries opening on Monday 22 April 2024 and closing Monday 1 July 2024, avoiding the busy end of the school year. The Award's presentation will be held on Sunday 1 September 2024. The Awards will be launched at the 2024 Storytelling Festival (Wednesday 28 February-Sunday 3 March 2024).

Committee members discussed the spread of ages across the entries in terms of any gaps, with a view to targeting those gaps when promoting the next round of the Awards.

Action:

Officers will ensure the next promotional campaign for *My Brother Jack Awards 2024* includes a focus on any gaps such as age groups with lower entry numbers.

Noted by the Committee.

5.2 Recent Events Update

Russell Fletcher

National Reconciliation Week feedback

Officers provided a summary of the highly positive feedback received from surveys regarding National Reconciliation Week events. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage with First Nations people directly to learn about their culture. Ideas for improvements included having an afternoon tour; smaller groups so it would be easier to hear the presenter; inclusion of references to recent history and land use; and clearer direction/location instructions for attendees. Committee members concurred that the events were a success.

Action:

Officers will include the improvement ideas in the planning for future events.

Lil Robots

A 'pop up' installation event called *Lil Robots* was held in the Auditorium from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 July 2023. The event was well received with over 3,500 people attending the sessions held between 10am and 8pm over the three days. *Lil Robots* included 40 robots of all different shapes and sizes. Unique lighting design and electronic soundscapes provided a fully immersive experience for the participants.

Surveys undertaken by participants provided highly positive feedback for this mid-winter indoor event. Committee members agreed that it was a successful event. A question was raised as to how many participants were local to Glen Eira.

Action:

Officers to review survey results to identify whether the majority of attendees reside in Glen Eira. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Rolling Shows

A collaboration with Caulfield Reserve Community Market and Caulfield and Elsternwick Rotary Clubs showcased local musical artists performing on the back of a vintage truck. Held between 9am and 2pm on Sunday 3 September 2023 (Father's Day), the audience sat on colourful beanbags in the sunshine and enjoyed a variety of food trucks.

Officers advised that anecdotal 'word of mouth' feedback about the event was positive. Feedback will be formalised at future events.

Action:

At future Rolling Shows events, Officers will conduct a feedback survey.

Noted by the Committee.

5.3 Visual Arts Update

Russell Fletcher

Flourish – explore a re-imagined natural world.

Officers provided a summary of the exhibition and the highly positive feedback received from surveys.

Flourish was a major Council-curated exhibition presented in the Gallery from Friday 7 July to Sunday 13 August 2023, showcasing work by leading contemporary Australian artists. Visitors

were encouraged to take a journey through an immersive environment brimming with colour and luminosity, exploring the connections between nature, storytelling, and cultural themes.

A series of curator and artist floor talks and creative workshops were programmed throughout the exhibition, as well as an interactive children's exhibition in Gallery Two – *Imagination at Play*.

Wild City

Gallery 2 hosted *Wild City*, a sustainability-themed installation in the form of a sculptural city. Artist Kathy Holowko hosted hands-on workshops for children to turn the sculptural city into a lush habitat where humans and animals live in harmony.

Youth Art Exhibition – Growth

The annual Glen Eira Youth Art Exhibition opened on Thursday 7 September 2023, showcasing artwork from entrants aged 5 to 25 years. 316 artworks were featured this year, which was a significant increase on last year's 183 entries.

The annual exhibition is youth-led and facilitated through collaborative efforts between the Youth Events and Leadership Team and Glen Eira Youth Services.

The award presentation night was held on Thursday 14 September 2023 and brought together over 330 community members to celebrate the skills, talents, and voices of emerging young artists in Glen Eira. Officers provided a summary of the exhibition, including continuous improvements. Committee members concurred that the exhibition continues to be a success.

Noted by the Committee.

5.4 Storytelling Festival

Russell Fletcher

Officers provided an update on the Storytelling Festival, which will be held Wednesday 28 February to Sunday 3 March 2024.

Promotion of the *My Brother Jack Awards* 2024 will be launched at the Storytelling Festival aligning the two literary events.

An overview of programs expected to be presented as part of the Festival includes:

- panels on creativity in motherhood, and the connections between food and memories.
- author conversations on diversity, inclusion, and Australian First Nations people.
- partnerships with community organisations.
- children's workshops.

Committee members expressed positive views on the programming so far with a suggestion that the medium of graphic novels be considered for inclusion in this or future Festivals.

Action:

Officers will circulate the Storytelling Festival program to Committee members once finalised.

Officers will investigate the inclusion of programs themed around graphic novels and visual storytelling in the Storytelling Festival.

6. General Business:

Cr Esakoff (Chair)

Officers highlighted that Russell Fletcher is acting Team Leader Arts and Culture following the departure of Tori Hayat.

Officers provided an update on upcoming events through to the end of 2023, including the Diwali Festival in November and the Lighting of the Menorah at the Town Hall in December. There was discussion on the style of poster image for Diwali. The image is quite dark and might be better if lighter to create a more joyous, celebratory feel.

There was discussion of the use of staging at the Diwali event. Committee suggests that Officers look into purchasing staging equipment rather than hiring for each event as to whether it might be more cost effective.

Action:

Officers will consider lighter imagery for the Diwali 2024 poster, potentially based on the colourful patterns used in traditional Indian dresses.

Officers will compare costs between hiring a stage for each event and purchasing a stage to be re-used for all Glen Eira events.

Officers will send the date of Lighting of the Menorah to Committee Members once confirmed.

7. Forward Meeting Schedule

2024 meeting dates to be confirmed.

*Meeting Frequency: Up to a maximum of five meetings per calendar year.

8. Next Meeting

2024 meeting dates to be confirmed.

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6:04pm.

Running Recommendation List

For Reference: Recommendations adopted so far during this Advisory Committee Term

Recommendation	Committee Meeting Date	Adopted (Y/N)	Confirmed at OCM Date
'Council accepts the donations from Judy Glick for inclusion in the Glen Eira City Council Art Collection and formally thanks Ms Glick for her generous gift'.	23 June 2022	Yes	9 August 2022
'Council endorses the Glen Eira Events and Festivals Schedule 2022-2023'.	25 August 2022	Yes	12 October 2022
'Council accepts the donations from Jenny Zhe Chang, Inge Ruben, and Hedley Potts for inclusion in the Glen Eira City Council Art Collection and formally thanks the donors for their generous gifts.'	21 March 2023	Yes	2 May 2023