

Special Shoalhaven Arts Board

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 05 April, 2023

Location: Jervis Bay Room, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Time: 4.30pm

Please note: Council's Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Reports

AB23.8 Shoalhaven Arts Board 2022/2023 Grants program - Awarding of
Grants 1

4. General Business

Membership

Ms Christine Dunstan - Chairperson
Clr Tonia Gray
Clr John Kotlash
Clr Moo D'Ath
Clr Patricia White (Alternate)
Clr Paul Ell (Alternate)
Mr Stephen Buzacott
Mr Frank Howarth
Dr Lynda Kelly
Mr Drew Longbottom
Ms Bonnie Porter-Greene
Ms Kate Dezarnaulds

Quorum – Majority of the members – At least half plus one (1) member.

Note: Any non-voting Councillor in attendance at any of the above Committees may act as an alternate voting member in circumstances where achievement of a quorum is required.

Purpose

- a) To contribute to and develop strategy and policy both for the Shoalhaven City Council as well as in alignment with the Region.
- b) To develop and implement policy, planning and vision for the broad arts within existing resources and use a co-opted panel of peers for professional advice. They include:
 - Visual Arts
 - Heritage and Museum Sector
 - Literature
 - Performing Arts
- c) Advocate and maintain specific arts related portfolios.
- d) Advocate and promote Board recommendations.

Delegated Authority

- Act within adopted budgets aligning with Council's strategic plans and document, and make recommendations on the arts to Council.
- Appoint suitable representatives to fill casual vacancies on a set term basis.
- Inform and recommend policy for arts related funding programs, and where required by Council, vote on related matters.
- Establish a peer panel of professionals, experts and practitioners across art forms, heritage and cultural platforms to be co-opted as needed for input and advice to the Shoalhaven Arts Board.
- Establish a Shoalhaven Arts Foundation:
 - To support the development and enrichment of broad arts across the Shoalhaven including visual, heritage, literature & performing arts
 - To ensure that the Foundation in its governance, membership and charter are independent/ and at arms-length from Council yet works in concert with the Shoalhaven Arts Board, Council and the community needs
 - To fundraise and develop a sustainable principal investment to generate ongoing grant funds.

Relevant staff will work collaboratively with the Shoalhaven Arts Board to:

- Develop and implement activities to achieve objectives in line with the Shoalhaven Arts Board recommendations, the Council's policies and corporate plan.

AB23.8 Shoalhaven Arts Board 2022/2023 Grants program - Awarding of Grants

HPERM Ref: D23/114383

Department: Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre
Approver: Sarah Taylor, Manager - Library Services

Reason for Report

To inform the Shoalhaven Arts Board of the recommendations by the Arts Board Grants working party for awarding the 2022/2023 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Arts Board grants be allocated as follows:

1. Professional Development Grants
 - a. Peter Zanetti - Professional development at Megalo Printmaking Studios in Canberra - \$3,000.
 - b. Alison Mackay - Unfolding Interiors Residency - \$3,000.
 - c. Carla Jackett - Wings - Exhibition Development - \$1,250.
2. Sense of Place Grants
 - a. Active and Effective - Climate Changed Women of the Shoalhaven – podcast series and printed calendar - \$7,880.
 - b. Blue Prints – resilience project including storytelling, installations and workshops - \$10,000.
 - c. Shoalhaven Songwriters Collective – song writing, recording and album release - \$10,000.
 - d. Connecting Community Through Art - 100 Years of Service - public art mural - \$6,917.
3. The above recommendations will see the 2022/2023 Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants fund of \$42,997 fully dispersed. A sum of \$950 from the grant funds was expended on publicising and promoting the grants. This left \$42,047 available to the evaluation panel when considering the 34 applications.

Options

1. Accept the Recommendation as printed.
Implications: The grant monies will be disbursed in line with the grant programs and the recommendations of the working group.
2. Amend the Recommendation
Implications: The monies may not be disbursed in a timely manner and may not be allocated to the projects that best fit the advertised grant program.
3. Reject the Recommendation
Implications: The monies may not be disbursed in a timely manner and may not be allocated within the current financial year.

Background

The Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants closed on 5 February 2023, having been open since 20 December 2022. They were advertised via social media platforms, print media, digital newsletters, and Shoalhaven City Council's Get Involved page.

There were two streams open for application:

Arts Practitioners Professional Development, for amounts up to \$3,000; and A Sense of Place – for a project with a public outcome and amounts up to \$10,000.

A total of 34 applications were received across the two programs, which is a significant increase on 13 applications in 2021/2022.

The Arts Grants working party, consisting of Christine Dunstan, Kate Dezarnaulds, Bonnie Porter-Greene, and Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre manager Karen Patterson, met on Tuesday, 21 March, to review the applications.

Professional Development Grant Recommendations

These recommendations and the reasonings are as follows:

1. Peter Zanetti - Megalo Printmaking Studios residency - requested \$3,000 - to be fully funded.

This funding will support Peter Zanetti further develop his practice during a six-week residency to produce multi-colour and monochrome prints.

2. Alison Mackay - Unfolding Interiors - requested \$3,000 - to be fully funded.

This funding will assist Alison Mackay to undertake a residency at the Artists' Houses in North Queensland to continue preparing a body of work for exhibition on the theme of documenting regional property interiors.

3. Carla Jackett - Wings - requested \$1,250 - to be fully funded.

This funding will support Carla Jackett, a ceramicist who works in sculptural forms using earthenware and stoneware clays, to create a body of work for an exhibition on the theme of Wings.

A Sense of Place Grants

There were 19 applications for the Sense of Place stream. Successful applicants demonstrated a thorough understanding of the intention of the grant program including the need to actively connect and engage with artists and audiences via a project that includes collaboration between different artists/organisations and the community.

1. Active and Effective - Climate Changed Women of the Shoalhaven - podcast series and printed calendar - \$7,880 - to be fully funded.

This project will be led by Sheree Cole an illustrator, designer and activist who will work with community leaders and not-for-profits to tell the stories of Shoalhaven women who have found unique and creative ways to be active and effective in ongoing climate disasters including fire and floods.

The project will culminate in a podcast series of twelve episodes focusing on Aboriginal activists, authors, visual artists, music festival organisers and wildlife carers. The series will explore how creative work connects people to place, community and hope, while aiding resilience.

The podcast will inform watercolour illustrations of the women and their work, including quotes, plus a short story to be combined in a calendar. The creatives behind this project consider art to be the bridge between action and inaction when dealing with climate change and associated grief and trauma.

2. Blue Prints – resilience project including storytelling, installations and workshops - \$10,000 – to be fully funded

The Blue Prints project invites the bushfire impacted families of Manyana and Bendalong to participate in an art project that includes an installation, workshops and performances in collaboration with the community.

Up to 2,000 handmade prints will be made at public workshops with some being used as postcards and large-scale works.

Six weeks prior to the event blueprinting kits, also known as cyanotype kits, will be delivered to more than 200 Manyana households.

The objective of the project is to inspire a sense of wonder and foster community connections by encouraging closer examination of the local environment and encouraging preservation for future generations.

3. Shoalhaven Songwriters Collective - song writing, recording and album release - \$10,000 - to be fully funded

The Shoalhaven Songwriters Project aims to bring songwriters of the region together to collaborate on new compositions inspired by shared connections to Sense of Place in the Shoalhaven.

The compositions will be recorded by the artists and as a digital music collection for public release. The intention is to create a sound that is distinctly 'Shoalhaven'.

The final recordings will be celebrated with a live event to launch the new works.

4. Connecting Community Through Art - 100 Years of Service - public art mural - \$6,917 - to be partially funded following the application for \$10,000.

This project of the Nowra Country Women's Association has been designed to complement the public art murals existing in the Nowra CBD, to beautify a public space and to celebrate the CWA's centenary.

The intention is to provide a better visual experience for people who use the Berry Street car park and provide an artistic outlook for nearby neighbours.

The mural will be painted by a Shoalhaven artist Clayton Campion and will feature a portrait of Nowra's founding member Mrs Norton set against a backdrop of a handmade doily, florals, the CWA logo, and a black cockatoo which means Nowra in the local First Nations language.

Shoalhaven Arts Board Grant Applications not recommended for funding:

Arts Practitioners Professional Development Applications – not successful:

1. Amanda Smyth – WEAVE – Your Way Home.

The funding request was to support weaving workshops for girls aged eight to thirteen.

The working group felt the application was designed to support the applicant to deliver workshops rather than pursue professional development.

2. Gerald Buckley – Working with flame – glass and steel.

In a highly competitive round the application was ranked lower than other applications, particularly in relation to connecting with peers and building a sustainable career.

3. Jamie Apps – Pario Magazine – Shoalhaven Editions

The working group considered the applicant, who was seeking support to publish an online and hardcopy publication, was not seeking funding for the purpose of professional development.

4. John Passanisi – The Ancients

Working group members considered funding a feasibility study, the artist's wages, and consulting to be conducted by the artist was in essence not a form of professional development.

5. Kelvin Taylor – printmaking classes and workshops for novice and experienced practitioners

The application related to set-up costs for printmaking workshop equipment, a website, and a marketing campaign. The working group felt the application related to business establishment costs rather than professional development for the applicant.

6. Leone Rogers – Milton Follies Turns 21

The working group considered that this grant application was written to support sponsorship of a community theatre celebration rather than the professional development of its performers, and therefore didn't meet the Grant Guidelines.

7. Marg Sherringham – Filigree Acoustic Music Ensemble

In line with the Grant Guidelines the working group was unable to support this request to fund pull-up banners, venue hire for rehearsal purposes, marketing materials and catering.

8. Narelle Harding – Artistic shed to support and develop creative health for women.

This application did not detail the form or forms of professional development to be delivered. The proposed programme of events was not supported by a detailed budget.

9. Narissara Prachyakul – Embrace the Shoalhaven

Centred on creating work for a series of exhibitions, this application didn't not address how the artist would enhance their skill set, connect with peers, or build a sustainable career through professional development activities.

10. Patti Bartlett – Five Villages Book Marketing Skills Development

This application, seeking support for promotions and marketing of two authors' work was beyond the remit of the Grant Guidelines.

11. Per Gunn – Developing pottery skills.

This application related to the purchase of a new kiln for the purpose of teaching family members pottery. The evaluation panel considered this application did not match the professional development criteria.

12. Sharon Haarsma – Research and shoemaking mentorship

This application spoke strongly to the Sense of Place provocation, which was well articulated. Based on the eight criteria by which each panellist scored the applications this project didn't rank as highly as other applications in this highly competitive round.

A Sense of Place Grant applications – not recommended for funding.

1. Alex Herlihy – Cedars

This application pertained to the creation of 'public art sculpture' within a private business on private land making it ineligible.

2. Andrew High – Shoalhaven Comedy Writing and Performance Workshops

The working group felt this application didn't fully address 'Sense of Place' or how the workshops would result in innovative artistic expression that benefited the community.

3. Anna Wright-Hands – House of Wolves Short Film

The working group held concerns about how a short film shot in a single location at Broughton Vale could adequately fulfil the promise of A Sense of Place. Apart from a showing for cast and crew there was no consideration in the application to guaranteeing a public screening in the Shoalhaven.

4. Claire Chapman – Cabaret by the Deadly South

This application was based on a call-out to cabaret performers to respond to the themes of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow; Who Do You Think You Are? Dreams; and Around the World. The panel felt these provocations didn't respond to A Sense of Place and the Shoalhaven.

5. Emma Persen – the Common – South Coast Live Art Wall

The application for an urban art style revolving mural does not meet the Guidelines as the proposed wall is within a private business.

6. Emma-Jayde Chapman - Unity Dreaming Exhibition and Workshops

This application relating to artist led workshops and exhibitions lacked detail about how Unity Dreaming would respond to A Sense of Place; whether the workshops would be paid or free of charge; capacity of workshops; and whether the exhibitions would include the work of the lead artists and workshop attendants.

7. Evan Guyatt - In Another Land - Songs from the South Coast – EP

The working group considered this application to be lacking in detail. There was no mention of artwork/design briefs or expenses related to the planned album or releases. Videos are mentioned in the application but not budgeted.

8. Jamie Apps - Pario Magazine - Shoalhaven Editions

The applicant proposed to devote an edition to showcasing Shoalhaven creatives and artists. There was no mention of print-run, detailed distribution costs or channels, pagination, or mention of the creatives to be profiled.

9. Jason Norris - Mental Health - a music/visual production discussing men's mental health on the South Coast

This application did not address how the project would enhance and develop the arts within the Shoalhaven. There was no mention of how the exploration of mental health connects with the theme of A Sense of Place. Incorporating mental health first aid and professional support either at the interviews with people who had suffered mental health challenges or at the planned public screening of the production was of concern to the panel.

10. Lorraine Larri - Friending Eco-grief - Poetry and Music for Challenging Times

Proposing a unique and ambitious project encouraging people traumatised by the 2019/20 Black Summer fires to build resilience through eco poetry, writing and performance workshops, this application was backed by strong letters of support. Ultimately the application was not supported by the working group who held concerns that the project plan and budget did not include a mental health support plan for participants.

11. Laura Turner – Albatross Musical Theatre Company – Celebrating and Connecting Women

This application was ineligible. The guidelines state that the grant will not support activities that work towards the presentation of previously performed and or publicly available material. A major part of the proposed project was a performance of the Song Cycle - Well Behaved Women by Broadway composer Carmel Dean – which has been performed.

12. Nicole Smede – Kundu Remeo

Although a strong application in terms of its response to A Sense of Place, the guidelines preclude funding for activities/events/project elements that have already commenced. Work had already been started on the 'library of trees' interactive community art project.

13. Peter McCarthy – The Cumulus Project: Re-Crafting Sacred Space

This application spoke strongly to the Sense of Place provocation. Based on the eight criteria by which each panellist scored the applications this project didn't rank as highly as other applications in this highly competitive round.

14. Sandra Gray – Building an Arts and Cultural Precinct for Sussex Inlet

In evaluating this proposal, the working group considered the activities proposed did not support inspiring and innovative artistic expression. Many of the proposed activities were also planned to support existing events within the Sussex Inlet community.

15. Shaun Wessel – Recording and Producing an Album

This application was not eligible due to the lack of a detailed project budget and mention of a defined public outcome. There was no information about the number of performers in the band Tall Shaun and the Resolution Blues or confirmation that all members were resident in the Shoalhaven.

Community Engagement:

The Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants program was promoted via a Get Involved page on Council's website, social media and print campaigns. This resulted in a record response of 34 applications across the combined Grants stream of Arts Practitioners Professional Development and A Sense of Place.

Financial Implications:

Funding of the recommended projects, plus the expenditure on marketing and promotion, will see the budget allocation of \$42,047 fully expended.