

# MINUTES

**Monday 10 March 2025**  
**6.30pm-8.00pm**

**Waverley Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee**  
**Assembly Room, Boot Factory**

## Participants:

Aleema Ash, Michaela Boland, Alex Bowen, Nerida Campbell, Donna Hewitt, Sam Marshall, Cr Will Nemesh, Antonia Pesenti, Cr Michelle Stephenson (Chair), Ben Thompson, Tanya Goldberg

## Guests:

Jacqui Cowell, Manager Arts and Culture; Chris Bendall, Artistic Director Bondi Pavilion

## Apologies:

Benjamin Schostakowski, Isabel Hudson, Cr Katherine Westwood, Cr Paula Masselos, Elizabeth Reidy Senior Curator Arts and Culture

Chair:			Minute Taker: Jacqui Cowell	
No	Subject	Type	Minutes	Who
1.	Welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest	For noting	No conflicts raised.	Chair/All
2.	Bondi Pavilion creative program overview	For noting and discussion	Chris Bendall presented evaluation of 2025 program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 Bondi Pavilion artistic program and Bondi Festival attendance statistics</li> <li>• audience responses collected in post-show surveys via Culture Counts</li> <li>• feedback to the program and venue</li> <li>• Committee members appreciated strong audience response and attendance data to date. Benchmarking against other similar venues to be investigated. Discussion of alternate methods to survey those people who aren't coming to the Pavilion.</li> </ul>	Chris Bendall

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Bondi Pavilion Artistic Program was praised and positive developments in programming since previous meeting noted.</li> <li>• Discussion on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- strong and growing levels of attendance in core demographic, especially audiences in their 40s and 50+</li> <li>- challenge in engaging younger audiences, especially with the under 30yrs market to ticketed shows</li> <li>- noted programs like The Wave and the Waverley Youth Arts Prize that successfully attract children and teens</li> <li>- importance of continuing to offer experiences for this demographic, and focus on building awareness</li> <li>- Art Gallery opening hours – consider adjustment to capture beach goers</li> <li>- strong performance and popularity of comedy: upcoming comedy programs include Gary Starr, Bondi Festival Comedy Gala, and Sydney Comedy Festival in May.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Noted that planning for Bondi Festival 2025 is underway.</p> <p>Discussion about The Whale, presented in January 2025, success of this project in bringing over 6,000 people to Bondi Pavilion, providing a free, family experience that was joyful. It was noted that this was a significant event, that attracted additional support from Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation.</p> <p>Cr Stephenson noted that she will be raising a motion at Council to purchase a sculpture by Dion Horstmans in recognition of his significant contribution to art and culture in Bondi.</p>	
3.	Local Creative Collaborations program review	For noting and discussion	<p>Chris updated the committee on the Local Creatives Program, starting with background on the purpose of the program and past funding rounds.</p> <p>Item and full presentation deferred to the next ACCAC meeting.</p>	Chris Bendall

4.	Public Art	Presentation for information and questions	<p>Presentation of the Bondi Mermaids artwork public exhibition results.</p> <p>The Committee unanimously recommended against awarding any concept with the design brief and for ceasing the commission for Site 5 at this time.</p> <p>Aspects discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problematic location of the site and the work</li> <li>• The cost for the proposed result. The committee felt that funds would be better spent on public art that was more contemporary and relevant to the Waverley community.</li> <li>• Query regarding the Pauline Menczer statue already approved by Council to receive as a gift. Fundraising by the committee is continuing and Council has provided approval for project to proceed. Additional public art projects have been approved by Council that will be focus of 2025/26 delivery actions and budget allocation.</li> </ul>	Tanya Goldberg
6.	General business		<p>Congratulations to the Arts and Culture team for all the hard work, passion and quality of its annual program.</p> <p>Cr Nemesh provided information about Bondi Junction Strategic Plan and inclusion within it for an arts and culture hub incorporating the council buildings including the library, Officeworks and the Boot Factory. He also noted the plan for sister-city status with Edinburgh, and the plan to support Head On Festival with increased financial support.</p> <p>Member suggestion for consideration by Council of an Accelerator program grant to support cultural activation in the Bondi Junction area, in addition to exploring consideration of Bondi as a special entertainment precinct.</p>	All
7.	Meeting close		8:00pm	

## 2025 meeting dates

- Monday 10 March, 6.30pm to 7.45pm
- Tuesday 22 April, 7.30pm to 8.45pm
- Wednesday 23 July, 6.30pm to 7.45pm
- Monday 22 September, 6.30pm to 7.45pm. Nb. Final meeting for current external members.
- Tuesday 11 November, 7.30pm to 8.45pm. Nb. First meeting for new external members.

## Links

1. [Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference](#)
2. [Waverley Council Code of Meeting Practice](#)
3. [Waverley Arts and Culture Plan 2021-2026](#)
4. [Waverley Public Art Policy](#)
5. [Waverley Art Collection Acquisition and Deaccessioning Guidelines](#)
6. [Waverley Public Art in the Private Domain Guidelines](#)