

# Minutes

## Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 26 November 2025



**MINUTES OF CITY OF DARWIN  
ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM BIDJPIDJI (MEETING ROOM 1), LEVEL 1, CIVIC CENTRE,  
HARRY CHAN AVENUE, DARWIN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 3:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan  
Community Member Petrit Abazi  
Community Member Kelly Blumberg  
Community Member Alyson Evans  
Arts NT Georgia Thomas  
AANT Centre Melissa White

**OFFICERS:**

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services Angela O'Donnell  
Arts and Cultural Development Officer Jenelle Saunders  
Arts and Cultural Development Officer Kaye Strange  
Senior Administration Officer Karen Long

**APOLOGY:**

Community Member Abby Dunn  
Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth  
Councillor Patrik Ralph

**GUESTS:**

General Manager Community Matt Grassmayr  
Lord Mayor Peter Styles

**Order of Business**

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*City of Darwin acknowledges that we are living and working on Larrakia Country. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region. We pay our respects to the Larrakia elders past and present and support emerging Larrakia leaders now and into the future. City of Darwin is committed to working together with all Larrakia to care for this land and sea for our shared future.*

## 2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA012/25

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:35pm.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 3.1 APOLOGIES

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA013/25

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Seconded: Community Member Petrit Abazi

THAT an apology from Community Member Abby Dunn, Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth and Councillor Patrik Ralph be received.

**CARRIED 6/0**

### 3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED

Nil

### 3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTED

Nil

*THE CHAIR WELCOMED THE LORD MAYOR PETER STYLES AND INVITED MEMBERS AROUND THE ROOM TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.*

*THE COMMITTEE MOVED TO ITEM 11 GENERAL BUSINESS AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS.*

## 11 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 11.1 GENERAL BUSINESS

#### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA014/25

MOVED: COMMUNITY MEMBER PETRIT ABAZI

SECONDED: COMMUNITY MEMBER ALYSON EVANS

THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS DISCUSSION ON THE COMMITTEE'S ROLES, PRIORITIES AND PURPOSE BE RECEIVED AND NOTED.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

### 4.1 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE GRANTED

Nil

### 4.2 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE REQUESTED

Nil

## 5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

### 5.1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

#### STANDING MEMBER DECLARATIONS

- Community Member Rachael Shanahan – is on the Textiles Travelling Suitcase Committee and a member on the NT Liquor Commission, NT Racing and Wagering Commission and the Charles Darwin University Finance and Infrastructure Development Committee.
- Community Member Petrit Abazi – is employed by Northern Centre for Contemporary Art (NCCA) which is funded through the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government.
- Community Member Alyson Evans – is employed by Darwin Community Arts (DCA). DCA applies for City of Darwin funding and grant opportunities.

### 5.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY STAFF

Nil

## 6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA015/25

Moved: AANT Centre Melissa White  
Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

THAT the minutes of the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on 21 May 2025 be confirmed.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 7 MOVING OF ITEMS

### 7.1 MOVING OF ITEMS INTO CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

### 7.2 MOVING OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS INTO OPEN

Nil

### 7.3 MOVING CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS TO OPEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

Nil

## 8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

### 8.1 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA016/25

Moved: AANT Centre Melissa White  
Seconded: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

THAT the presentation from General Manager Community, in relation to the Civic Centre Redevelopment, be received and noted.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9 OFFICER REPORTS

### 9.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE 24TH CITY OF DARWIN COUNCIL

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA017/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi  
Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Introduction to the 24th City of Darwin Council be received and noted.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9.2 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2026

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA018/25

Moved: Arts NT Georgia Thomas  
Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

1. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee adopts the following schedule for the meetings in 2026.
2. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee sets its meeting schedule up to 30 June 2026 as follows:
3. Meetings to be held on Wednesdays in February and May.
4. Meetings to be held from 3:30pm to 5:00pm
5. Meetings to be held at the City of Darwin, Civic Centre with the option to meet online when needed or preferred.
6. Meetings to be held on:
  - a. 18 February 2026
  - b. 20 May 2026

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9.3 2025 CREATIVE STRATEGY REPORTING

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA019/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi  
Seconded: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

THAT the report entitled 2025 Creative Strategy Reporting be received and noted.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9.4 PROJECT UPDATES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA020/25

Moved: Community Member Petrit Abazi  
Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Project Updates be received and noted.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## 9.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN - UPDATES

### COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA021/25

Moved: Arts NT Georgia Thomas  
Seconded: AANT Centre Melissa White

THAT the report entitled Advisory Committee Action Plan - Updates be received and noted.

**CARRIED 6/0**

**10 MEMBER REPORTS****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA022/25**

Moved: Community Member Kelly Blumberg  
Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

THAT the following Member Reports be received and noted.

**AANT Centre Melissa White**

- Name change from Darwin Entertainment Centre to AANT Centre
- Staff movements
- 2025 Broilga Award – Festivals and Events – Darwin Comedy Festival

**Community Member Alyson Evans**

- End of year events to wrap up program
- 2025 NT Performing Arts Awards – Production of the Year – Antidote, Tracks Dance

**Community Member Kelly Blumberg**

- Event cancelled due to Cyclone Fina
- Program development for 2026 activity
- New staff
- Arts Access Awards held, for the first time, in Katherine

**Arts NT Georgia Thomas**

- Meeting of Arts Professionals (MAP) Conference recently held in Katherine. Scheduled for Darwin 2026
- Creative fellowships closing 27 November 2025 with Arts Projects grants opening 2 February 2026
- Longitudinal study on retention of artists in the NT

**Community Member Petrit Abazi**

- Tre pang (10 August – 5 October) exhibition currently travelling
- Opening of the members exhibition 27 November 2025 with 67 exhibiting artists

**Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan**

- CWA Craft Fair rescheduled

**CARRIED 6/0**

**12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING****COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA023/25**

Moved: Community Member, Chairperson Rachael Shanahan  
Seconded: Community Member Alyson Evans

THAT the next Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee be held on Wednesday 18 February 2026, at 3.30 pm at Darwin Community Arts.

**CARRIED 6/0**

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT pursuant to Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and Regulation 8 of the Local Government Regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential Items of the Agenda.

**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

**COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA024/25**

Moved: Community Member, Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

Seconded: Arts NT Georgia Thomas

THAT the chair declared the meeting closed at 5:05pm.

**CARRIED 6/0**

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on 18 February 2026.

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**CHAIR**