

Agenda

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting

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I hereby give notice that an Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, 26 November 2025
Time: 3:30 PM
Location: Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin

Simone Saunders

Chief Executive Officer



ARTS AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

Councillor Patrik Ralph

Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Community Member Alyson Evans

Community Member Petrit Abazi

Community Member Abby Dunn

Community Member Dominique Cook

Larrakia Nation David Kurnoth

Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

Alternate Councillor Kim Farrar

OFFICERS

Arts and Cultural Development Officer, Jenelle Saunders

Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services, Angela O'Donnell

Arts and Cultural Development Officer, Kaye Strange

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**2 MEETING DECLARED OPEN****3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****3.1 Apologies****3.2 Leave of Absence Granted****3.3 Leave of Absence Notified****4 ELECTRONIC MEETING ATTENDANCE****4.1 Electronic Attendance Granted****4.2 Electronic Attendance Requested****5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF****6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting – 21 May 2025

7 MOVING OF ITEMS**7.1 Moving Open Items into Confidential****7.2 Moving of Confidential Items into Open****8 DEPUTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS****8.1 Civic Centre Redevelopment**

City of Darwin Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders, to attend and present on the Civic Centre development.

9 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE 24TH CITY OF DARWIN COUNCIL

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Members of the outcome of the recent City of Darwin elections and the membership of the 24th term of Council.

KEY ISSUES

- On 23 August 2025 City of Darwin elections were held for Lord Mayor and Elected Representatives across all wards
- On 6 September 2025 NT Electoral Commission announced the appointment of the new Lord Mayor and six new Elected Members with seven Elected Members returning for an additional term
- On 30 September at their first Ordinary Council Meeting Councillor Patrik Ralph was appointed as the nominated representative on this Advisory Committee for their term of Council, with Councillor Kim Farrar being appointed as the Alternate representative

DISCUSSION

On 23 August 2025 City of Darwin elections were held for 24th term of Council for the City of Darwin. The elections were for Lord Mayor and Elected Representatives across all wards. City of Darwin local government area is made up of a Lord Mayor and four wards with each ward having three elected representatives.

On 6 September 2025 NT Electoral Commission announced the appointment of the new Lord Mayor and six new Elected Members with seven Elected Members returning for an additional term.

The new Lord Mayor is Peter Styles.

Chan Ward is represented by two returning Elected Members - Councillor Peter Pangquee and Councillor Ed Smelt and a new Elected Member - Councillor Julie Fraser.

Lyons Ward is represented by two returning Elected Members - Councillor Sam Weston and Councillor Mick Palmer and a new Elected Member - Councillor Nicole Brown.

Richardson Ward is represented by one returning Elected Member - Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris and two new Elected Members - Councillor Shani Carson and Councillor Edwin Joseph.

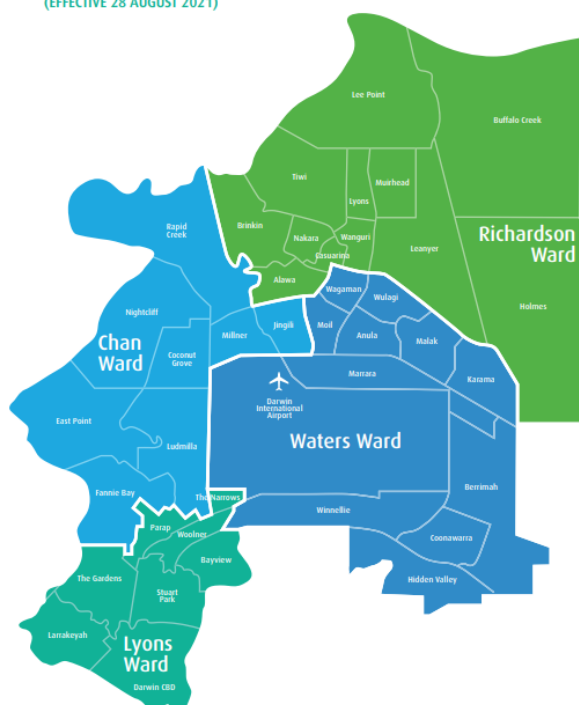
Waters Ward is represented by two returning Elected Members - Councillor Sylvia Klonaris and Councillor Kim Farrar and one new Elected Member - Councillor Patrik Ralph.

On 30 September at their first Ordinary Council Meeting Councillor Patrik Ralph was appointed as the nominated representative on this Advisory Committee for their term of Council, with Councillor Kim Farrar being appointed as the Alternate representative.

For this Advisory Committee, it may be of interest to note that the 24th term of Council of City of Darwin has three First Nations people elected, including a previous community representative of this Committee and a returning Elected Member representative. This Council also boasts the youngest person elected to City of Darwin.

An image of the map of the Wards is below for reference.

Municipal Wards
(EFFECTIVE 28 AUGUST 2021)



PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 30 September 2025 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD415/25

1. THAT the report entitled Appointments to Council Executive and Advisory Committees - 24th Council be received and noted.
2. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Administrative Review Committee** to 30 September 2026:
Lord Mayor (Chair)
Councillor Mick Palmer;
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris;
Councillor Edwin Joseph;
And that all remaining Elected Members are appointed as alternate members to the committee.
3. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Chief Executive Officer Performance Appraisal Committee** to 30 September 2026:
Lord Mayor (Chair)
Councillor Mick Palmer;
Councillor Sylvia Klonaris;
Councillor Shani Carson; and
Councillor Ed Smelt
4. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026: Councillor Sylvia Klonaris; and
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris as Alternate.
5. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:
Councillor Patrik Ralph; and
Councillor Kim Farrar as Alternate.
6. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Darwin Military and Civilian History Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:
Lord Mayor (Chair)
Councillor Sam Weston; and
Councillor Shani Carson as Alternate.
7. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **East Point Reserve Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:
Councillor Mick Palmer; and
Councillor Shani Carson as Alternate.
8. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Information Communication Technology Steering Committee** to 30 September 2027:
Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris; and
Councillor Peter Pangquee as Alternate.
9. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **International Relations**

Advisory Committee to 30 September 2026:

Lord Mayor (Chair)

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris; and

Councillor Sam Weston as Alternate.

10. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Reconciliation Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:

Councillor Peter Pangquee; and

Councillor Patrik Ralph as Alternate.

11. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Sister City Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:

Councillor Sylvia Klonaris; and

Councillor Edwin Joseph as Alternate.

12. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Tree Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:

Lord Mayor (Chair)

Councillor Julie Fraser and

Councillor Kim Farrar as Alternate.

13. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Members to the **Youth Advisory Committee** to 30 September 2026:

Councillor Patrik Ralph; and

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris as Alternate.

14. THAT Council appoint the following Elected Member to the **Risk Management and Audit Committee** to 30 September 2027:

Councillor Mick Palmer ; and

Councillor Ed Smelt ; and

Councillor Jimmy Bouhoris.

15. THAT Council note that the Lord Mayor holds the position of Ex-Officio for all Council Committees.

16. THAT Council note that the Lord Mayor is directly appointed the following external committees for the whole of the 24th Term of Council:

Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM)

Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC)

17. THAT Council note that Councillor Peter Pangquee is an Executive Board Member appointed to the **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)** and that his appointment remains current until November 2026.

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE	Nil

IMPLICATIONS	
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 Policy: Advisory and Other Committees No.0930.100.E.R
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

9.2 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2026

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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:
 - (a) Meetings to be held on Wednesdays in February and May.
 - (b) Meetings to be held from 3:30pm to 5:00pm
 - (c) Meetings to be held at the City of Darwin, Civic Centre with the option to meet online when needed or preferred.
 - (d) Meetings to be held on:
 - i. 18 February 2026
 - ii. 20 May 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to propose the meeting schedule for 2026 up to 30 June 2026.

KEY ISSUES

- In accordance with the terms of reference, the Committee set its meeting schedule for the calendar year prior.
- Three meetings were scheduled in 2025 to be held at the Civic Centre and electronically via teams on a Wednesday from 3:30pm to 5pm.
- At the Council meeting held on 30 September 2025, the Elected Members requested a review of the Advisory Committees and respective terms of reference.

DISCUSSION**Background:**

At the Council meeting held on 30 September 2025, it was resolved that the 24th Council establishes the statutory meeting (executive and advisory committees). Should Council wish to review the committee structure in future it is able to and is able to establish new committees, amalgamate committees, or abolish existing committees as required.

The meeting schedule proposed does not preclude attendance in working groups or at events organised with and by the Committee members or City of Darwin such as Sector Networking events, launches or other programs.

Time and location of the meetings are to be determined by the Committee in line with the endorsed Terms of reference.

2026 meeting dates, time, and location proposal:

This report proposes that the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee considers adopting the following meeting schedule for 2026:

- (a) That two meetings are to be held in 2026:
 - i. February (after the commencement of the school year)
 - ii. May (commencement of the Dry Season)
- (b) Meetings to remain on Wednesdays on:
 - i. 18 February 2026
 - ii. 20 May 2026
- (c) Meetings to be held from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.
- (d) Meetings to be held at the City of Darwin, Civic Centre building.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 30 September 2025 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD455/25

Part of the decision:

- 4. THAT Council endorse a workshop to be held as part of the November 'Forum Meeting' to review the Advisory Committees and respective terms of reference.

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Legislation: Local Government Act 2019 Policy: Meetings Policy No.0043.100.E.R

	Advisory and Other Committees No.0930.100.E.R
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Nil
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

9.3 2025 CREATIVE STRATEGY REPORTING

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: 1. Performance Report January-June 2025 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the 2025 reporting to Council on the actions achieved through the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030.

KEY ISSUES

- Council receives reports on actions across Strategies every 6-months – these are referred to as their Tier 2 Performance Reporting
- Summary reports at **Attachment 1** provide members with highlights and information as received by Council regarding the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030.

DISCUSSION

Council receives reports on actions across Strategies every 6-months – these are referred to as their Tier 2 Performance Reporting.

Tier 2 strategies are enabling plans which operationalise the main actions of the Strategic and Municipal Plan and contain deliverable actions which require reporting to Council and the community biannually.

City of Darwin has ten (10) active strategies and plans which have been classified as Tier 2:

- Climate Emergency Strategy
- Creative Strategy
- Customer Service Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Greening Darwin Strategy
- Movement Strategy
- Play Space Strategy
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Youth Strategy

Summary report at **Attachment 1** provide members with highlights and information as received by Council regarding the Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030. These include:

- achievements for this reporting period
- activities planned for the next reporting period
- circular graphic for statistics
- observations and challenges which are currently being experienced or foreseen next period, if applicable.

The graphic represents the current year achievements against target only, however there is additional detail about items not due for commencement and items completed in previous years.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the 25 February 2025 meeting Council resolved:

RESOLUTION ORD065/25

THAT the report entitled Tier 2 Bi-Annual Performance Report – July to December 2024 be received and noted.

CARRIED 12/0

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT &	Engagement Level: Inform

COMMUNICATION	
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

Creative Strategy

Responsible Officer: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Development

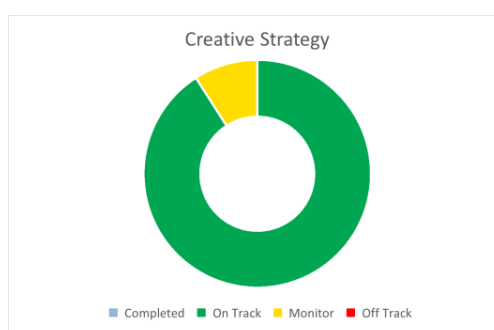
Period: 01/01/2025 – 30/06/2025

Highlights achieved in current period:

- Council endorsed first Percentage for Arts Policy.
- Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee Action Plan developed.
- Engagement of new part time Arts and Cultural Development Officer.
- Extension of Lightbox sites to new sites at Casuarina Library.
- Delivery of Darwin Street Art Festival Double Exposure Event and four street art projects across City of Darwin assets including Alawa Amenities, Nightcliff Community Centre, Street Furniture Nightcliff Foreshore and Casuarina Library.



There are 11 actions over the life of the 6-year Creative Strategy (2024-2030). All 11 actions remain active or due during 2024/25. A total of 10 actions remain on track in the current reporting period, and one action is listed as monitor.



What will be achieved next period?

- Launch version 1 of Public Art Asset Register.
- Civic Centre Integrated Art and Design project planning.
- Delivery of Smith Street public art outcomes.
- Expression of interest opportunity for unused retail space in West Lane for creative business.
- Public Art Framework development.

Note: the one action listed as monitor is to increase opportunities for multicultural communities to lead creative initiatives. Planning for the new Civic Centre Integrated Art and Design program is underway to provide opportunities.

9.4 PROJECT UPDATES

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the report entitled Project Updates be received and noted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on current and upcoming arts projects within City of Darwin's Arts and Cultural Development portfolio.

KEY ISSUES

Arts and Cultural Development Officers to update on:

- Celebrating Larrakia
 - Amenities Block
 - Irrigation Tank
 - Street Sweeper
- Distinctly Darwin
 - Irrigation Tanks
 - Light Pole Wraps
 - Lightbox Exhibitions
- Invigorating Spaces
 - Improving Accessibility for Major Events or Festivals 2025/2026
 - Smith Street Streetscape Public Art

DISCUSSION

City of Darwin is committed to supporting and growing the local creative, arts and cultural communities for the benefit of all who live, work and visit our city.

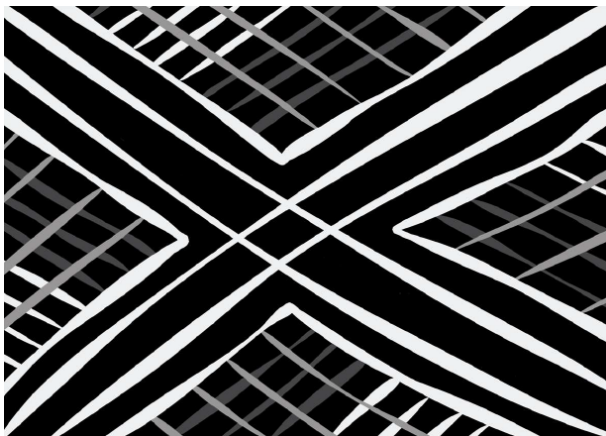
In line with Council's Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030, Arts and Cultural Development Officers have prioritised projects that fit under the three focus areas: Celebrating Larrakia, Distinctly Darwin and Invigorating Spaces.

Celebrating Larrakia

Goals under Celebrating Larrakia include elevating Larrakia stories, culture and creativity through increased audience exposure, setting up new commissioning agreements and advocating for increased visibility of creatives. Three recent projects with Larrakia artists, including a new copyright agreement, have been undertaken.

Amenity Block Artwork

A project opportunity arose to deliver a vinyl wrap for an amenity block located along the Esplanade. Given its proximity to the sculpture *mirragma gunugurr-wa* by artists Roque Lee and Trent Bundirrik Lee, it was decided to extend the visual and cultural theme of this artwork across this site. A copyright agreement was formalised with artist Trent Bundirrik Lee for the use of his works *Walking the Path Together* and *Guidance of Ones' Past*. The artwork *Guidance of Ones' Past* was incorporated into the final design for the amenity block wrap.



Walking the Path Together



Guidance of Ones' Past

Project delivered in coordination with the Infrastructure team. Following its success, the team has requested two additional wraps for new amenity blocks scheduled for installation in early 2026 along the esplanade.



Amenity block featuring the artwork *Guidance of Ones' Past* by Trent Bundirrik Lee. Located between the playground and the sculpture *mirragma gunugurr-wa*.

Photo credit: Helspix



Trent Bundirrik Lee's *Guidance of Ones' Past* reflects the deep connection the artist has to his culture and craft, shaped by teachings from his father and family.

Photo credit: Helspix

Irrigation Tank

Through a copyright agreement with artist Keelan Fejo, his work *Rarrkbun* features on an irrigation tank located at Wulagi Oval. Keelan Fejo is a Mayalli and Larrakia man, born in Darwin and raised in Katherine, NT. From an early age he watched his dad paint and quickly learnt the skill of steady hand crosshatching, a technique that remains central in his work today.

Keelan Fejo also plays Men's Premier League Football (AFL) for Wanderers Football Club, in the Northern Territory Football League. The Wulagi Oval is currently the Wanderers training ground for 2025!



Irrigation tank featuring the Rarrkbun by Keelan Fejo. Located at Wulagi Oval.

Photo credit: Hespix



Keelan Fejo with the irrigation tank featuring his Rarrkbun artwork.

Photo credit: K. Strange

The artist expressed his delight with the project posting the following on Instagram:



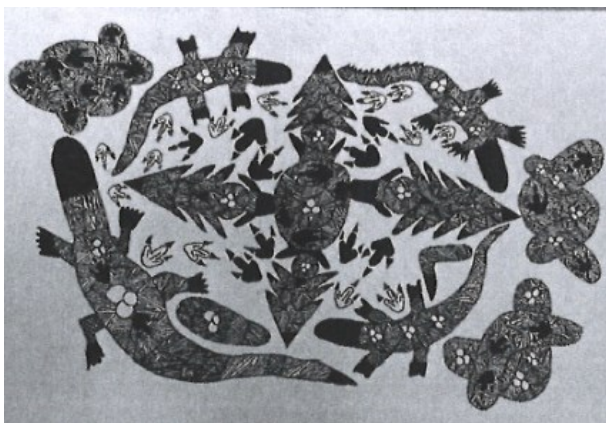
Street Sweeper

The project wrapping Fabian McLennan's artwork *'Mix Dreamings of Larrakia & Tiwi Connections'* on a new City of Darwin sweeper was completed in June. His work is now moving around the suburbs as a large-scale double print, featuring his original drawings with an inversion of white on black best for the daily vehicle usage. Fabian's artwork represents both sides of his family cultural heritage. Fabian is a Larrakia man through his father and Gurindji man through his mother. He inherited the name 'Pompa' by his late father and Larrakia Elder George McLennan, who as a member of the stolen generation grew up on Tiwi Islands. Through this and other recent projects undertaken, we aim to also meet achieve our Distinctly Darwin goal of elevating art by artists with disability and providing showcase opportunities.



This artwork represents Fabian's Larrakia and Tiwi connections, hunting for bush turkey on Larrakia country. The (animal) prints represent hunting for bush turkey and the crocodile connects to hunting on Larrakia Country, as Danggalaba (Crocodile) descendants. The Boomerang is used to hunt the Bush Turkey. The eggs represent the Bush turkey and Crocodile eggs, with the Shovel Spears honouring the Tiwi connection and used for Ceremonies and stories.

Photo credit: Helspix



Mix Dreamings of Larrakia & Tiwi Connections

Artist's original drawing.



Street Sweeper featuring Fabian McLennan's artwork.

Photo credit: Helspix

Distinctly Darwin

One of our priority areas is to support creative initiatives that promote and celebrate Darwin. This includes the delivery of an annual program for creative enhancement of street furniture or other assets across the municipality. To achieve this copyright agreements were established with local artists for City of Darwin to use original artworks across a range of projects.

Irrigation Tanks – Waters Ward

The Waters Ward saw the installation of a further four vinyl wraps on irrigation tanks at various locations in Wulagi and Anula. Of the four artists, three had submitted for the Smith Street project and, although not selected for that project, were recommended by the assessment panel for future opportunities. The artists' Ifa Shiddiq's *Around Town* is located off Thrush Court (Wulagi), Sarrita King and her work *Dancing* is located off Snipe Court (Anula), and Carla Russo's *Water Walkers* located off Clifton Court (Anula).

A further artist included in the mix was Tisha Tejaya, well known for her work on the *Parap & Rapid Creek Market Pocketbook*. The artist's work *Mangrove Tapestry* was installed off Jade Court (Anula) rounding out the project with diverse and colourful offerings.



Around Town by Ifa Shiddiq, was initially drawn for the Mindfulness Colouring Book project with LAUNCH Darwin and showcases the artists love for the city.

Photo credit: Hespix



Dancing by Sarrita King, is a burst of Indigenous symbols. The U shape represents a person, and when shown together in different directions it illustrates people dancing.

Photo credit: Hespix



Water Walkers by Carla Russo, speaks to the artists' love of listening to and watching birds.

Photo credit: Hespix



Mangrove Tapestry by Tisha Tejaya, speaks to the riot of life found in the Northern Territory's coastal creeks and forests.

Photo credit: Hespix

Light Pole Wraps

Through a copyright agreement with artist Tara Darcy, supported by Arts Access Darwin, her work *Maningrida Community* features on four new light pole wraps near the Nightcliff Jetty. This project was undertaken as part of a Nightcliff Foreshore lighting upgrade, coinciding with three new light poles installed in the jetty carpark. The Arts Team worked with Arts Access Darwin and Tara to select a range of her motifs representing her coastal home community Maningrida, including figures, bird life, barramundi, buildings, planes, boats and turtles. Tara has lived in Darwin long term and is a member of Arts Access Darwin's Free Space Studio collective. A program running for more than a decade, supporting local artists with disability, working to advocate for and provide creative opportunities. City of Darwin has worked with Arts Access Darwin on several projects since 2019 across the city.

Tara Darcy's work also features on new City of Darwin merchandise, such as water bottles and tote bags, including her work *Barramundi*.



Tara Darcy with one of the four new light pole wraps featuring her Maningrida Community artwork (pink), near the boat ramp, Nightcliff Jetty.

Photo credit: Helspix



Tara with her Barramundi design on a tote and water bottle.

Photo credit: Helspix

These projects - focused on creatively enhancing City of Darwin assets - experienced a significant marked increase in engagement on the City of Darwin's Facebook platform. Across eight posts, the average number of acknowledgments was 218. Notably, the posts were further amplified through the artists' own networks, as they shared each other's content and engaged in conversations by commenting on one another's posts.

Lightbox Exhibitions

In alignment with Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030 goals, the Arts and Cultural Team have developed and extended the Lightbox Exhibitions program to allow for further elevation of professional artists and their work. An additional three light boxes were installed at Casuarina Library bringing the total to 13. Other locations include Smith Street Mall, Dragonfly Carpark (Chinatown) and Nightcliff Pool.

Telstra NATSIAA Top End Artists is the latest exhibition to be installed in the lightboxes. 13 artworks have been selected by the curatorial team at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) for this exhibition. *Telstra NATSIAA Top End Artists* proudly features a range of Territory artists who are winners and finalists in the 2025 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA).

These artists offer a glimpse into the artistic, cultural and linguistic strength and richness of First Peoples. Hosted in Darwin on Larrakia Country, Telstra NATSIAA is the longest-running art awards that recognises the outstanding work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The selected artworks are made by artists who are continuing and maintaining their cultures, responding to current affairs and reflecting their unerring connections to Country. First Nations Territory artists are creating the very best of contemporary art, from the Southeast to the Top End, Darwin and beyond.

The acclaimed artists from the 2025 Telstra NATSIAA featured across the lightboxes are: Barbara Puruntatameri, Binygurr Wirrpanda, Charmaine Ashley, Dorothy Warrngarrknga Ganambarr, Lucy Yarawanga, Obed Namirrkki, Owen Yalandja, Pedro Wonaeamirri, Roger Yambeing, Sonia Gurrpulan Guyula, Wayilkpa Maymuru, Yalmakany Marawili, and Yinimala Gumana.

Invigorating Spaces

With a strategic goal to increase flexibility and accessibility for outdoor short term creative opportunities, City of Darwin called for expressions of interest to fund an accessibility audit for a major event or festival each year.

Improving Accessibility for Major Events or Festivals 2025/2026

This pilot project opened for submissions from 06 May and closed 03 June for commencement from July and expended by financial year end. Grants were available to amounts up to \$4,000.

The EOI attracted three applications and of these, two of which were successful.

The NT Irish Association (NTIA) received grant funding to enhance accessibility and inclusion at the 2025 NT Irish Music Festival, held at the Darwin Ski Club on 12 July 2025. The event attracted approximately 3,500 attendees who embrace Irish culture of dance and music. The grant enabled the introduction of a dedicated children's sensory-safe play area and chill-out zone. The space provided a calm, low-stimulation environment, supporting neurodivergent children and adults who might otherwise feel overwhelmed by crowds or noise.

Building on the success of their 2024 pilot, Darwin Festival partnered again with Regional Combined Therapies to deliver a dedicated low sensory space at the INPEX Sunset Stage during four children's performances. The low sensory area provided a supportive environment that was highly valued by families, particularly those with neurodivergent children or individuals with sensory sensitivities. The spaces essential in fostering inclusive participation at the family shows.

The initiative is being considered for delivery again in 2026 and will closely align with the recently published Access Strategy 2025 – 2030 strategic goal to increase accessibility of events delivered or supported by City of Darwin.



Sensory Silent Disco, 2025 NT Irish Music Festival

Photo credit: Martin Reilly



Sensory Calming Space, Darwin Festival

Photo credit: Georgia Politis

Smith Street Streetscape - Public Art

The public artworks commissioned as part of the Smith Street Streetscape Project are progressing through the delivery stages.

Lee Harrop's *Foundation Stone* has been installed and completed. The artwork draws attention to the geological material used in its creation, Mt Bundy granite, exploited in the construction of Darwin City roads, footpaths, building facades, flooring and furnishings. Large blocks of granite are often used as the foundation plinth or base for a statue, memorial or plaque. In contrast, this artwork foregrounds the granite as the artwork, drawing attention to its inherent aesthetic qualities and making the often overlooked or invisible, visible. The artwork is both archive and symbolic memorial to Mt Bundy where this rock was sourced from a quarry that was otherwise destined for international export.



Install – Foundation Stone

Photo credit: Helspix



Foundation Stone

Photo credit: Helspix



Foundation Stone

Photo credit: Helspix



Artist Lee Harrop and Foundation Stone

Photo credit: Helspix

Katy Moir's and Amina McConvell's *Rest. Stop* is currently being installed. In this work the artists have fused the functionality of street furniture objects into a sculptural installation that serves as a three-dimensional backdrop for a mural painting that responds to the theme of 'interconnectedness'.

The artwork uses geometric shapes and patterns to create colourful passages and places of connection for pedestrians. These resting places are optical artworks that manipulate relationships between two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, interior/exterior relationships of forms, colour placement, and sightlines between objects.

*Rest. Stop*

Photo credit: Sara Webb

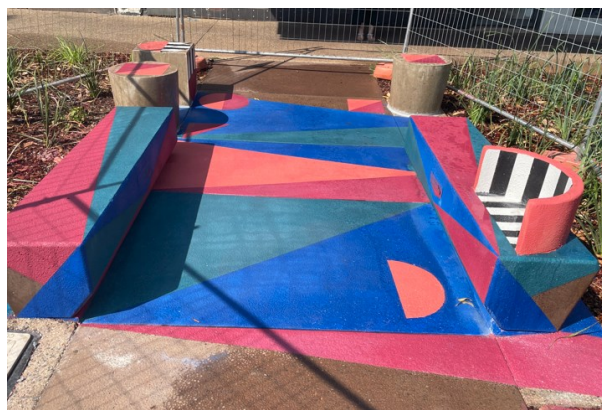
*Rest. Stop*

Photo credit: Sara Webb

Minna Leunig and Denise Quall have completed the design phase of their respective works, *Humidity Rising* and *Hermit Hustle* with final documentation submitted and approved. Both are now scheduled to proceed to fabrication stages.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NIL

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

5 A Vibrant and Creative City

5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity

BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	NIL
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

9.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN - UPDATES

Author: Arts and Cultural Development Officer
Authoriser: Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to provide verbal updates against top 3 actions on the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee's Action Plan 2025 – 2026.

KEY ISSUES

- As of 30 September, the Action Plan has come into effect for the remainder of Committee member terms. During the development of the action plan the Committee agreed to prioritise three (3) key actions.
- Committee members will provide verbal updates on the top three (3) actions identified in the action plan.

DISCUSSION

Following the 21 May meeting and in alignment with the Creative Strategy 2024 – 2030, the following short-term goals were identified as top priorities for committee focus:

Celebrating Larrakia

Collaborate with Larrakia on creative initiatives

1. Deliver an annual program of tailored industry site visits and connections between Larrakia artists and creative organisations.
 - ACDAC Lead – David Kurnoth

Distinctly Darwin

Support creative initiatives that promote and celebrate Darwin

2. Promote and champion local creatives through a variety of digital communication channels.
 - Arts and Cultural Development Officers with Committee to distribute
3. Deliver an annual sector connect event for creatives that includes professional development opportunities.
 - ACDAC Lead – Alyson Evans

The Committee and Officers will provide verbal updates against the 3 priority actions of the Committee Action Plan as detailed above.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL RESOLUTION

NIL

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT	5 A Vibrant and Creative City 5.2 By 2030, Darwin will be a more connected community and have pride in our cultural identity
BUDGET / FINANCIAL / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	NIL
LEGISLATION / POLICY CONTROLS OR IMPACTS	Creative Strategy 2024 - 2030
CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Engagement Level: Inform
DECLARATION OF INTEREST	The report author does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. The report authoriser does not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter. If a conflict of interest exists, staff will not act in the matter, except as authorised by the CEO or Council (as the case requires).

10 MEMBER REPORTS**11 GENERAL BUSINESS****12 DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THAT the next Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting be held on a date and time to be determined.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**14 CLOSURE OF MEETING**



MINUTES

Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, 21 May 2025

Date: Wednesday, 21 May 2025

Time: 3:30 PM

**Location: Meeting Room Bidjpidji (Meeting Room 1)
Level 1, Civic Centre
Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin**

**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, 21 MAY 2025 AT 3:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan
Councillor Morgan Rickard
Community Member Kelly Blumberg
Community Member Alyson Evans
Community Member Petrit Abazi
Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

OFFICERS:

Jenelle Saunders (Arts and Cultural Development Officer)
Kaye Strange (Arts and Cultural Development Officer)
Angela O'Donnell (Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services)
Chloe Armitage (Community Development Officer)

APOLOGY:

Arts NT Georgia Thomas
Community Member Abby Dunn

GUESTS:

External Facilitator Sean Pardy

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15 MEETING DECLARED OPEN

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3:34 pm.

16 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.

17 APOLOGIES & LEAVE OF ABSENCE

17.1 Apologies

Arts NT, Georgia Thomas

Community Member Abby Dunn

17.2 Leave of Absence

Nil

17.3 Leave of Absence Notified

Nil

18 ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Community Member Kelly Blumberg

Councillor Morgan Rickard

19 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

19.1 Declaration of Interest by Members

Community Member Alyson Evans – is employed by Darwin Community Arts (DCA), DCA applies for City of Darwin funding and grant opportunities.

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.

Multicultural Council of the NT Edwin Joseph – MCNT members apply for City of Darwin grants.

19.2 Declaration of Interest by Staff

Nil

20 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA006/25

Moved: Community Member Alyson Evans

Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

THAT the minutes of the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED 6/0

21 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

22 PRESENTATIONS

8.1 CIVIC CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the presentation on the Civic Centre redevelopment from the City of Darwin Chief Executive Officer, Simone Saunders be received and noted.

Item 8.1 – Civic Centre Redevelopment will be tabled at the next Committee meeting to be held on 19 November 2025.

Moved to Item 9.2 as the first item of business to allow time for discussion during presentation of Action Plan.

23 OFFICER REPORTS

9.1 MINIMUM FEE FOR MUSICIANS - MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS ALLIANCE CAMPAIGN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA007/25

Moved: Community Member Alyson Evans

Seconded: Community Member Petrit Abazi

1. THAT the report entitled Minimum Fee for Musicians - Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance Campaign be received and noted.
2. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee recommend to Council funding guidelines and agreements be updated to include clear reference to peak body standards and requirements when employing creatives.
3. THAT the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee recommend to Council funding guidelines and agreements include guidance on when it is appropriate to engage volunteers.

CARRIED 6/0

9.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA008/25

Moved: Community Member Alyson Evans

Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

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

CARRIED 6/0

9.3 PROJECT UPDATES

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA009/25

Moved: Councillor Morgan Rickard

Seconded: Community Member Kelly Blumberg

THAT the report entitled Project Updates be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

10 MEMBERS REPORTS

10.1 MEMBER REPORTS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA010/25

Moved: Community Member Alyson Evans

Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

THAT the following verbal member reports be received and noted.

Community Member Petrit Abazi

Northern Centre for Contemporary Art (NCCA) has opened a new exhibition *Queer Territory*, the first significant exhibition of queer contemporary art practice in the NT.

Visit: www.nccart.com.au.

Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

Garmalang Festival Retrospective 2025 will be celebrating 10 years on Saturday 21 June, including Our Elders, a special hour of curated conversations with a range of Darwin's First Nation's elders. And Dan Sultan will be performing with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra Quintet. Coming up in October at the Darwin Entertainment Centre is a staged work based on Trent Dalton's Love Stories. Visit: www.yourcentre.com.au.

Community Member Alyson Evans

Darwin Community Arts (DCA) will be taking part in the upcoming Harmony Soiree at the Waterfront on Saturday 31 May. DCA have begun a trial partnership with the Darwin Fringe Festival, Tracks Dance and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts in 2025 to cohost and facilitate a series of creative industry conversation events *Critical Conversations*. The next one will take place at DCA on Thursday 5 June. Visit: www.darwincommunityarts.org.au.

Councillor Morgan Rickard

Acknowledges this is the last Committee meeting before Council goes into the pre election caretaker period. Thank you to the Committee and congratulations on the new direction and work already achieved.

Community Member Chairperson Rachael Shanahan

The Textiles Travelling Suitcase project had over 300 embroidered works returned, with a launch at Government House in July and a new connection with the local Ukrainian community.

Chair proposes the Committee meet informally in August during the caretaker period. Idea to meet at Darwin Community Arts, noting 10.2 resolution.

CARRIED 6/0

10.2 ADDITIONAL MEETING DATE

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AACDA011/25

Moved: Community Member Alyson Evans

Seconded: Darwin Entertainment Centre Melissa White

THAT the Members Report entitled Additional Meeting Date be received and noted.

CARRIED 6/0

COMMUNITY MEMBER KELLY BLUMBERG DEPARTED THE MEETING AT 4:45 PM.

COUNCILLOR MORGAN RICKARD DEPARTED THE MEETING AT 4:52 PM.

241 GENERAL BUSINESS

Angela O'Donnell (Executive Manager Community and Cultural Services) informed the Committee that the Draft Percentage for Art Policy will be considered by Council at the Ordinary Meeting, on Tuesday 27 May.

Reminder that there is a public forum prior to Ordinary Council meetings, where members of the public can attend to present an idea, issue or concern. They may also speak to an item on the agenda to support or add their voice to.

252 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 19 November, 2025.

13 MEETING CLOSED

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:54 pm

Unconfirmed