

**Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece: Melbourne's Statues.**

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 1.1. Affirms its support for equality of gender, First Nations and cultural diversity within the City of Melbourne's public art program as enshrined in Council's Public Art Framework 2021-31, Creative Strategy 2018 and Plaques and Memorials policy 2016.
  - 1.2. Notes that only nine (9) of the 580 statues within the municipality depict women and that five (5) of the 25 statues on City of Melbourne land depict women. The underrepresentation of women in statues requires action in both public and private spaces.
  - 1.3. Notes that City of Melbourne's Public Art Framework 2021-31 sets the standard for best practice in public art, and is a place-based, artist led commissioning process. Contemporary artistic practice leans away from figurative statues and therefore commission outcomes of figurative statues depicting women are less likely to occur.
  - 1.4. Notes that the City of Melbourne's public art opportunities are governed and approved by the City of Melbourne's Independent Public Art Advisory Panel under the terms of the Public Art Framework 2021-31 and the Plaques and Memorials policy 2016.
  - 1.5. Requests the Public Art Advisory Panel, when providing advice to council on the development, presentation and promotion of public art activities and the Plaques and Memorials committee, when assessing applications from individuals and groups wishing to formally recognise significant local people, to consider:
    - 1.5.1. identifying new opportunities to commemorate significant women from Melbourne's history.
    - 1.5.2. prioritising artistic responses that include the figurative depiction of women when considering the installation of statues and memorials commemorating significant women from Melbourne's history.
  - 1.6. Requests management:
    - 1.6.1. identify new opportunities within City of Melbourne projects, programs and capital works to support increased equality of gender, First Nations and cultural diversity within the public realm, including the installation of statues and art held in storage with reference to the Public Art Framework 2021-31 and the Plaques and Memorials policy 2016.
    - 1.6.2. work with stakeholders and community to enable the delivery of at least three new statues depicting women.

**Background**

2. Melbourne City Council is committed to ensuring that principles guiding equality of gender and diversity underpin all of Council's planning, policies, services and practices. This commitment is put into practice for City of Melbourne's art program through Council's Public Art Framework 2021-31, Creative Strategy 2018 and Plaques and Memorials policy 2016.
3. A survey conducted by A Monument of One's Own found that only 9 of the 580 statues within the municipality depict and celebrate women from Melbourne's history.
4. The City of Melbourne's Art and Heritage outdoor collection includes 25 statues, of which 19 depict men, 4 depict women and one depicts both a man and a woman.
5. Since 1992 when the City of Melbourne initiated an allocation of money to an art scheme, Council has delivered 82 commissions, of which 48% were by female artists and 26% were by First Nations artists.

**Moved: Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece****Seconded: Cr Jamal Hakim**