

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Ariel Valent

Phone number: *

[REDACTED]

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Date of Council meeting: *

Tuesday 13 December 2022

Agenda item title: *

7.2 Notice of Motion: Cr Hakim, Funding request to support pop-up Docklands Neighbourhood House

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[docklands_neighbourhood_house_submission_to_com_13122022.docx](#)

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Do you also wish to attend the Council meeting in person, noting that there is no provision to make verbal submissions at Council meetings? *

No

Submission to City of Melbourne Council Meeting

13 December 2022

7.2 Notice of Motion: Cr Hakim, Funding request to support pop-up Docklands Neighbourhood House

As Director of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne, the organisation that manages Docklands Neighbourhood House, I would like to thank Cr. Hakim for bringing this motion to Council, and to Cr. Ball for seconding it.

On behalf of the community of Docklands, I support the motion.

A City of Melbourne contribution of \$20 000 will help keep the vision of Docklands Neighbourhood House alive in the first half of 2023. Whilst this amount is inadequate by itself to run the operations and programs of Docklands Neighbourhood House for six months, it certainly will make a tangible difference as part of a number of funding sources (including State Government) that will allow us to keep our doors open.

The Centre continues to engage with City of Melbourne regarding a longer-term funding scenario for Docklands Neighbourhood House. We are in the process of identifying the gaps in community connection in Docklands and identifying how Docklands Neighbourhood House can best contribute to filling those gaps. We are hopeful that Docklands Neighbourhood House will be added into the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework and will enter into a four-year partnership agreement with City of Melbourne commencing from July 2023.

The following pages give an overview of Docklands Neighbourhood House and our programs over the past year.

I am always happy to answer any questions regarding Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Much thanks for your support.

Ariel Valent
Director

the centre

[REDACTED], North Melbourne VIC 3051

Ph: [REDACTED]
Mob [REDACTED]

Mondays - Thursdays

Docklands Neighbourhood House



An Introduction

Docklands Neighbourhood House is a project of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne. The Neighbourhood House started in late 2019.

First established as a “pop up”, Docklands Neighbourhood House is located at Shop 2, 4 Wharf St, within the District Docklands centre in New Quay.

The first two years of the Docklands Neighbourhood House roughly corresponded with the pandemic, and whilst there were many good initiatives, building momentum was challenging.

In the year since lockdown lifted, Docklands Neighbourhood House has been very active in the Docklands community, helping to facilitate a variety of events and programs including:

- * weekly Social Fishing excursions
- * yoga and Pilates
- * Children’s programs including art sessions and playgroups
- * Repair Cafes; and
- * Cultural celebrations including the Hindi festivals of Holi, Navaratri and Diwali

A comprehensive list of programs is listed on the next pages.

We employ the principles of community development to co-design our programs with the local Docklands community, ensuring maximum relevance and impact. We build capacity in the community through volunteering and professional opportunities and through empowering the community to self-advocate.

This approach has proven very effective in engaging with under-represented culturally diverse populations, especially recent arrivals, who in fact make up the majority of Docklands’ residents.

Docklands Neighbourhood House was initially funded through City of Melbourne’s Social Innovation Partnerships. Since late 2021, our operations have been funded through Development Victoria through an agreement due to expire at the end of 2022.

Testimonials about Docklands Neighbourhood House

“Docklands is an emerging community and is experiencing growing pains in terms of forging an identity. In addition, as a new precinct, Docklands lacks many of the traditional engagement channels / amenities that are critical for developing a sense of belonging.

In the view of the DRG [Docklands Residents Group], Docklands Neighbourhood House and particularly the Manager, Jason Butcher, plays a key role in helping residents (especially from non-English speaking backgrounds) find ways of connecting with others within the community.”

Janette [REDACTED], Docklands Residents Group

“ Docklands pop-up Neighbourhood House since 2019 provided the community of Docklands a defined structure to a scattered community of diverse groups. Docklands being a multicultural community, it was always very difficult to bring everyone together and the Holi event in 2022 makes it successful in every way.

With its location at District Docklands, having proximity to public transport makes it accessible for every generation and diverse class of people.

They always have their presence at Docklands flea markets to Docklands Repair cafes every month, community people are making most of it to connect. These small initiatives also provide a platform for people to connect with larger groups within the community.

Docklands Neighbourhood House have made their presence visible. And now they are a vital part of Docklands Communities.”

Aditi [REDACTED], Indian celebrations community committee volunteer

“I would like say about events which Neighbourhood House organised are such a great event. There everyone feel connected to their community. The reason for volunteering with them is due to friendly atmosphere and sense of involvement. My overall experience with Neighbourhood House was amazing, would definitely looking forward to working with you in the future. In Neighbourhood House everyone is contributive, constructive and supportive. I feel so lucky to got an opportunity to work with Neighbourhood House. Look forward to hearing from Neighbourhood House to organise more events like this.”

Harshali [REDACTED], Docklands Resident, Volunteer for Navaratri event

“After my kids enjoyed the Docklands neighbourhood free activities immensely, I came to volunteer to give back and support the neighbourhood activities. As Docklands is known as a culturally diverse neighbourhood, I love that Docklands neighbourhood house is taking care of different community needs in a distinctive way. We started the women's advocacy group discussing some of the dockland's group's needs. I have enjoyed our weekly meeting as I feel that I'm contributing to bringing some of our communities' voices to the forefront. Week after week, I have witnessed the project grow and hopefully, we will see the fruits of our work.”

Aala Bahabri, Multicultural Womens Advocacy Group

“I've been given an opportunity as a volunteer-based worker, to use my skills to run a program with community. I've benefited by meeting and working with all the staff at [Docklands Neighbourhood House] and also community members. Mainly the benefit for me is a more positive and balanced self-esteem.”

Lucas [REDACTED], Volunteer Social Fishing Program

Docklands Neighbourhood House Programming 2022

Program/Project & Brief Description	Key Achievements	Challenges	Next Steps/Opportunities
<p>Hindu Cultural Events Development and delivery of three key cultural events in the Hindu calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holi (March, Ron Barassi) • Navaratri (October, Buluk Park) • Diwali (October, Ron Barassi; SarasCare as lead agency) <p>Attendances of 1200, 300 and 2000 respectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a working group of community members for co-design and production of cultural events (Holi, Navaratri) • Increased engagement with the large Indian community in Docklands; very high engagement and satisfaction with Holi • Increased community participation through opportunities to volunteer and perform at events • Establishing precedent that events in Docklands can be both significant and for/with the local community • Creating a welcoming community atmosphere and social connection for new arrivals to Docklands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events of this nature take a large amount of staff time, reducing coordination and planning time for other programming • Limited appropriate open space • Some community dissatisfaction with Diwali organisation; poor weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-plan 2023 event calendar with community input • Extend events beyond Hindu festivals to include other prevalent cultures
<p>Social Fishing Weekly multi-generation sessions rod fishing at different locations around the dock Attendances of 8-20 each week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has grown to become very consistent program unique to Docklands • Strong connections with Docklands Primary School students and their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program is at the mercy of weather conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue regular sessions into 2023 • Upgrade and expand equipment; explore storage opportunities

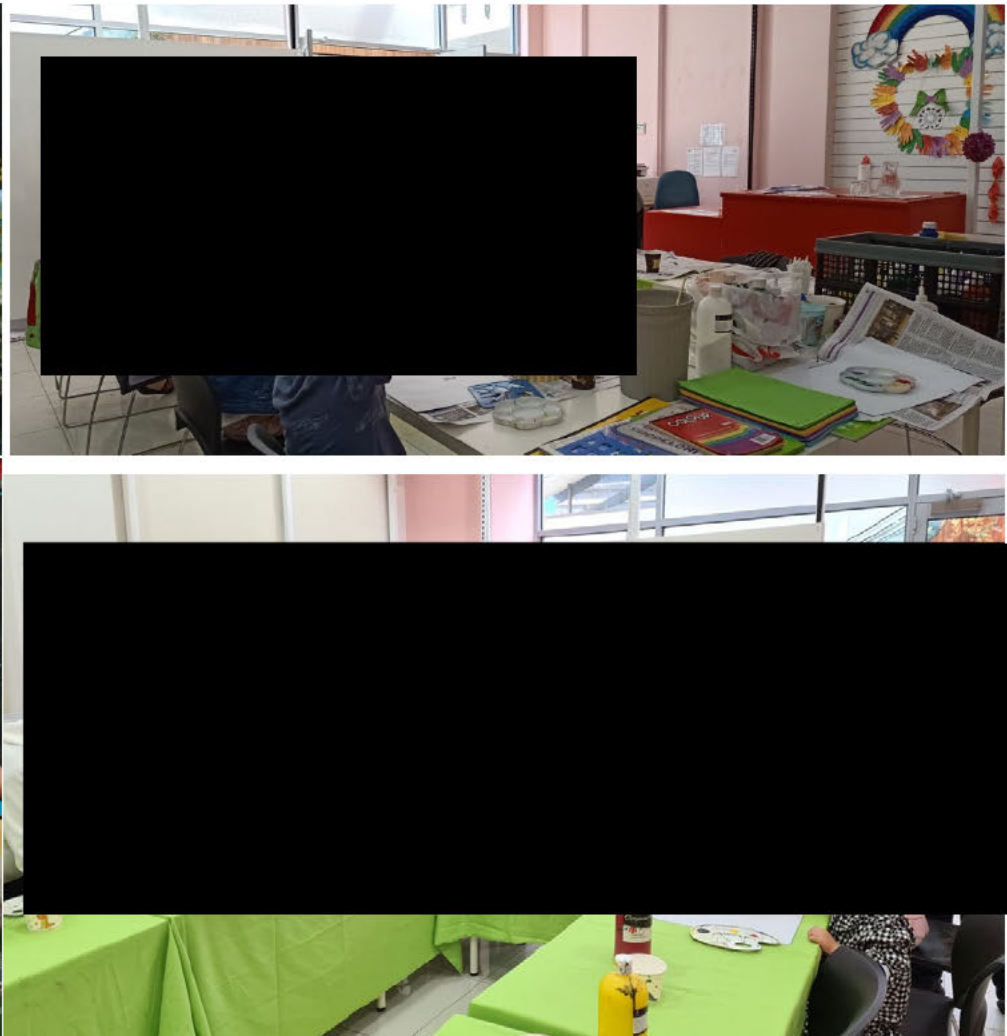
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program lead by local volunteer 		
<p>Afternoon Tea Play Sessions Weekly sessions at DNH, facilitated play sessions for pre-school children and their families, in collaboration with Melbourne Community Toy Library ~20 families involved / session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with young families • Providing opportunity for new arrivals and stay-at-home carers with children to meet and socialise • Positive collaboration with Melbourne Community (Docklands) Toy library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNH space is adequate, but not ideal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ongoing collaborations with Docklands Toy Library to facilitate regular play sessions in 2023
<p>Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group A facilitated weekly meeting of local women plan advocacy promoting women's needs and aspirations regarding culturally appropriate sporting and recreational facilities in City of Melbourne 5 women involved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct response to identified community need • Formation of a highly qualified working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project in early stages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse data from phase 1 of advocacy project (survey) and plan any follow-up actions for phase 2 • Draft and present report to City of Melbourne and other stakeholders
<p>Yoga & Pilates Weekly sessions of yoga (Sunday mornings) and Pilates (Wednesday evenings) 4-6 local attendees / session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing arrangements with Melbourne City Marina for use of the Marina lounge space • Successful partnership with local business Premium Fitness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group size has not yet reached critical mass • Marketing to locals through building networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate participant feedback and redesign sessions for 2023 • Build core participant numbers to become self-sustaining
<p>Docklands Repair Café Quarterly sessions held on Sunday afternoons at Docklands Hub. Residents bring their broken goods in to be fixed by volunteer repairers ~6 volunteer repairers / session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of first Repair Café during Sustainable Living Festival in Feb 2022 • Partnership with the YMCA (Hub) and Docklands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the right balance between repairers and participants to make Repair Café an enjoyable experience for both 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategies to increase number and consistency of local volunteer repairers • Skill-up a community volunteer to take on co-ordination duties

<p>12-50 participants / session</p>	<p>Representative Group in hosting the sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with Docklands Toy Library to host a special Toy Repair Cafe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some inconsistency in DNH co-ordination and promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations with Library at the Dock makerspace on special Repair Café events
<p>Social Sports Program A one-off gala incorporating fishing, table tennis, cricket and soccer, as well as an end of year picnic party. To be held at Ron Barassi on Saturday 10 December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to dual identified needs of increased recreational and social activities. • In partnership with Docklands Chamber of Commerce and Docklands Sports Clubs • Providing good volunteer opportunities for keen local amateur sportspeople 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been challenging narrowing down options for sports; need to ensure sports element does not lose focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run day on 10 December • Look to opportunities for further social sports programs, including regular fixtures
<p>Cirque Culinaire One-off program at District Docklands 30 October Series of cooking demonstrations from local cooks / chefs Partnership with B-Friend / The Village Festival 15 participants Audience of ~1500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong program that showcased both commercial and community aspects of food • Culturally diverse program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production challenges early in day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could run again in 2023, possibly in association with other special event • Develop other “food-based” programming
<p>Children’s Art Spaces Occasional days at DNH offering hands-on visual arts experiences for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holi workshop • Autumn Art Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with young families • Creating opportunity for trans-generational (parent/carer-child) art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNH space adequate, but not ideal • Finding the right presenter / facilitator for ongoing programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure ongoing local facilitator • Design monthly calendar of Art Spaces and/or • Design School Holiday programming for 2023 term breaks

~30 children and their families engaged each time			
Participative Action Research Engagement of Strategic Development Group to lead a research project identifying the most impactful role and programs for Docklands Neighbourhood House 60 surveys completed 6 focus group discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a solid evidence-based grounding for the need for a Neighbourhood House in Docklands • Evidence base to design most impactful future programs and processes • Culturally representative participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including the perspectives of single professionals living alone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report due for completion in mid-December
Docklands Homework Club Development of a Homework Club for Docklands Primary School students needing English literacy assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct response to an identified need both through primary school and through parent community • Opportunity to make early interventions that can have a life-long impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project not yet operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting result of funding application to Australian Communities Foundation / Centre for Multicultural Youth • Plan to launch program in Term 1, 2023
Cargo Bike Purchase of a cargo bike to transport gear and people around Docklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good carrying capacity makes off-site programs easier to deliver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning circle not great 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop scheme for locals to borrow cargo bike for their own journeys
Social Events / Community Picnics Ran picnic for international students (Buluk Park, May) Navaratri also ran as community picnic Assisting community members from Yarra's Edge to run "Celebrate at Yarra's Edge Community Day on 26 November" Social Sports program also features a community BBQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided opportunities for particular cohorts to gather, to socialise and to celebrate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had intended more social events, but lead volunteer got full-time work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with buildings to get greater reach to singles / isolated people • Movie Nights at Hoyts • Small events at local cafes/ restaurants • Develop social event around dogs



Cirque Culinaire



Childrens Art Spaces



Afternoon Tea Play Sessions



Repair Cafe



Holi



Navaratri

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*

Name: * Chris Thrum

Phone number: *

[REDACTED]

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Date of Council meeting: * Tuesday 13 December 2022

Agenda item title: * 7.3 Post travel report – Councillor Hakim, public art, creative and social programs New Zealand

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Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear City of Melbourne,

This is a written response in regards to the Agenda Item 7.3 Post Travel report – Councillor Hakim, public art, creative and social programs, New Zealand.

Thanks to Cr Jamal Hakim for traveling to New Zealand and working through a busy schedule to meet many citizens in New Zealand involved in exciting public art programs and social programs to educate New Zealanders about Maori culture.

On Wurundjeri Country there are many ways that City of Melbourne could integrate many of the ideas New Zealanders have, to help in educating Melbourne citizens about the Kulin Nation.

Cr Hakim also learnt about the creative and strategic approach New Zealanders have with the homeless. The Councillor was reminded of the importance of individuals relationships, their community and connection to place. It's important to have City of Melbourne foster true partnerships and systems of support.

Cr Hakim would recognise that it is vital to have coordinated access to housing and support. We should appreciate

the great work the Salvation Army's doing in the CBD.

Kudos to Mayor Dalziel for talking with Lord Mayor Sally Capp and recognising Melbourne's leadership and programs in climate change mitigation. In regards to climate change, fifteen years ago, I attended a talk at Mueller Hall by one of the scientists at the RBG. Now, he said that the Intel that the RBG had in regards to Melbourne's climate was that we were going to get more rain, in time. He said we would have more periods of weather events that were more typical of a climate further north.

In question time, if my memory serves me well, someone said Professor XYZ stated that Melbourne, like all of Australia would get drier and drier, that we would have more droughts! The question was, how can you say it's going to get wetter, when in fact it's going to get drier?

In response to this, the RBG scientist stated, in a matter of fact way that he was basing his ideas on the network of scientists that he knew from around the world, in academia , meteorologists from both hemispheres and in real world Botanic Gardens, Parks and Gardens. He stated that he respected their opinion. He added, sure, it's looking very, very probable that things will continue to warm up, however, you may have to couple that with the fact that many scientists reckon it's going to get warmer and wetter. He stated that there are various opinions on what would occur.

He said the RBG was planning for a hotter and wetter Melbourne. He added that he wasn't being sensational, and that it would be prudent for the RBG to be pragmatic about managing and mitigating climate change.

The person asking the question shook their head in disbelief.

Returning to Cr Hakim's report, the photography is great. Thanks for the attention to detail in this travel report. It's important for City of Melbourne Councillors and Council officers to travel overseas and learn more from other municipalities to bring back more knowledge to ensure a brighter and better future for the City of Melbourne.

Best regards,

Chris Thrum

**Do you also wish No
to attend the
Council meeting
in person, noting
that there is no
provision to make
verbal
submissions at
Council meetings?**

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