

26 April 2006

**2006 ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM – NORTH MELBOURNE
TOWN HALL (ROUND 2)**

Committee Community Services

Presenter Cr Wilson

Purpose

1. To provide a summary of the second round of the 2006 Arts Grant for the North Melbourne Town Hall category and to seek approval for the allocation of grants, as shown in Attachment 1 to the Management Report.

Recommendation

2. That Council approve the second round of the 2006 Arts Grants for North Melbourne Town Hall to the applicants and for the amounts identified in Attachment 1 to the Management Report.

Council Report Attachment:

1. Community Services Committee, Agenda Item 3.3, 6 April 2006

6 April 2006

**2006 ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM – NORTH MELBOURNE
TOWN HALL (ROUND 2)**

Division Design & Culture

Presenter Morris Bellamy, Manager Arts & Culture

Purpose

1. To provide a summary of the second round of the 2006 Arts Grants for the North Melbourne Town Hall category and to seek approval for the allocation of grants, as shown in Attachment 1.

Recommendation

2. That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the second round of the 2006 Arts Grants for North Melbourne Town Hall to the applicants and for the amounts identified in Attachment 1 to this Management Report.

Key Issues

3. A second round of grants applies only to the 'North Melbourne Town Hall' category for the 2006 Arts Grant program. The rationale for having a second round in the category is to support the curatorial approach to the presentation program at North Melbourne Town Hall and to enable the development of a flexible program. Allocating the presentation program over the full year was not seen as an effective approach.
4. The Council's overall Arts House initiative is multi-faceted, involving presentation; creative development projects; rehearsal spaces; galleries; community meeting spaces; conference facilities; and tenancies for arts organisations. Arts House is also a multi-site program, operating across the venues of North Melbourne Town Hall, Meat Market and Horti Hall.

Time Frame

5. It is planned to advise applicants of the second round of the 2006 Arts Program for North Melbourne Town Hall outcomes as soon as possible after the April meeting. This will allow for preparation time for all projects, especially those commencing early in the second half of the 2006 calendar year.

Relation to Council Policy

6. The 2006 Arts Grants Program and the recommendations of the Reference Panel support Council's recently adopted *Arts Strategy 2004-2007*. The 2006 Arts Grants Program is also relevant to the theme of *Investing in the Arts*. Further, the recommendations are consistent with the overall directions of *City Plan 2010 – Connected and Accessible, Inclusive and Engaging*.

Consultation

7. Consultation has occurred at all stages of the planning, development and implementation of the 2006 Arts Grant Program. This consultation has involved Councillors, Council staff, Cultural Affairs Advisory Board delegates, Reference and Advisory panel members, grant recipients and industry representatives.

Government Relations

8. The Arts and Culture Branch is aware of Federal and State Government funding for the arts and this information is made available to Council to ensure full awareness of the key grant objectives and timelines of key funding bodies. The funding objectives and aims of Arts Victoria and the Australia Council remain distinct to those of Council and its aims and objectives as expressed in the *Arts Strategy 2004-2007*.

Finance

9. A total of \$220,000 has been allocated in the 2005/2006 budget for presentation at North Melbourne Town Hall. A total of \$126,518 was allocated in the first round of Arts Grants leaving \$93,482 available for the second round of grants.
10. All grant recommendations are funded from the 2005/2006 operating budget under 'Grants and Subsidies' expenditure.

Legal

11. There are no legal issues arising from the recommendation. The recommendation is within Council's functions and powers as set out in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Sustainability

12. With reference to the goal of a connected and accessible City of Melbourne, Council's 2006 Arts Grants Program contributes to the 'cultural accessibility' of the City through its diverse scope of festivals, projects and activities.
13. With reference to the goal of an inclusive and engaging city, the 2006 Arts Grants Program includes categories that are well aimed to achieve the action of establishing 'community and cultural development projects to promote understanding of our personal culture and that of others'. The 2006 Arts Grants Program strongly focuses on the strategic direction of promoting, celebrating and further developing 'Melbourne as a City of the Arts with a rich and vibrant cultural life'.
14. With reference to the goal of an innovative and vital business city, the Victorian arts industry, with Melbourne as its core activity centre, employs around 20,000 people and generates \$2.05 billion annually.
15. With reference to the goal of an environmentally responsible city, the 2006 Arts Grants Program promotes work and events that are both environmentally respectful and responsible.

Background

Overview

16. Council's commitment to creating an innovative and vibrant city environment is demonstrated through the Arts Grants Program. The City of Melbourne currently supports more arts and cultural activities than any other local government in Australia.

17. For 2006, three key changes were made to the Arts Grants Program to ensure maximum opportunity for artists to engage with the arts in Melbourne. These were:
 - 17.1. the introduction of two funding rounds for the North Melbourne Town Hall category;
 - 17.2. the inclusion of ArtPlay as a category; and
 - 17.3. the withdrawal of Capital City Programs as a category due to the new Triennial Program.
18. The Arts Grants Program is a vital component of Council's commitment to nurturing and supporting artists to present new projects, events and activities to city audiences. It reflects a broad range of contemporary arts practice crossing all artforms. The benefits to the city's visitors, workers, students and residents include access to affordable and often free innovative arts and cultural events.
19. The guidelines for the 2006 Arts Grants Program state that funding will not be provided to any individual or organisation that has not acquitted previous grants. There are no outstanding acquittals for the recommended applications.
20. Grants are provided for one year only and there is no guarantee of future funding.

Advertising and Promotion

21. The 2006 Arts Grants Program was advertised in May 2005 with closing dates of 1 July and 2nd December 2005 for the second round. A general public briefing for all grant categories was held at the Melbourne Town Hall attended by 110 people.
22. A total of 14 applications were received for the second round of the 2006 Presentation Grants for Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall.

Evaluation Process

23. An Arts House Reference Panel was established for the 2006 Arts House Grants Program, North Melbourne Town Hall category. The Panel includes:
 - 23.1. Martin Brennan: past City of Melbourne Councillor and local resident, community representative;
 - 23.2. David Chisholm: a representative from the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board, composer and musician;
 - 23.3. Sue Beal: Arts House Team Leader from the Arts & Culture Branch;
 - 23.4. Sue McCauley: visual arts and new media;
 - 23.5. Robin Laurie: theatre, contemporary circus and community cultural development;
 - 23.6. Rinski Ginsberg: theatre, dance and physical theatre; and
 - 23.7. Sui Chan: multicultural arts.
24. The membership of the Reference Panel is noted on Council's website.
25. Briefings were held for all panel members, prior to the assessment process, to ensure that Council's processes and objectives regarding the 2006 Arts Grants Program were fully understood.

26. Applications were assessed against the following key criteria; the artistic and cultural merit of the proposal; how the proposal worked administratively and financially, and how the proposal met the program criteria as stated in the guidelines. The Arts House Reference Panel assessed by an additional set of criteria to address the curatorial approach to the category.
 27. In addition to making recommendations for funding, the Reference Panel put in place a priority ranking for unfunded applications, in case any of the proposed projects fail to occur.
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Attachment:

1. Funding Recommendations, Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall (Round 2)

2006 Arts Grants Program



Funding Recommendations - Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall (Round 2)

Summary: Applications received: 14
 Funding requested: \$327,214

Applications Recommended: 6
 Budget Available: \$93,482 Funding recommended: \$93,482

Applicant	Artform	Title of Project	Summary of Project	2006 Request	2006 Recommendation
Rock 'n' Roll Circus / CIRCA	i) Performance/ Theatre	By the light of stars that are no longer	Three part program of activities comprising the world premiere of "By the light of stars that are no longer", a residency at ArtPlay and a series of workshops and masterclasses providing industry and community engagement.	\$38,736	\$25,000
David Wells & Neil Thomas	i) Performance/ Theatre	Mantalk	A duet performance season combining original music, narration and story-telling that seeks to re-create the free-ranging, emotional, confrontational and honest talking of men.	\$25,088	\$14,392
Peepshow Inc	i) Performance/ Theatre	Slanting into the Void	A contemporary puppet opera by Lally Katz telling the story of loss and hope, woven together by Jethro Woodward's original score.	\$24,500	\$14,000
Condon, Kristen	f) Multimedia/ New Media	TekniKunst	A festival dedicated to providing a platform for multi-disciplinary artforms that engages with contemporary technology as a medium and/or subject matter.	\$30,000	\$12,000
RMIT Union	g) Music	Liquid Architecture 7	An eclectic sound art festival of experimental music and sound culture comprising live performance, screenings, workshops, artist talks and panels.	\$30,000	\$28,090

Applicants: funding not available

- Arch Ilias & Gerard Veltre
- Astra Chamber Music
- Dance Works Ltd
- Dislocate
- Maxwell-Tansley, Valentina
- Parallelo
- Roundangle
- Theatre @ Risk

Budget \$93,482
 Recommended Funding \$93,482
 \$0

FINANCE ATTACHMENT

2006 ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM – NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL (ROUND 2)

Funding of \$220,000 has been provided in the 2005/06 budget for grants for the North Melbourne Town Hall category.

Joe Groher
Manager Financial Services

LEGAL ATTACHMENT

2006 ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM – NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL (ROUND 2)

The functions of a Council as set out in section 3E of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) include:

- “(a) advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the local community;
- (b) planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community;”

Pursuant to section 141(a) of the Act, Council may apply any money to enable it to perform its functions and exercise its powers.

The recommendation in this report is therefore within the functions and powers of Council.

Ongoing legal advice will be provided as required in relation to any legal issues arising from the provision of individual grants.

Instrument of Delegation

On 28 February 2006 the Council resolved to delegate to the Community Services Committee the power, duties and functions directly relating or ancillary to Arts and Arts Grants.

Kim Wood
Manager Legal Services