

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.3

Opportunities for international engagement

Council

26 July 2022

Presenter: Alison Leighton, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Jamal Hakim to travel to Auckland between 21 and 26 August 2022 in his capacity as Portfolio Lead for Creative Melbourne and Deputy Portfolio Lead for Health, Wellbeing and Belonging and City Activation.
2. Engagement with international cities and networks positions Melbourne as a globally connected and world leading city. It allows the city to position itself to leverage opportunities that build on Melbourne's reputation as a preferred and sustainable destination in which to live, do business and visit.

Key issues

3. Councillor Jamal Hakim proposes to visit Auckland to gain insight into Auckland's strategies and programs supporting public art, libraries, and the digital and creative sectors.
4. The visit will focus on Auckland's approach and experience in embracing the city's rich diversity, cultural identity and the ways in which accessibility and equity are embedded into municipal life. Auckland's approach to commissioning, developing and celebrating art in the public realm is of particular relevance as Council progresses the development of public art in the Southbank area.
5. The city's focus on inclusive and accessible library services is also of interest as Council progresses planning of its library network and in particular the new Munro library and community hub.
6. The proposed program will include meetings and site visits with council officers, elected members and others associated with devising, overseeing and delivering Auckland's approach to the following:
 - 6.1. Creative sector – the framework and programs supporting a rich and diverse local arts and creative community.
 - 6.2. Public art and the public realm – Auckland's Public Art Policy has been in place since 2013 and was refreshed in 2021. The policy supports the progress of new public art which celebrates the areas creativity, history and natural environment.
 - 6.3. First Nations – recognition, engagement and celebration of Maori heritage. Auckland's recognition of, engagement with and honouring of First Nations people is highly regarded.
 - 6.4. Diversity and inclusion – Strategies and programs supporting and engaging a diverse local community.
 - 6.5. Municipal libraries – Auckland has a world-class municipal library network with a strong focus on access, inclusion and First Peoples engagement.
7. The key themes to be covered in the visit to Auckland align with and will further assist deliberations on Council strategies and Major Initiatives under the Council Plan, namely:
 - 7.1. Melbourne's support of the resurgence of the local creative sector particularly those impacted by extended COVID 19 lockdowns (multiple Major initiatives).
 - 7.2. Delivering a public art program including a public art commission in Southbank (Major Initiative 15)

- 7.3. Greenline and opportunities to incorporate creative elements in public realm infrastructure and activation components (Major Initiative 12).
 - 7.4. Governing with sovereign First Nations and a Cultural Precinct (Major Initiatives 25 and 26).
 - 7.5. Inclusive Melbourne Strategy – implementation of the Strategy which has three priorities (1) Organisations, services programs and places for all (2) Sustainable and fair recovery (3) Empowered, participatory communities (Major Initiative 48).
 - 7.6. Library Strategic Framework – implementation of the principles and initiatives under the Library Framework and development of design, services and programs in the Munro library and community hub in the Queen Victoria Market precinct.
8. All costs associated with travel by Councillor Hakim will be met by the Council.

Recommendation from management

9. That Council:
- 9.1. Approves Councillor Jamal Hakim’s proposed travel to Auckland, New Zealand to undertake meetings and observations in relation to Auckland’s approach to creative and cultural matters between 21 and 26 August 2022 at an estimated cost to Council of \$5575.
 - 9.2. Notes that Councillor Hakim will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. Costs associated with travel by Councillor Hakim will be met by the City of Melbourne and are estimated at \$5575. This includes the airfare (\$2900), accommodation for 5 nights (\$1250) and incidentals (\$1425)
2. All City of Melbourne costs will be met from the existing budget allocation.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues or opportunities have been identified.
5. In undertaking international travel, Councillor Hakim will adhere to and be guided by local and international health, safety and security measures including those identified by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Relation to Council policy

6. The Director Governance has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy.
7. The objectives associated with proposals contained in report align with the Major Initiatives under the Council Plan and positions endorsed by Council.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits.