

6.3.8 pARTcipate – Investigation into possibilities for Art and Culture – The Process

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES TO 5 FEBRUARY 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
140205 Council1
GOV400038, REC800017

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. **the report by the Director, Development and Community Services on the pARTcipate – Investigation into possibilities for Art and Culture – The Process be received;**
2. **Council adopt the process as outlined in the flowchart included in this report including a survey, public workshop, investigation and concept design for preferred options for the development of Art and Culture in this region.**

Executive summary

Council included in this year's Operational Plan an investigation into the provision of an art gallery for the Mid-Western Region. The purpose of this report is to present a draft process for Council's consideration for the investigation for the delivery of art services to the Mid-Western Regional Community.

Detailed report

A project identified in this year's Operational Plan is the investigation into the provision of an art gallery. During discussions with the community at the workshop for the formulation of the Public Art Policy and meetings of the Cultural Development Committee there appears that the community has an array of ideas regarding the development of art and culture in the region. This range of ideas also include a wide range of differing opinions the form and function of an art gallery. The investigation provides an ideal opportunity to collect the community's ideas and opinions in relation to the need for an art gallery and other ideas in relation to development of the arts. The collection of this information would be useful in long term planning and also in any future review of the Cultural Plan.

A draft process, called pARTicipate is outlined in the diagram below.

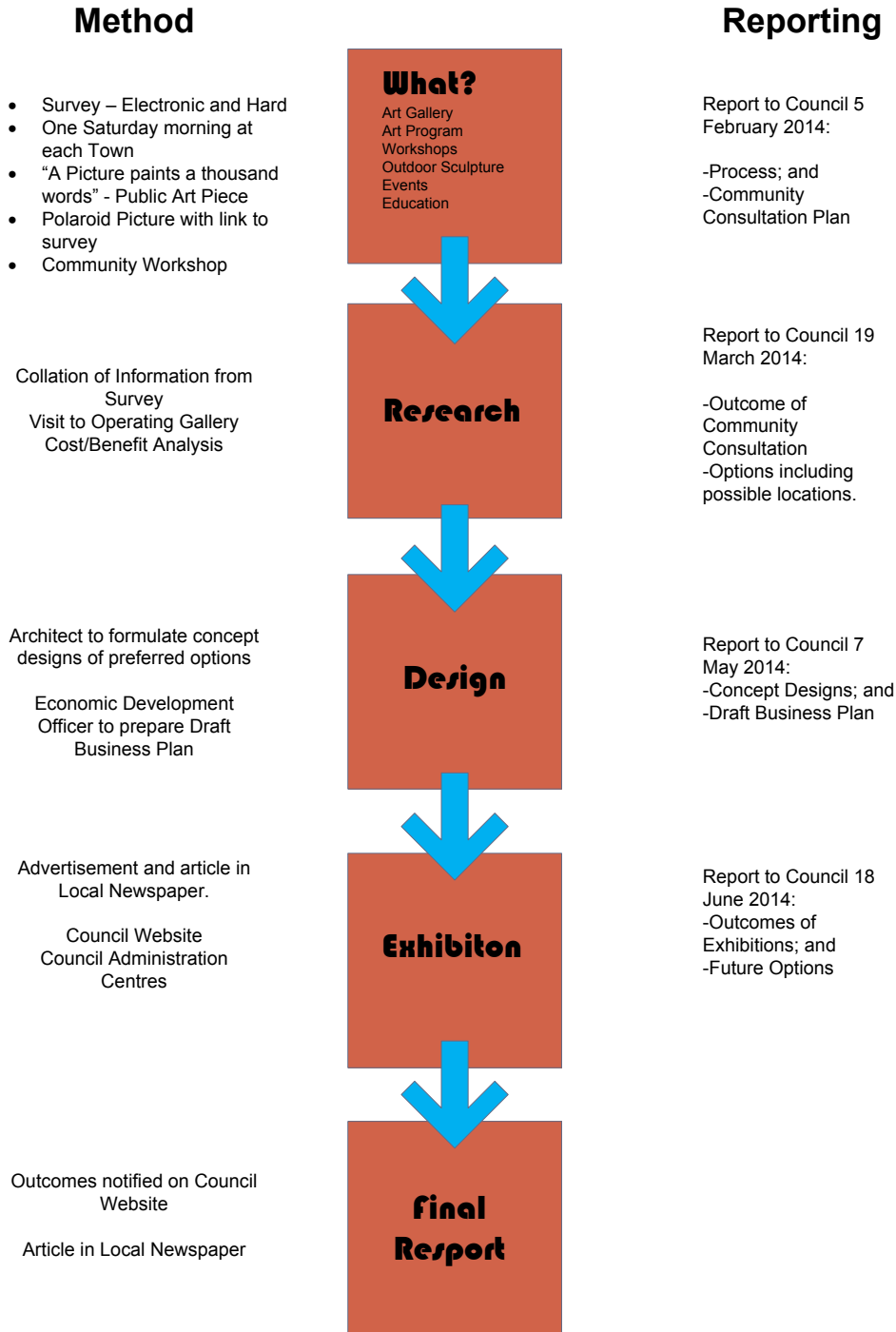
WHAT? – This is an important stage in the process. Central to the process is to clearly define that Council is not making a commitment to the delivery of any or all of the ideas that the community raise. However, it is considered important to identify the community's vision and needs for development of the arts in the region. For example, do we need an art gallery or would the needs of the community be better served through an art program, or a sculpture walk, education or an event? What would be the function of an art gallery? Would a gallery include workshops? Can it be combined with other services? Who would run the facility? How would it be economically sustainable? The answer to these questions and more will:

- guide the later stages of the process;
- guide the form, function and location of any facility;

- provide valuable information to Council on Community needs; and
- involve the community giving them ownership of the process and involvement in outcomes.

PARTicipate

An investigation into possibilities for art and culture.



It is proposed to formulate an electronic survey (see attachment 1 to this report) which will also be available in hard copy. A community engagement Saturday morning session will be held in three towns over February/ March. At each one of these session will be a continuous roll of paper where the community will be encouraged to write/ draw their ideas in relation to development of art in the

region. Whilst people are engaged in this process a polaroid picture will be taken which includes a link to the survey. Hard copy of the survey will also be available for members of the community to fill out on the spot. Early in the consultation phase a public workshop will be held to give a greater explanation of the process and allow community feedback outside of the survey. It is intended that the survey will also be publicised on facebook, website and through the local media.

RESEARCH – During this phase information from the survey, submissions and the public workshop would be synthesised to be presented to Council. In addition, it is intended to find out more about program and facilities currently being run elsewhere by local government. A cost/benefit analysis will be included in the report presented to Council for consideration. Council would also need to identify preferred options and locations for a facility if relevant.

DESIGN – Depending on the direction from Council the next stage would include designing concept plans for the preferred facility and location if relevant. This would involve the commissioning of services of an architect. In addition, a Business Plan would be developed for any facility or program involve so that Council and the community could gain an understanding of the ongoing cost of any facility or program. A report would be presented to Council in May Council presenting the concept designs and Business Plan and seeking approval for exhibition.

EXHIBITION – At this stage it is proposed to hold a formal exhibition of the options developed including the business plan. It may also be opportune to hold another community workshop to give direct feedback and explanation of the options.

FINAL REPORT – A final report back to Council after the exhibition of the concepts with the outcomes of the meeting communicated to the community.

As can be seen from the draft process it is intended to report to Council at each stage of the process.

Financial and Operational Plan implications

Council has identified \$20,000 in the Operational Plan towards the investigation. The proposed process will be completed within budget with completion date of June 2014.

Community Plan implications

This investigating provides Council with an opportunity to identify the needs and wants of the community for development of the arts in the regions. The investigation will provide important information, not only for Council to plan its immediate projects, but also projects in the future. It is important that throughout the process that the community understand that whilst Council is eager for them to submit their ideas that there is no commitment to delivery to all or any of the programs or facilities identified.

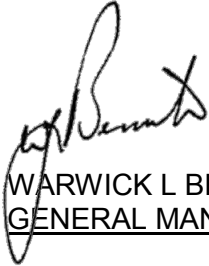


CATHERINE VAN LAEREN
DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

22 January 2014

Attachments: 1. Draft Survey

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:



WARWICK L BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER

pARTicipate

Please spend a few minutes to help us shape the future of arts and culture ...

More detailed submissions are invited from interested residents and community organisations.

These submissions should be addressed to the General Manager and emailed to council@midwestern.nsw.gov.au or posted to PO Box 156, Mudgee, NSW 2850.

*1. In which locality in the Mid-Western do you live?

*2. How old are you?

- 18 or younger
- 18 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 - 69
- 70 or older

*3. How are you currently involved in arts and culture in the Mid-Western Region?

Select as many as apply to you and leave a comment to provide additional information.

- Not involved
- General interest
- Sculpture
- Painting
- Music
- Dance
- Organised groups such as Cultural Development Committee?
- Business operator
- Studying

Other involvement?

pARTicipate

***4. What are the current barriers to you participating becoming further involved in arts and culture in the Mid-Western Region?**

Select as many as apply to you and leave a comment to provide additional information.

- No barriers
- Distance to travel
- Cost/prohibitive expense
- Need further education
- No available workshop space
- No gallery in the region

Other (please specify)

***5. When did you last visit an art gallery?**

- In the last week
- In the last month
- In the last six months
- In the last year
- In the last five years
- Can't remember
- Never

***6. What is your priority for the development of arts and culture in the Mid-Western Region?**

Rank your preferences.

<input type="text"/>	Workshops and studio space
<input type="text"/>	Arts programs using existing facilities
<input type="text"/>	Art gallery
<input type="text"/>	Education
<input type="text"/>	An event
<input type="text"/>	Generate support of existing organisations
<input type="text"/>	Other

pARTicipate

7. If your priority for the development of arts and culture in the region wasn't listed above, please give details of what this priority is: