

## 11.2 Acceptance of Grant Funding - Create NSW Local Government Authority Arts & Cultural Funding

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES  
TO 21 APRIL 2021 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400088, REC800048

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager, Community & Cultural Services on the Acceptance of Grant Funding - Create NSW Local Government Authority Arts & Cultural Funding;**
2. **accept \$50,000 in grant funding from the Create NSW Local Government Authority Arts and Cultural Funding Program;**
3. **amend the 2021/22 budget to increase expenditure in the Art Gallery Operations budget by \$50,000 to be funded from grant funding; and**
4. **authorise the General Manager to finalise and sign the funding agreement with the NSW Government.**

### Executive summary

Council applied for grant funding through the Create NSW Local Government Authority Arts and Cultural Funding Program for annual programming at the Mudgee Region Gallery. The application was successful in respect of programming for the gallery's inaugural year. The purpose of this report is to authorise the General Manager to accept funding and sign the funding agreement.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

### Detailed report

It is anticipated that the Mudgee Region Gallery will officially open its doors in August 2021. Given the need to forward plan gallery exhibitions, the Curator has been working on establishing a program for its inaugural year. For 2021/2022, the Mudgee Region Gallery's priority is to highlight a diverse range of art work that connects to the Mid-Western region. The majority of this work will be created specifically for the new gallery to celebrate our creative practice and artistic excellence.

'Paintings from Mudgee' by Guy Maestri will showcase a new body of work from the much acclaimed, Mudgee-born artist. The exhibition will primarily comprise a series of paintings that will be painted around the Mid-Western Region.

The exhibition is expected to comprise landscapes of oil on canvas as well as smaller still life works plus some sculptures. The new paintings will be a contemporary interpretation of the traditional oil painting technique but created outside in the 'en plein air' tradition.

'The Drip', an exhibition to be curated by Aleshia Lonsdale, a Mudgee--based Wiradjuri woman who chairs the Local Aboriginal Land Council, will feature Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists and their response to one of the region's most recognized areas of natural beauty, The Drip Gorge. The exhibition will focus on the regional's water resources, the flora and fauna of the area and its importance to local Aboriginal people. The artists will take part in an educational immersive experience on Country and the art created will be an accumulation of their various responses and engagements.

The third exhibition of the inaugural program is Linda Jackson's 'Reflection, Regeneration, Retreat', which explores themes around the recent bushfires and issues surrounding isolation during COVID19. Linda's work personally reflects on the broader themes that have affected the wellbeing of so many local residents. The Create Grant will assist with the development, installation and presentation of a series of paintings and photographs taken throughout the year. The works will reflect on the bushland around Clandulla which was destroyed when the New Year's fires burned through the region.

The final show of the year is a group show highlighting the many talented practitioners from across the region, as well the work of renowned local ceramist, Chester Nealie. This important exhibition of artistic excellence aims to foster meaningful creative connections, nurture the rich local art community and build important pathways for future collaboration, innovation and cultural activity. Local artists confirmed to participate include Sam Paine, Nigel White and Denise Faulkner.

The \$50,000 from Create NSW will boost the gallery's existing operational budget and will contribute to an already robust exhibition schedule. The funding will also allow Council to financially subsidise artists' contributions, making the gallery a more attractive facility for artists to exhibit works within in the future. It is recommended that Council accept the grant funding offered by Create NSW, and authorise the General Manager to sign the funding agreement.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Support arts and cultural development across the Region

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Council's Towards 2030 Community Plan includes supporting arts and cultural development across the region. Acceptance of this funding will increase the capacity of Council's gallery to deliver arts and cultural development activities.

### **Council Policies**

Not Applicable.

### **Legislation**

Not Applicable.

## Financial implications

Council are required to fund 30% of the total project (cash or in kind) and this has already been adequately allocated within the 2021/2022 budget.

Budget Year	Operating Performance Ratio	Own Source Revenue	Building & Infrastructure Renewal
2020/21	-	-	-
Future Years	-	X	-

### Associated Risks

Not Applicable.

FIONA SHEARMAN  
MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

30 March 2021

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER