

CULTURAL VENUES - PROGRESS REPORT 2004

Division Design & Culture

Presenter Morris Bellamy, Manager Arts & Culture

Purpose

To provide an annual report on the performance of the key cultural venues directly managed by Council - North Melbourne Town Hall (NMTH), Horti Hall (HH) and ArtPlay. The Meat Market Arts Centre (MM) will operate as a new Council cultural venue from early 2005, subject to negotiations with Arts Victoria. Further, to provide an analysis of current issues and opportunities relating to Council's cultural venues.

Time Frame

There are no specific critical dates relating to this report.

Caretaker Policy

The progress report on the performance of the key cultural venues directly managed by Council is neither a major policy decision nor a 'significant' decision for the purposes of the Caretaker Policy.

Finance

All proposals relating to Council's cultural venues will be considered as part of the annual budget cycle.

Legal

No legal implications arise from the recommendation in this report.

Sustainability

Connected and Accessible City

Council's cultural venues contribute to the 'cultural accessibility' of the City through its range of arts programming and community activities and the cultural diversity of those people attending arts and community events in the venues.

Inclusive and Engaging City

Strategic direction 3.1 identifies a specific opportunity to use Melbourne Town Hall, North Melbourne Town Hall and Horti Hall as centres of civic life.

Strategic direction 3.2 includes an objective to “meet the diverse needs of City residents, workers and visitors by providing a range of affordable and equitable services and facilities”.

Strategic direction 3.3 is to ‘promote, celebrate and further develop the City of Melbourne as a city for the arts and as a sporting capital with a rich and vibrant cultural life’. Objectives under this heading include ‘nurture, facilitate and further develop the City’s arts industry and Community’.

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.

Council’s cultural venues complement the existing cultural elements in the city with an infrastructure to sustain an energetic, ‘creative industry’ for the City. That is an industry in which all aspects thrive – individuals, small projects and organisations through to leading state-wide and national arts organisations. This links to City Plan 2010 (2002) which states:

“the arts and cultural environment is a significant component of modern city infrastructure and contributes to the City’s liveability, innovation, competitiveness and image”.

Environmentally Responsible City

No major impacts arise from this report.

Recommendation

That the City Services, Community and Cultural Development Committee note the information in this report.

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Purpose

1. To provide an annual report on the performance of the key cultural venues directly managed by Council - North Melbourne Town Hall (NMTH), Horti Hall (HH) and ArtPlay. The Meat Market Arts Centre (MM) will operate as a new Council cultural venue from early 2005, subject to negotiations with Arts Victoria. Further, to provide an analysis of current issues and opportunities relating to Council's cultural venues.

Background

2. Council has a policy commitment to maintaining a network of publicly operated cultural venues. This commitment is based on consultation and research which indicates that the most important resources needed to support emerging artists and the small to medium arts sector are low cost, accessible venues and administrative spaces. The community consultation process for the development of *Arts Strategy 2004-2007* confirmed this need.

North Melbourne Town Hall

3. NMTH was renovated in 1998 at a cost of \$3.4 million. It has two performance/rehearsal spaces, the lower town hall meeting and function facility for community organisations, and facilities for Council staff and tenant organisations including offices, a shared meeting room and rehearsal space.
4. Since opening in May 1998 as a performance space, more than 120 public performance seasons have been presented at NMTH, including numerous concerts, festivals and other events. It has become a lead venue for quality, independent multi-disciplinary performance in Melbourne and has developed a reputation for delivering an innovative performance program across many artforms including dance, music, spoken word, circus and multi media. It is also the hub venue for the annual Fringe Festival and is a regular venue for Melbourne Festival (Melbourne Festival) projects. NMTH also continues to be an important meeting place for the local community.
5. NMTH has housed seven arts groups since 1998 being Melbourne Workers Theatre, Melbourne Chorale, the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, Kage, Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Company, Chamber Made Opera and Arena Theatre Company. All leases (other than Arena Theatre Co) expire in September 2004 and a publicly advertised process has been undertaken to find, assess and determine the tenant companies for the next three years.

Horti Hall

6. HH has one performance/rehearsal/community event space with a kitchen, a two-roomed art gallery and currently houses two tenant organisations. It is owned by the State Government and leased by Mint Inc to Council under a five-year lease that expires in 2006. It has been renovated by the State Government at a cost of \$1 million.

7. Since opening in 2001, HH has become an important link in the network of cultural facilities the Council provides to support arts activity. Like NMTH, it presents a diverse program of activity, responding to the needs of both the community and arts sectors.
8. Two companies are housed at HH, Lygon Street Festa whose lease expires in November 2004 and Next Wave Festival whose lease will expire in 2006.

ArtPlay

9. ArtPlay is a children's cultural facility that was launched in February 2004. It is housed in a former railway building that is part of the Birrarung Marr reserve and was renovated at a cost of \$1 million. The building provides workshops, gallery and performance spaces.
10. It will be surrounded by an outdoor creative play space that will provide an exciting extension of the indoor space. The work will be completed in late 2004.
11. Since opening 10,282 people have been involved in ArtPlay activities.

Meat Market Arts Centre

12. In August 2004, Council approved in principle, the taking over the management of the Meat Market Arts Centre (MM) as part of their network of cultural venues. It is being renovated by the State Government at a cost of \$3.2 million.
13. MM will be managed as a creative development and residency-focused venue that will complement the activities at NMTH, and will require a refocussing of activities at HH (see below).
14. MM was assessed to have considerable potential as a venue for experimentation and for the creative development of new work. The numerous and flexible spaces available for creative development and residencies, coupled with the opportunities to house artists and companies in a 'hot house' environment, has the potential to address many of the issues concerning housing the arts. It can also address the fact that, while Melbourne is well equipped with performing venues, it lacks affordable development/rehearsal space.
15. A venue dedicated to creative development would not only be a first in Melbourne but most probably in Australia. To use MM in this way will provide national and international leadership, as funding agencies are looking for models of providing support for this aspect of creative development.

Issues

Performance Report – North Melbourne Town Hall

Usage

16. A comparison between the 2003 and 2004 financial years shows NMTH experiencing a 30% increase in the numbers of people attending the facility resulting from a 9.5% increase in bookings.

NMTH	02/03	03/04	% increase
Total no events & performances	671	735	9.5%
Total attendances	42,823	55,797	30%

17. 30 public performance seasons were presented in 03/04. These have involved over 1,000 individual artists and groups from Bill Shannon to Rock'n'Roll Circus, from Kage to Club Wild, from Rawcus to the Festival Fringe. This represents a wide variety of innovative, exciting and visionary work. Even with this increase, there remains some unused capacity in the Main Hall for performances.

18. Innovation has not been the only objective informing the NMTH programming mix. Artists and audiences have exhibited a wide diversity of cultural background, age, physical and mental capacity. All sectors have been able to celebrate their cultural expressions in the facility with a high standard of technical support.
19. It is not possible to identify the cultural characteristics of each individual who enters NMTH (and many individuals identify with more than a single community). However, on the basis of the types of events hosted, it is possible to draw meaningful conclusions about the diverse make-up of participants (see below under 'User demographics').
20. NMTH has also experienced an increase in community usage. In the 1999 financial year, the North Melbourne Italian Seniors group and the Australian Greek and Cypriot Elderly Club were using the Lower Town Hall on a weekly basis. Between 2000 and 2003, two new groups were provided with weekly meeting space: the Federation of Elderly Chinese Association and the Cypriot community of Melbourne & Victoria. In 2004, an additional group, the Slavic Women's Association, was provided with weekly access. The Retired Railway Workers, The War Widows Association, the Retired Rolling Stockman's Association and the North & West Melbourne Legion of Service Men and Women all have regular monthly or annual events at NMTH.
21. As well as the regular Community use identified above, there has also been an increase in one-off hires from Community-based groups. The following organisations used NMTH during 2004: Chilean, Argentinean, Spanish, Laotian and Cambodian groups continued to hold large-scale dinner dances in the venue; universities and training institutions such as RMIT Foundation Studies for International Students and Melbourne University staged social dances and cultural awareness programs; local hires included weddings, birthday parties, christenings, bar mitzvahs etc; Community service providers such as Federation of Community Legal Centres, Adult Learning Australia, Tenants Union, Triple R, North and West Melbourne Language Centre, Community Aid Abroad, Oxfam, Channel 31, Victoria Ambulance Association, Youth Projects and North & West Neighbourhood Centre used the venue as a meeting place for forums, information nights, workshops and training.
22. Other large Community events using NMTH include North Melbourne Spring Fling and the Carlton Primary School Festival

User demographics

23. Of the 55,797 attendances at all performances, events and meetings in the 2004 financial year, at least 15,678 have been young people (the Fringe Festival attracting a largely youthful audience). 9,235 have been people from non-English speaking backgrounds (concerts at NMTH have featured culturally diverse music along with the regular gatherings of NESB groupings that utilise the facility). 1,626 have been people in retirement (NMTH being an extremely popular focus for the social gatherings of retired communities). 942 have been people with disabilities (the Club Wild cabarets and Rawcus being celebrations of difference culture featuring artists with disabilities and attracting similar audiences). Another 200 have been Indigenous people.
24. These figures are all understated as many users are eligible to be counted in multiple categories and many performance statistics provided by hirers do not include a breakdown of the demographics of the audiences.

Financial results

25. NMTH has achieved a nearly 10% increase in revenue while the growth in direct costs was 13.5%.

NMTH	02/03 \$'000	03/04 \$'000	% increase
Revenue	179	197	10%
Direct operating expenditure*	154	175	13.5%

*excludes labour costs – as shared labour costs are not allocated down to individual venues.

Performance Report – Horti Hall

Usage

26. A comparison between the 2003 and 2004 financial years shows that HH has experienced a decline in usage. Customer feedback indicates that artists and arts organisations find the venue expensive as they have to hire in all the technical equipment and seating as there is only basic stock at HH. Consequently, NMTH is the preferred venue for performance seasons. A re-focusing of HH functions needs to take place in light of Meat Market Art Centre's inclusion in the network of cultural venues managed by Council (see below).

HH	02/03	03/04	% increase
Total no events/performances	45	42	-7%
Total attendances	10,606	7,962	-24%

User demographics

27. Of the 7,962 attendances at all performances and events in the 2004 financial year, 809 have been young people. 73 have been people from non-English speaking backgrounds and 376 have been people in retirement. 48 have been people with a disability.

Financial results

28. HH financial results reflect the decline in usage, showing a decline in income and associated decline in expenditure.

HH	02/03 \$'000	03/04 \$'000	% change
Revenue	75	74	-1.3%
Direct operating expenditure**	127	95	-25%

**excludes labour costs

29. HH requires a realignment of its usage and a more strategic approach to the support of activities. This is discussed below.

Performance Report – ArtPlay

Usage

30. ArtPlay opened in February 2004 and the following figures represent 6 months of operation.

ArtPlay	03/04
Total no programs	111 days
Total children attending	4,417
Total other attending	5,865

User demographics

31. Of the 10,282 attendances at ArtPlay programs in the 2004 financial year, 4,417 have been young people.

Financial results

32. 2003/2004 was a period of establishment for ArtPlay. The level of attendances in the first year of operation will be improved on in 2004/2005. A separate Committee report will be presented early in 2005 which will detail the results of a full year of operation.

ArtPlay	03/04 \$'000
Revenue	11
Direct operating expenditure**	155

**excludes labour costs

33. 16 different workshop and performances programs have been presented. Some programs involved over 30 separate workshops with over 800 children participating, others have been one-off performances on a Saturday afternoon with 30 children.

Broader issues and Opportunities – NMTH & HH

Tenancies

34. The subsidised tenancies in Council's cultural venues enable a range of small to medium arts organisations to operate in the municipality. There is also an expectation that these arts organisations will bring vitality to the venues themselves, through the presentation of performances and other public activities.
35. All tenancies in Council's Cultural Venues (NMTH & HH) will expire by November 2004 (with the exception of Next Wave Youth Arts Festival and Arena Theatre Company). A public Expression of Interest was advertised in The Age and the Arts Hub Web site in April 2004. The process was planned to seek the optimal mix of tenancies for the next three-year period and to ensure a fair and transparent process for Council's allocation of the subsidised office spaces at NMTH and HH.

36. 11 applications were received: from Community Music Victoria (CMV), Cultural Development Network (CDN), Spiral Theatre Co, Balletlab, Kage Theatre Co, Club Wild (a major disability arts organisation, winners of one of the Melbourne Awards), Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, Melbourne Chorale, Ilbjerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Co, Chamber Made Opera and Melbourne Workers Theatre. CMV and CDN later withdrew their applications and Kage has moved to the MM.
37. The selection panel included Lorna Hannan (local community member), Jerril Rechter (General Manager, Footscray Community Arts Centre), Martin Ball (music critic), Rinske Ginsberg (performing artist & lecturer, Victorian College of the Arts).
38. The process resulted in the selection of three tenant organisations for NMTH, being Ilbjerri, Club Wild and Melbourne Workers Theatre as the other spaces occupied by the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic and the Melbourne Chorale will be used as staff offices once the foyer renovation is finished. It is proposed that the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic and the Melbourne Chorale be relocated to HH if, as recommended below, the focus for the use of HH is realigned as a home for choral groups, providing security of rehearsal time that is urgently needed by these organisations. Chamber Made Opera, Balletlab and Spiral Theatre will be encouraged to apply for space at MM.

Horti Hall usage review

39. The introduction of MM into Council's network of cultural venues makes a review of HH's function within the network worthwhile, in that there would appear to be some overlap between HH's original function and what is envisaged for MM.
40. At the same time, consideration needs to be given to the many submissions that have been made, over quite some time, by choral groups such as the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic and Astra for the establishment of a dedicated site for the support of singing in the City.
41. Further, the need to find suitable premises and support mechanisms for the choral groups that were occupying NMTH needs to be addressed.
42. HH is not an ideal performance venue as it has limited technical resources. However, the main hall has superb acoustics and is ideally suited for choral rehearsal. The building has sufficient potential office space to provide for the administrative needs of at least eight choral groups. The current use of these spaces includes an art gallery that will become redundant once MM is incorporated into the network (there being two excellent exhibition spaces at the MM) and the office space of the Next Wave Festival (who have indicated a willingness to apply for space at the MM).
43. Developing HH as a Choral Centre would require no refurbishment, other than installation of compactus storage for their music scores, and would productively respond to the needs of such groups as the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic and the Melbourne Chorale, and provide HH with a clear and promotable identity and profile.

Curatorial approach and management

44. Last year it was reported that NMTH had the opportunity to be included in a nation-wide network of venues. This network of venues is supported by the Australia Council as a second tier touring circuit, supporting and presenting contemporary arts from the small to medium sector.
45. This will create opportunities for commissioning of new work and a touring program that will guarantee inter-state exposure for Melbourne artists and showcase interesting work to Melbourne audiences that they would not otherwise see.
46. For Council to realise the benefit of the opportunity, several key issues were successfully addressed, including:

- 46.1. developing a more curatorial approach to programming, involving a revised approach to the current grants scheme for Cultural Venues;
 - 46.2. expansion of NMTH's foyer area to include box office and bar facilities;
 - 46.3. targeted marketing strategies to raise the profile of NMTH in the industry; and
 - 46.4. review of management and staff support arrangements for NMTH.
47. NMTH has now been selected as the Melbourne partner in the Mobile States Touring Network. Other state partners include The Performance Space (Sydney), The Power House (Brisbane), Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and Salamanca Arts Centre (Hobart). The first production to tour the circuit is "Phobia" produced by Chamber Made Opera.
 48. In 2004/2005 a more curatorial approach to programming NMTH will be in place. A series of events have been planned by the Cultural Venues Team at NMTH involving a range of partners, for example:
 - 48.1. Bill Shannon, an internationally renowned New York dance artist who has developed a set of movement patterns and body positions to enable him to use crutches for dance. Bill works on the leading edge of disability performance. He was presented in partnership with the Sydney Opera House, the Victorian Arts Centre and the Fringe Festival.
 - 48.2. Double Happiness, the culmination of a 3 year international exchange program involving dancers and choreographers from Korea, Japan and Melbourne, will be presented in partnership with International Relations and the performing arts company, Hirano.
 - 48.3. In 2005 the NMTH and the Melbourne Festival will collaborate to present a season of new works at the NMTH.
 49. In 2004 the international artists shared the annual program with nearly 2,000 local artists.

Residencies

50. One of the greatest impediments to artists creating new work is the high cost of hiring development space when there is no guarantee that there will be a paid performance outcome. One of the greatest frustrations of running venues is having space available and not being able to fill it at short notice. An Artist In Residence Program can benefit both artists and venue management in these areas.
51. Space is offered to artists at no cost as long as there is the flexibility that allows them to be relocated to another available space within Council's Cultural Venues network if a paying booking is taken on the space they are using.
52. An Artist In Residence Program can provide facilities and resources for artists to research, develop and rehearse new work at no cost to Council. Most commonly, it is the provision of rehearsal space for a finite time to work on a particular project where the artist can be flexible about the exact space to be used. There can be a public showing or limited work-in-progress performance at the end of an Artist In Residence Program. At a more developed level, an Artist In Residence Program initiates collaborations between various artists, commissions works on a particular theme and may have a budget to support wages and other developmental elements.

53. The Artist In Residence Program has become a key component of the Cultural Venues transition to a more curatorial, proactive approach to programming its venues. It allows Council to engage with artists in the formative period of the creation of a new work. This program is an invaluable support for the sector and helps build the venues' reputation and effectiveness as key and dynamic locations for the creation and performance of interesting new works. It is also a means by which fully realised, interesting work can be developed and undertaken in a full performance season at the venues.
54. Internationally recognised dancer and choreographer, Lucy Guerin, researched and rehearsed a performance as part of the 2004 Artist In Residence Program. It has developed into a \$600,000 performance piece, funded by the Australia Council and Arts Victoria, to be presented at NMTH in 2005.

55. The 2004 Artist In Residence Program selection process consisted of:

Advertising & Application Process

55.1. The program was advertised in early December 2003 through ads placed in the 2004 NMTH Program guide, the Council website and Venue web address, and in Arts Hub, the online key information platform for the arts sector. The publicity emphasised that in the first year of the program practical support would be limited to provision of limited rehearsal and development space. Applications closed on 12/2/04.

Assessment

55.2. Applications were assessed by a committee consisting of external artists and Cultural Venues staff. All had sector expertise and familiarity with the venues program and stated directions.

Successful applicants

55.3. Seven applications were successful out of a total of nine. The successful applicants were:

55.3.1. **Lucy Guerin:** one of Australia's most respected contemporary choreographers and dancers with an international reputation. Lucy needed four weeks rehearsal on a new show to open in 2005.

55.3.2. **Shelley Lasica:** respected independent choreographer developing Plan Protean, a major suite of five works working with an ensemble of skilled dancers. Four week part-time rehearsal room access was required.

55.3.3. **Anna Leibzeit:** young live-sound artist/performer who gained recognition through her performances as part of the 2002 Next Wave Festival at NMTH. Her new show in development, Cuckoo, is a collaboration with director Susie Dee and sound artist, Bruce Mowson. The development process requires two weeks in rehearsal.

55.3.4. **Richard Manning and Josephine Fagan:** Richard is a North Melbourne visual artist and Josephine is a video artist. One Million Observations is a NMTH video diary project that will be displayed in the foyer, designed to portray the varied Community and artistic life of the venue.

55.3.5. **Shannon Bott and Simon Ellis:** Shannon is a promising young dancer/choreographer who works between Perth and Melbourne. Simon is based in Melbourne. They needed two weeks rehearsal time to develop their new ideas in improvisational dance.

Customer response

Tenants

56. These figures are sourced from customer and tenant surveys which have been collected throughout the last financial year.

- 100% of tenants rated OH&S and emergency training as very good to exemplary.
- 83% rated the management of the venue, the cleaning of public spaces, quality of the rehearsal spaces and the value of sharing facilities as being very good to exemplary.
- 66% rated the tenant induction, quality of offices provided and equity of procedures to access space as very good.

- 50% rated building security measures as very good to exemplary
- 50% rated access to the board room and tenant rehearsal space as satisfactory.

Hirers

- 100% of hirers rate the Bookings staff service as very good to excellent
- 85% rate the venue staff service prior to the event as very good to excellent;
- 80% rate the technical advice as very good to excellent;
- 95% rate emergency procedure information as very good to excellent;
- 85% rate the technical equipment as very good to excellent;
- 90% rate technical support as very good to excellent;
- 90% rate hall keeping staff as very good to excellent;
- 100% rate the cleanliness as very good to excellent;
- 60% rate the temperature as very good to excellent; and
- 95% rate the overall venue as very good to excellent.

Logometrix results

57. The Logometrix Facility Performance Measurement System was developed by the Melbourne and Swinburne Universities and is used by Council to measure the standard of service provided by their facilities.
58. NMTH and HH were assessed during the 2003/2004 financial year. The System allows Council to measure facility performance strategically, aids in strategic decision making and has the potential to enable benchmarking of facility performance with other Councils in Victoria.
59. The June 2004 Report draws the following conclusions: under service, physical and Community perspectives, NMTH and HH 'outranked all other [Council] facilities'. Under the utilization category they rated second to childcare centres. When the cost of the service is measured against utilisation it indicates that 'the facilities are delivering [their] services extremely competitively in terms of dollars - given the high usage of the building[s]'. 'Along with Childcare facilities, [they] are the most "overused" facilities of Council.'

Capital works and risk

60. Regular risk and OH&S assessments are in place for all of the cultural venues. Management of risk issues is a key concern for venues catering to public audiences and participants.
61. These assessments have also been a key factor in determining maintenance and capital works items for these heritage facilities.
62. Customer feedback and the need to effectively manage risks to Council resulted in preparation of plans to upgrade the NMTH foyer, the stage area and bathrooms. Council approved the work which will take place from December 2004 to February 2005. The NMTH will be closed for the period of the works and all regular users have been relocated during that time.

63. These works include the upgrading of downstairs toilets; refurbishment of basement to optimise storage; improvements to main stage and auditorium; installation of showers in main hall dressing room areas and renovation of the foyer space. This will make the NMTH a much more comfortable and safe venue for arts and community use.

Cultural Venues Reference Group establishment

64. The Cultural Venues Reference Group has been established for NMTH & HH (and MM when it comes under the management of Council). The Reference Group will support and advise on the curatorial aspects of the venues operation and provide an independent review of proposed programs. The proposed membership was confirmed by the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board in September 2004. The Cultural Venues Reference Group membership is:

	ARTFORM OR INTEREST
Martin Brennan	Local Community
Steven Richardson	Performing & multi art form
Rinske Ginsberg	Physical performance and dance
Martin Ball	Music
Wesley Enoch	Tenants & Indigenous arts
Sue McCauley	Visual arts
Robin Laurie	Community cultural development
Sui Chan	CALD
Phil Heuzenroeder	Disability arts
David Chisholm	CAAB (contemporary music)

Creative Spaces Database

65. The creative spaces database will be a database of all indoor and outdoor venues that can be used for arts programming, events and exhibitions. The development of the site was a recommendation arising from the review of housing the arts in the City of Melbourne and the community consultation for the development of the Arts Strategy. Arts Strategy 2004-2007 includes provision for the creation of “a register of creative spaces to assist people to find affordable and alternative venues and encourage new options and ideas”.
66. It is presently under construction. It will be a web-based tool enabling local, national and international artists, arts organisations, events producers and the general public to access details of venues and outdoor spaces. The spaces will be those that have been used for performing arts, visual and public art installations and events. It will provide detailed technical material and contact information as well as listing all permits and authorities required for the use of particular sites.

Competitor Comparison

67. Research of similar venues has established that Council’s venues occupy the mid range of fees and charges in comparison with comparable facilities. However, the lack of on-site tiered seating is an issue that is constantly raised by venue users. The need for hirers to find, hire and bring in a seating system significantly increases performance costs and is a matter that should be given a high priority when capital improvements to NMTH are being considered.

2005 Arts Grants Program

68. 12 grants were approved by Council. The total amount allocated was \$248,782, while the total value of the projects funded is \$1.3 million. This is considered to be an exceptionally good result and is an example of the added benefits that the granting program brings to the Council.

69. The grants are a crucial method of supporting activity at NMTH and provide invaluable support to small and medium arts organisations in Melbourne.

Relation to Council Policy

70. Council's Arts Strategy 2004-07 and North West 2010 both address the issue of provision of arts and cultural facilities as an essential element in the development of the city's arts industry and the life, vitality and sustainability of a Community. Arts Strategy 2004-2007 states that Council will:

“Deliver proactive management of Council’s cultural venues, including a curatorial approach to programming and effective models of housing the arts”.

Government Relations

71. Council manages HH under a lease agreement with the State Government. The State Government has also given in principle approval for the Council to take over management of the MM.

Recommendation

72. That the City Services, Community and Cultural Development Committee note the information in this report.

FINANCE ATTACHMENT

CULTURAL VENUES – PROGRESS REPORT 2004

There are no direct financial implications in the recommendation contained in this report.

Joe Groher
Manager Finance Services

LEGAL ATTACHMENT

CULTURAL VENUES – PROGRESS REPORT 2004

The report is for noting only. No legal implications arise from the recommendation contained in the report.

The functions of a Council as set out in clause 3E of *the Local Government Act 1989* 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;”

Alison Lyon
Manager Legal & Governance