

**ITEM NO: 4****SUBJECT: CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM 2008****FILE NO: F00613**

---

**Recommendations:**

1. *That the Council receives and notes this report.*
  2. *That the Council endorses the funding recommendations of the Cultural Partnerships Advisory Committee as detailed in this report.*
- 

**Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:****Background**

The Cultural Partnerships Program was established under the Council's Cultural Strategy 1999-2003 with the funding support of Arts NSW. It is a strategic program seeking to develop and maintain a range of ongoing collaborative partnership activities with arts and cultural organisations in the Blue Mountains.

The program is supported through a partnership with Arts NSW - Western Sydney Arts Strategy. From 2002 to 2007, \$100,000 has been available for allocation under the program, comprising of \$50,000 grant from Arts NSW and \$50,000 in Council matched funds.

Due to a change in the funding timeline of Arts NSW, it was endorsed by the Council at the meeting of 20 November 2007 to roll over the Council's 2007-2008 allocated \$50,000 to the 2008-2009 financial year in order for successful partners to deliver their programs during this timeframe. The Council has now received confirmation of funding for the 2008-2009 program from Arts NSW for \$25,000.

Correspondence from the Council to Arts NSW, sent on 3 March 2008, highlighted the impact of the significant cut in funding on the development and support of the arts infrastructure in the Blue Mountains. The reduction in funding from Arts NSW will impact on the level of cultural vitality, sustainability and innovation in the Blue Mountains. Council staff will organise a meeting, in conjunction with representation from the Council's Cultural Partnerships Advisory Committee with Arts NSW, to discuss the implications of this funding reduction and options for future funding of the program under the Western Sydney Arts Strategy.

It is recommended that the Cultural Partnerships Program funding round distribute funding of \$75,000. The program will be rolled out by Cultural Partners in 2008-2009. This is comprised of \$25,000 from Arts NSW and \$50,000 from the Council as allocated in the 2007-2008 budget.

**Cultural Partnerships Assessment 2008**

In accordance with the Council's adopted Cultural Partnerships Program Guidelines the outcomes and broad assessment criteria are:

Outcomes

- Increasing the quality of life and vibrancy of the City; and
- The Blue Mountains as the Inaugural City of the Arts is promoted as a cultural destination.

Criteria

- Quality
- Innovation
- Organisational capacity
- Degree of contribution to the development of a sustainable arts infrastructure in the Blue Mountains
- Community benefit
- Potential for audience development; and
- Contribution to the promotion of the Blue Mountains as a cultural destination

Proposals are assessed on merit. The degree of self-help and initiative shown by applicants is taken into account, together with the extent of likely community support. As detailed in the Cultural Partnerships Program guidelines, preference is given to organisations and groups that have formed a partnership or are in the process of forming a partnership with the community, educational or business sectors and that are intending to engage professional artists or arts-workers with demonstrated skill and expertise.

The Cultural Partnerships Program encourages sustainability and it is intended to give long term support to key major partners as well as providing support for developing partnerships and new proposals of an ongoing nature. The Cultural Partnerships Advisory Committee's recommendations reflect that balance.

Twelve organisations submitted proposals for the 2008-2009 program with funding requests totalling \$119,860. Two new partnership proposals requested funding and both were successful. Initiatives to seek submissions from lower Mountains organisations were successful with five applications received and recommended for funding. The Advisory Committee recommends nine projects for funding to the Council.

The majority of partners have become incorporated which increases opportunities for accessing other levels of government funding, without recourse to auspicing arrangements. The Cultural Partnerships funding is intended to be a component, not the sole source of funding for partnership proposals. The program guidelines recommended that applicants diversify their income base through applying for funding to State and Federal Government. In addition, some Cultural Partners have secured significant sponsorship, increasing opportunities for sustainability, while at the same time maximising artistic development. This increases opportunities for the employment of local artists and art workers.

**Cultural Partnerships Assessment Process**

The Council calls upon the City of the Arts Trust Advisory Committee Representatives as its specialist assessment body to conduct the assessment process and make recommendations to the Council. Rigorous conflict of interest and confidentiality protocols are applied throughout the assessment process.

The 2008 Cultural Partnerships Advisory Committee comprises of:

- Mr. Alfred Blakers
- Ms Yvonne Helmers

- Ms Mahayla Middlemist
- Mr John Marsh
- Ms Susie McMeekin
- Dr Peter Stanbury

The Advisory Committee met on 8 April 2008 and reviewed each proposal against the Cultural Partnerships Program guidelines and criteria.

The Advisory Committee was chaired and resourced by the Council’s Community and Corporate staff.

**Recommendations**

The Advisory Committee recommends the following nine proposals for Partnership in 2008-2009 with a funding allocation totalling \$75,000, to the following organisations:

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Administering Organisation or Auspice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1. The Women’s Room	Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre	<u>Living Art Project:</u> To deliver a series of workshops by the current Women’s Room Artists to women in the Mountains. The culmination of the project will be a living art grass sculpture in the female form to be displayed at the Braemar Gallery in Springwood	\$10,000
2. Ruby Bloomers Women’s Circus		<u>Eco Show:</u> First stage creative development of a family circus/physical theatre show exploring environmental issues. The project will comprise of research, creative exploration and workshopping, skills development, script development and design concept.	\$10,000
3. Academy Singers		<u>Connect:</u> “Connect” 08/09 will take steps to establish the Blue Mountains Youth Choir as a permanent ensemble by delivering specific projects for children and young people. They will also offer a special “Men’s Singing Day” and will add poetry readings to some of their Concerts.	\$10,000
4. Upper Blue Mountains Circus Arts Projects		<u>Circus Central:</u> The 2008 Circus Central Project will see the re-location of the Cirquinox Circus Festival to the Norman Lindsay Gallery in Faulconbridge. This will broaden the potential audience for the Festival by providing easier access to residents of the Lower Mountains as well as providing the Festival with more space.	\$10,000

5. The Blue Mountains Concert Society		<u>Young Performer Program:</u> This program will enable visiting artists to the Blue Mountains Concert Society to offer master classes to local schools and music groups. It will also provide the opportunity for ten young Blue Mountains artists to be identified, mentored and perform at the Society's concerts.	\$10,000
6. Shiney Pictures	Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre	<u>Season's Greetings:</u> Through consultation and workshops with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, "Season's Greetings" will document seasonal change in the environment from an Indigenous perspective through the use of video, photography, audio digital media, visual art and performance.	\$10,000
7. Blue Mountains Radio Players	Blue Mountains Public Broadcasting Society	<u>Blue Mountains Radio Players:</u> To perform vintage radio plays to a live audience and live to air on BLU FM 89.1	\$6,000
8. Re-fabricating Networks for Textile Artists Inc.		<u>Re-fabricating Environments:</u> The project will extend public exposure to contemporary textile art being practiced in the Blue Mountains by developing a website and mounting an exhibition at Braemar Gallery in Springwood.	\$5,000
9. Eleanor Dark Foundation		<u>Building on Partnerships:</u> To conduct advanced manuscript review and development and assist in the development of the Sydney Writers Festival at the Carrington Hotel.	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$75,000</b>

### Sustainability Assessment

Two proposals have a strong environmental education component. There are substantial positive impacts to the cultural, social and economic sustainability in the Blue Mountains in the Cultural Partnership Program 2008 recommendations to the Council.

One of the major focuses of the program is to develop the economic sustainability of local small arts businesses and infrastructure. The program achieves this by encouraging arts organisations to work together, assisting them in gaining funding from other organisations, networking with other cultural and community organisations. The success of all these recommended programs supports the Blue Mountains tourism industry by encouraging vitality and vibrancy within the city. This also increases the social sustainability of the City with residents being able to access and participate in arts and culture locally. The Cultural Partnerships Program supports community wellbeing in general and individual programs supporting specific communities; e.g. Women, Aboriginal community, young people, local artists, art workers and musicians.

The implications due to the cut in funding from Arts NSW mean that this level of funding may not be sustainable for the 2009-2010 Program.

**Financial Implications**

The Cultural Partnership Program is supported by \$25,000 from Arts NSW with \$50,000 in funding from the Council as allocated in the 2007-2008 budget. As noted in this report, the Arts NSW component is reduced from previous levels and is addressed by a reduction in the funding amount and number of projects recommended for funding.

**Legal and Risk Management Issues**

There are no legal and risk management issues to note.

**External Consultation**

The program was advertised on the Council's Internet site and prominently in the Blue Mountains Gazette from 3 to 28 March 2008. Information sessions were held in the Council Chambers at Katoomba on 13 March 2008 and at Council's Springwood Office on 17 March 2008. Prospective applicant interviews were also offered from 3 to 28 March 2008. Applications closed on Friday, 28 March 2008.

**Conclusion**

The program will continue to provide much needed support for the arts and cultural sector to develop sustainable arts practice, to provide benefits to the communities of the Blue Mountains and to assist in developing the Blue Mountains as a cultural destination.

It is recommended that the Council endorse the funding recommendations of the Cultural Partnerships Advisory Committee as detailed in this report.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO: 5****SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR THE MID MOUNTAINS SUSTAINABILITY REFERENCE GROUP****FILE NO: F00943**

---

**Recommendations:**

1. *That the Council endorse the proposed approach for the Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group.*
  2. *That the Council notes the financial commitment of \$7,500 per year to service the Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group.*
- 

**Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:****Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal for the Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group (the Reference Group) for the Mid Mountains Integrated Planning and Implementation Project.

**Background**

A report on the “Draft Final Consultant’s Report on a Community-Government Collaborative Framework for the Mid Mountains” (the Consultant’s Report) went to the Council on 28 August 2007. The Consultant’s Report recommended a Mid Mountains Community and Government Collaborative Framework and a set of Guiding Principles for the Framework. These recommendations were based on the outcomes from community workshops held in the Mid Mountains as part of the Mid Mountains Integrated Planning and Implementation Project, and on proposals to review and progress community responses from the workshops.

The Council resolved at that meeting, amongst other matters:

- “4. *That the option of a Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group as a vehicle for improved communication between the Council and the Mid Mountains community be investigated and recommended to the Council.*”

(Minute No. 231, 28/08/2007)

The option of establishing a Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group (the Reference Group) to facilitate a community perspective on projects within the Mid Mountains area has subsequently been investigated.

**Ongoing communication in the Mid Mountains**

Current continuing actions include the ongoing publication of the ‘Focus on the Mid Mountains Community Update’ in *The Blue Mountains Gazette*, as well as continuing to update appropriate web pages on the Council website. Other electronic means of disseminating information, such as a mailing list or blog (a web log with the ability for

readers to leave comments in an interactive format) could also be investigated. It is noted that various means of communication will also occur in relation to specific projects in the Mid Mountains as they progress.

### **Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group**

It is proposed that the Reference Group be an organised gathering where local government and, on occasion, state government agencies can brief the community on individual projects, conduct community consultation and receive immediate feedback on progress and project development; also providing the community with a regular avenue through which information can be disseminated.

It is proposed that the Reference Group be held quarterly, have an agenda of invited State Agencies and Council Projects for presentation to the community and allow question time for the community on these projects. There would also be the opportunity to have an open question session on issues in the area as well as workshops on individual projects, or collaborative consultation as appropriate.

Written invitations to a community forum would be sent four weeks in advance to elected representatives, relevant State Agencies and identified community groups and associations requesting items for the agenda of the Reference Group. It is proposed that generally no more than three (3) projects be presented at any one Reference Group meeting. An agenda for the Reference Group would be developed and distributed to the same stakeholders two weeks in advance and published in *The Blue Mountains Gazette*. It is anticipated that the length of the community forum would be less than 2 hours and be conducted at different venues throughout the Mid Mountains area, dependent on the items to be discussed. It is proposed that the chair of the community forum would be an independent facilitator, or appropriate officer of the Council.

A summary of the Reference Group discussion and any actions arising would be disseminated to a list of participants and on the website of the Council within a set period of time of the forum, and a summary presented to the Councillors, senior Council management and all Mid Mountains project managers.

A functional review of the Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group will be conducted after a minimum of three (3) forums, where the findings of the review will be presented to the Council for consideration and a forward plan established.

While consideration has been given to the use of a more formalised and committee style Reference Group, as recommended in the Consultant's Report, the above approach is recommended as it is regarded as a more inclusive approach with a focus on the exchange of information on projects being conducted, or proposed, in the Mid Mountains area.

### **Communication Plan**

The preparation and adoption of a Mid Mountains Communication Plan was the second key collaboration and communication strategy of the Consultant's report, and follows the establishment of the Reference Group. It is anticipated therefore that one of the first actions of the Reference Group would be the consideration and review of a Communications Plan for the Mid Mountains, where current ongoing communication actions will be placed within a cohesive strategy.

**Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting)**

The table below provides a summary of the environmental, social and economic factors relating to the establishment of the Reference Group.

<b>Effects</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
Environmental	Provide avenue for community to provide feedback on environmental issues of local concern to the Council on specific projects.	Nil
Social	Provide avenue for community to provide feedback on social and community issues of local concern to the Council on specific projects.	Nil
Economic	Provide avenue for community to provide feedback on economic issues of local concern to the Council on specific projects.	Cost of carrying out recommended communications plan in current budget and staff resource environment.

**Financial implications**

If the recommended approach in this report is adopted by the Council, a minor budget variation of \$7,500 in 08/09 will be included in the report to the Council on the 08/09 Management Plan following public exhibition. The minor variation is proposed to cover advertising, printing and mailing costs and facilitation. It is anticipated that council officers will conduct work associated with the Mid Mountains Communication Plan as part of existing duties.

**Legal and risk management issues**

The proposed Reference Group provides a forum and means to inform and advise the Council and community in respect of projects affecting the Mid Mountains area. Accordingly, no extraordinary legal or risk management issues arise.

**External consultation**

The idea of a Reference Group was put forward as a key recommendation of the Consultant’s Report as a result of feedback from members of the Mid Mountains community at workshops in early 2007. As noted earlier, the findings of the Consultant’s Report were presented at the Council meeting of 28 August 2007.

**Conclusion**

Recommendations for the establishment of a Mid Mountains Sustainability Reference Group, as a way forward to improved communication between the Council and the Mid Mountains community as part of the Mid Mountains Pilot have been progressed in accordance with the Consultant’s Report presented at the Council meeting of 28 August 2007 and the recommendation arising from the report.

The recommended Reference Group approach has been developed to provide a forum for the Mid Mountains community as part of the Mid Mountains Pilot to receive information from the Council on integrated planning and Mid Mountains projects, and to enable the Council to be informed on views held within the community.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO: 6**

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS EAST TIMOR FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**FILE NO: F01154**

---

**Recommendation:**

*That the Council adopt the attached Terms of Reference for the Blue Mountains East Timor Friendship Committee, a Committee of Council.*

---

**Report by General Manager**

**Reason for report**

This report is presented to allow Council to consider the adoption of the attached Terms of Reference for the Blue Mountains East Timor Friendship Committee (BMETFC), a Committee of the Council.

**Background**

At its January 2005 meeting Council agreed to establish a friendship relationship with Timor-Leste and set up a Council and community committee to work with the Hato-Builico community in East Timor.

In December 2007 the Mayoral Delegation to Hato-Builico signed a Friendship Agreement. As a result of that Agreement the BMETFC sought revisions to their Terms of Reference (see attached).

**Sustainability Assessment**

There are no Environmental, Social or Economic impacts in changing the Terms of Reference for the BMETFC.

**Financial implications for the Council**

Revision of the Terms of Reference for the BMETFC has no financial implications for the Council.

**Conclusion**

Blue Mountains City Council, through the BMETFC has been actively engaged in the Friendship Agreement with Hato Builico. Adopting the attached Terms of Reference for the Friendship Committee will formalise the Council's participation in this Local Government Partnerships Program following signing of the Friendship Agreement last year.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Attachment****Draft Terms of Reference**

**Name:** Blue Mountains East Timor Friendship Committee

**Date of Adoption:** April 2008

**Purpose**

---

The Blue Mountains City Council joins other councils in Australia in forming a Friendship Committee (hereafter referred to as BMETFC) to formally participate in the Local Government Partnerships Program in the Hato-Builico area of Timor-Leste (referred to as TL in this document).

TL has established a two level National and Regional Government administration. Local Government is small and has special expertise and knowledge about local issues, local governance, democratic process and town planning.

In the Blue Mountains, our experiences in Local Government and community cultural development can assist TL. In simple terms experience can help construct and equip safe accessible buildings for schools, hospitals, residential and commercial accommodation. We have the skills to assist with information technology, mapping, road building, water mitigation and environmental management, social service planning, health, the provision of arts and cultural development, traineeships, as well as the governance requirements for sound administrative management for social, environmental and economic sustainability.

In return, the contact with a new country and a newly liberated people offers the Blue Mountains an opportunity to deepen our community understanding of other cultures, to appreciate the relative and actual luxury in which we live and to share the excitement of people living in safety with the hope of access to education, health, work and play.

## **Vision**

---

BMETFC has been established in a spirit of partnership between the people of the Blue Mountains and the people of Hato Builico in Timor-Leste.

BMETFC hopes to approach its tasks in a co-operative manner encouraging an on-going relationship with the people of Hato Builico.

BMETFC wishes to encourage exchange and reciprocal actions that support self-determination, sustainable practices and equity for the people of Hato-Builico.

It is hoped that the working of this committee will demonstrate how local people can contribute to the political and governance processes and have the right to be part of solutions at a local level.

## **Committee Structure**

---

BMETFC is a formal committee of Council formed by a resolution of Council in January 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. The next review of this Committee, the Terms of Reference and membership will occur following the September 2008 Local Government Elections.

The Committee's its function is to act in an advisory capacity and to perform its role in liaison with Council and in accordance with Council policies, protocols and regulatory requirements.

Roles of convenor, chair, deputy chair, staff representative and minute taker have been identified as follows:

Mayor Jim Angel - Convenor  
Councillor Kerrin O'Grady - chair under delegation from the Mayor  
Council appointed - minute taker  
Jasmine Payget – Staff Representative

The role of the Convenor is:

- Assigned to the Mayor under the Local Government Act 1993 as the default Chair of all Council Committees; and
- Under this default Chair can resume the Chair at any time.

The role of the Chair is:

- Accept the delegations of the Mayor to Chair the Committee;
- Facilitate the meeting and develop the Agenda and Papers for each meeting; and
- Ensure delivery of the meeting papers and schedule on time; and
- Liaise with the Executive of Council to ensure that Governance requirements are met.

The role of Records Management is:

- Prepare the Agenda and papers and circulate at least four working days prior to the meeting;
- Minute the meeting;
- Negotiate the next Agenda with the Chair of the meeting;
- Assist with the process of development of Business Papers; and
- Where practical, process documents through the Council systems eg advertisements.

The role of the Staff Representative is:

- Liaise with the Committee and staff; and
- Communicate and promote throughout the Council the Friendship Committee activities.

Other roles and responsibilities may be defined and agreed to in future.

### **Committee Membership**

---

The number of committee participants was determined on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and is reviewed annually each June or in the year of a Local Government election, following that election.

The current membership is:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Cr Jim Angel	Convenor
Cr Kerrin O'Grady	Chair
Cr Pippa McInnes	Councillor Representative
Cr Van der Kley	BM Sister City Committee
Mary Waterford	Community Representative
Judy Finch	Community Representative
Gail Clifford	Community Representative
Astrid Evans	BM ET Sisters Committee
Suzie Van Opdorp	BM ET Sisters Committee
Wendy Whitton	Community Representative
John Telford	Community Representative
Elaine Telford	Community Representative
Jasmine Payget	Staff Representative
Pattie Angel	Community Representative

BMETFC agrees that there is an open invitation to all Councillors to attend the BMETFC at any time.

Other community representatives or guests may be invited to attend meetings from time to time when a specific purpose is nominated.

**The Objectives of BMETFC**

---

The role of BMETFC may include but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Demonstrate a participatory local government model founded on community identified needs in partnership with the Hato-Builico Friendship Committee in Timor-Leste.
2. Share ideas and determine solutions and activities that strengthen relationships between the communities of Hato Builico and the Blue Mountains local government area in consultation and guidance with the Office of the District Administrator of Ainaro.
3. Work in collaboration with other organisations of the Blue Mountains working in East Timor eg BM ET Sisters Project, Springwood ET Group.
4. Provide advice and assistance to Council on issues relating to Hato Builico and make recommendations to the Council for activities to be undertaken in Hato-Builico.
5. Make representations to both Federal and State Governments and other relevant community based organisations.
6. Contribute expertise or interest in specific skills pertaining to activities being undertaken in Hato-Builico.
7. Attend official functions in both Hato-Builico and the Blue Mountains and welcome visitors from TL relevant to the work of BMETFC.
8. Undertake fund-raising activities to finance committee plans and activities.
9. Promote the values of the BMETFC that include, but not are not limited to:
  - Providing a grass roots, community-to-community link between Hato Builico and the Blue Mountains;
  - Creating awareness of the cultural and community development principles operating through the BMETFC; and
  - That the friendship framework as a long-term commitment to sustainable community development.

**Media and Publicity /Spokesperson for BMETFC**

---

As a committee of Council the BMETFC operates within the procedures and protocols of Council's media policy.

It is agreed that the official Committee media releases and public comment will be made by the Convenor, the Mayor or delegate in liaison with Council's Communications Officer. Wherever feasible BMETFC will have discussed the content and reason for media releases prior to the event.

**Budget**

---

Council has agreed to establish a separate cost centre to administer funds for BMETFC.

All monies of BMETFC will be held in this account and administered as per the Financial Management Procedures provided by the Council Finance Department.

**Code of Conduct**

---

Blue Mountains City Council is committed to highly ethical standards and it is the responsibility of all Councillors, members of staff, committee members and delegates representing Council to continually maintain those standards.

Council's Code of Conduct applies to BMETFC members as designated persons of Council under the Local Government Act 1993.

**Reporting to Council**

---

A Committee of Council reports to the first Council Meeting of the new financial year outlining activities, outcome and expenditure against budget in line with the Management Plan.

A Business Paper Report would also be prepared on the resignation of a member and the introduction of a new member as the latter need to be approved by the Council.

**Term of appointment to BMETFC**

---

BMETFC current members will be reviewed in September 2008 following the Local Government Election.

Membership of Committees remains in Council's control but consideration will be given at any time to recommendations from BMETFC on the matter of membership.

**Dissolution of Committees**

---

Council retains the right to dissolve a Committee at any time.

Each Committee appointment and delegation must be reviewed by Council in the first twelve months of each term of office. Committees are eligible for reappointment

\* \* \* \* \*