

**ITEM NO:** 25

**SUBJECT:** BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

**FILE NO:** F04616

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**Councillor Hamilton**

**Background**

The Blue Mountains Cultural Partnerships Program is an innovative funding scheme providing financial support to strengthen cultural development and cultural infrastructure in the Blue Mountains.

The program encourages innovation, partnerships and collaborations in arts development within the Blue Mountains and seeks to develop regional links with other cultural providers.

Since its inception in 2002, the Blue Mountains Cultural Partnerships Program has been a key funding program for Blue Mountains' cultural providers and has supported a wide and diverse range of projects and arts and cultural organisations.

From 2002 to 2007, Council received funding from ArtsNSW to support the program. This funding totalled \$50,000 per annum, matching Council's annual contribution of \$50,000. In 2008, Arts NSW reduced their funding to \$25,000 with significant impact on the program.

It appears that, this year, Council has not been provided with any funds under this program but other Councils have received funding.

**Questions**

Therefore, can Councillors be informed:

1. Is it correct that we have received no funding under this program?
2. Which Councils did receive funding and how much?
3. What is the impact on Blue Mountains cultural services if they do not receive funding under this program?
4. Is it possible for Council to write to the Member for the Blue Mountains, Mr Phil Koperberg, requesting that he make representations to the Premier and Minister for the Arts, the Hon Nathan Rees, regarding the Blue Mountains Cultural Partnerships Program?