

12.1 Arts & Culture Advisory Committee - Membership Endorsement

Department

Creative Whitehorse
Director Community Life

Confidential

This report has been prepared for consideration by Council in a closed meeting, pursuant to Section 66 (1) and 66 (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This report and information contained in it and any attachment is designated as confidential information pursuant to section 3 (1) (f) as it is personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.

This ground applies because the matter concerns personal details have been provided by applicants and have been included for this consideration of this report.

Attachment

SUMMARY

This report seeks endorsement from Council to appoint seven nominees to the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee (ACAC). The ACAC replaces the former Visual Arts Advisory Committee and also includes Councillor Prue Cutts (Chair) and Councillor Jason Martin as a substitute.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Appoints [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] to the Arts & Culture Advisory Committee for a period of 3 years.
2. Resolve that unreleased aspects of the report, attachments and discussion relating to it remain confidential, except to the extent that the Director Community Life (or delegate) must disclose aspects of it to give effect to these resolutions.
3. Upon resolution of this item, authorise the release of the confidential minutes to be incorporated in the Open Minutes and a redacted version of the report be uploaded on Council's website on the Transparency Hub.
4. Resolve that this report and discussion relating to it remain confidential, except to the extent that the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) must disclose aspects of it to give effect to these

12.1 (cont)

resolutions, and be placed in a separate Minute Book for Confidential Items.
--

KEY MATTERS

The Arts & Culture Advisory Committee is a Council advisory body established to provide advice, information and recommendations on matters relating to arts and culture in Whitehorse. The Committee supports Council in fostering an inclusive, vibrant and sustainable creative community by providing insights on community needs, trends, policies, initiatives and opportunities within the arts and cultural sectors. The Committee also provides advice on proposed acquisitions to the Whitehorse Art Collection and promotes collaboration between Council, artists, community organisations and cultural industries.

The Committee operates in an advisory capacity only and has no delegated decision-making powers. Membership comprises one Councillor Chairperson, one Councillor Substitute and seven community members representing a diverse range of arts, cultural and community perspectives.

Council undertook a broad review of Council's advisory committees which concluded in October 2025 alongside endorsement of the ACAC Terms of Reference. As this committee replaces the previous Visual Arts Advisory Committee with a broadened scope a transitional period was put in place. The previous Visual Arts Advisory Committee met for the final time in April 2026, with recruitment for the new committee commencing immediately afterwards.

DISCUSSION, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Criteria for ACAC membership contained within the Terms of Reference have been utilised in the selection of candidates.

Members of the ACAC must live, work, study or have a demonstrated connection to the City of Whitehorse. They must have demonstrated knowledge, experience, or active involvement in the arts, culture, heritage or creative industries.

Where possible, members were selected to reflect the cultural, linguistic, generational and artistic diversity of the Whitehorse community.

Members must also commit to engaging with the wider community and have the ability to contribute constructively in a group setting, work collaboratively and provide objective advice to Council.

They must also have a willingness to attend regular meetings, participate in discussions and contribute to the work of the committee over the term of their appointment.

Recruitment**Expressions of Interest**

12.1 (cont)

Expressions of Interest to join the ACAC opened on 23 April 2026 and closed on the 25 May 2026.

A total of 18 applicants submitted an Expression of Interest.

Interviews

Following review of the submissions, some candidates did not demonstrate a clear connection to Whitehorse or alignment with the Terms of Reference criteria. Thirteen candidates were invited to attend an interview and 10 attended.

Of the three candidates who did not attend an interview, two withdrew their applications: one due to work commitments and one to focus on their community group. The third candidate has not contacted Council or responded to communication from officers.

One candidate withdrew their application after attending an interview due to travel, work and family commitments.

A selection matrix for the ACAC interviews was developed to evaluate candidates against selection criteria based on the Terms of Reference.

Interview sessions utilised a scenario based interactive activity.

Referee, Police & Working with Children Checks

In line with Council's volunteer recruitment process officers completed referee checks for the recommended ACAC candidates along with Police and Working with Children Checks.

Successful Candidates

7 successful candidates were selected based on the Terms of Reference criteria and their interview outcome.

All successful candidates scored above 64% in their total score from the Assessment Panel. 2 candidates scored below 64% and were not recommended for the ACAC.

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Report Details

Strategic Alignment	Community, We aim to foster a connected, inclusive, safe and active community where everyone feels a sense of belonging. Objective 1.1: An involved and connected community
Financial and Resource Implications	A small catering budget is allocated to the ACAC from within the Creative Whitehorse department budget. In addition Council Officers provide administrative support to the committee.

12.1 (cont)

	Otherwise there are no financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.
Legislative and Risk Implications	There are no legal or risk implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.
Equity, Inclusion, and Human Rights Considerations	It is considered that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.
Community Engagement	Officers from Creative Whitehorse worked collaboratively with Council's Volunteer Program Officer and the Communications, Advocacy & Investment team to develop a Communications Plan to promote the opportunity to the community and accept and manage applications through Council's Better Impact volunteer management platform.
Innovation and Continuous Improvement	The review of Council's Advisory Committees provided recommendations to alter the former Visual Arts Advisory Committee through expanding the scope of the committee to provide advice on a broader range of arts and cultural matters affecting the Whitehorse community.
Collaboration	Officers from Creative Whitehorse worked collaboratively with Council's Volunteer Program Officer and the Communications, Advocacy & Investment team throughout the recruitment process.
Conflict of Interest	Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

ATTACHMENT

1 Candidate Report - Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

Whitehorse City Council designates this attachment and the information contained in it as Confidential Information pursuant to Section 3 (1) (f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. This ground applies because the matter concerns personal details have been provided by applicants and have been included for consideration of this report.

2 EOI Responses - Arts & Culture Advisory Committee

12.1 (cont)

Whitehorse City Council designates this attachment and the information contained in it as Confidential Information pursuant to Section 3 (1) (f) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. *This ground applies because the matter concerns personal details have been provided by applicants have been included for consideration of this report.*

3 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee Terms of Reference