

## **DRAFT**

### **Darebin Arts Advisory Forum**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **Background**

Darebin City Council's Arts & Culture Branch is engaged in community cultural development to enrich the lives of our diverse community through providing a program of arts and cultural events and activities as well as developing policies and strategies to facilitate arts practice in the municipality. Council is keen to effectively engage with the community in the development of its policies and programs.

In 2008 Council adopted a five year arts and cultural strategy and some of the issues that the Arts & Culture Branch has identified for which community advice would be valuable are:

- The need to promote arts & cultural activities across the municipality geographically and provide activities that are demographically and culturally relevant and accessible.
- The changing demographic mix of the Darebin population with a growth in middle income households and a changing ethnic mix (with the arrival of new immigrant groups notably from South Asia, the Middle East and Africa) will require the Branch to examine its priorities and directions.
- The need to access artists from a wide diversity of backgrounds and artistic practice in Council's programs.
- The need to effectively support professional arts practice as well as community cultural development.
- The growing reputation of Council's festivals and events in the wider Melbourne community and the additional service demands that brings.
- The continued promotion of Northcote Town Hall and environs as a significant arts precinct.

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the DAAF is to:

- Advise Council on any matters relating to the arts and community cultural development in Darebin.
- Review the current Arts Plan and Festival and Events Program and provide feedback to Council on the arts and community cultural development practice and Council's arts and cultural festivals, programs and projects.
- Where appropriate form working groups to support arts and cultural activities in the municipality.

##### **Criteria for Forum Members**

- Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to community arts practice and/or professional arts practice.

- Demonstrated commitment to community cultural development.
- Understanding and interest in social and cultural issues.

### **Independence of Advice**

Council is eager to receive independent, far ranging and challenging advice on the arts and community cultural development practice. Advice and feedback by members of DAAF is valued because of the expertise of the members and for the thoughtfulness of their opinion.

Advice will be regarded as individual and independent and members are not considered to be speaking on behalf of any section of the community or representative any community organisations to which the member may also belong.

### **Advice to Council**

Generally, Council's Arts & Culture Branch will act on the advice of the DAAF members where that advice doesn't conflict with Council Policy and is operationally and financially feasible.

Members may, however, raise an issue that cannot be readily acted upon by Council in such a case Council officers will give a considered explanation as to why acting on the advice would be contrary to Council Policy or why it is not operationally or financially feasible.

Advice should be by consensus. For advice to be formally considered at least 5 community members need to be present at the meeting. Where consensus is not reach then advice can be put forward with the dissenting opinion/s noted.

### **Membership and length of term**

Because of the diversity of arts practice in the municipality and the enthusiasm and interest many residents show in the arts it would be preferable to be able to canvass a broad range of ideas and opinions and therefore there is no set limit on size of the Forum and no fixed term for members. The Arts & Culture Branch has found that running committees with this open format has worked successfully in the past.

Members, however, will need to demonstrate their knowledge and interest as outlined above in the criteria for membership. Council officers will assess expressions of interest in participating accordingly.

The Forum will have the ability to invite on additional members if it feels certain sections of the community are not heard.

The Forum will have the ability to form sub-groups to focus on particular issues.

Council will nominate the Councillor member/s

Council's committee structure is reviewed on an annual basis.

### **Meetings**

There will be four meetings of DAAF per year.

## **Expressions of Interest in Participating**

EOI addressing the membership criteria should be addressed to:

Mark Wilkinson  
Manager, Arts & Culture  
Darebin City Council  
PO Box 91 Preston 3072  
Ph: 8470 8472  
Email: [mwilkins@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mwilkins@darebin.vic.gov.au)

For more information about DAAF or the selection process please contact Mark as above.

All who meet the criteria will be invited on to the Forum.

**Expression of Interest close at 5.00pm Friday (date tba)**