

7.2 MONASH GALLERY OF ART COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

(AP: D19-387169)

Responsible Committee: Monash Gallery of Art Committee of Management

RECOMMENDATION*That Council:*

- 1. Receives the 2018 – 2019 Annual Report presented by the Monash Gallery of Art Committee of Management;*
- 2. Acknowledges the leadership of the Committee of Management in the achievement of Monash Gallery of Art's strategic vision.*

INTRODUCTION

On an annual basis, the Monash Gallery of Art (MGA) Committee of Management (COM) submits to Council its report on MGA activity over the past year. This report presents the MGA Annual Report 2018 – 2019 in **Attachment 1**.

BACKGROUND

MGA is the city of Monash's premier arts and cultural organisation. In 2017-18 year MGA developed a strategic plan that built upon its strong foundations coupled with a new, bold and ambitious plan for the future.

Vision: MGA is the Australian home of photography.

Mission: We champion Australian photography, and inspire audiences to embrace, explore and value photography.

Strategic statement : As Australia's leading public art gallery devoted to the collection and exhibition of photography, we engage local, national and international audiences in arts and cultural experiences.

MGA will achieve this by focusing on four key initiatives:

- Present compelling, must see exhibitions that meaningfully contribute to arts scholarship and the advancement of photography
- Build a nationally significant collection of Australian photographs
- Deliver culturally enriching experiences that inspire audiences to embrace, explore and value photography
- Build our capacity to deliver our strategy by increasing revenue and developing and supporting our people

DISCUSSION

In 2018-19 MGA began to deliver on its new vision, and put in place many of the key strategic initiatives to achieve its vision and mission.

During the year, MGA staffing and membership of the COM have continued to grow and develop. The new Senior Curator, Pippa Milne, began in her post. Essential to the achievement of MGA's success has been the commitment of COM members. New COM member Wai Tang has brought highly valued skills and industry knowledge for future planning. The MGA Foundation continued to support MGA and the annual Bowness Photography Prize.

These changes have underpinned the pursuit of new opportunities, notably a heightened focus on the establishment of partnerships and sponsorship opportunities, the recognition and retention of past donors and supporters with the aim of developing a sustainable financial and support network for MGA. A key achievement is that MGA was successful in receiving a significant grant from the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund to undertake a feasibility of MGA and the site.

MGA's strong exhibition program marked a milestone with the *John Gollings: The history of the built world* exhibition touring to India as part of Australia Fest and PhotoSphere, MGA's first international touring exhibition. The exhibition and attendance continued to grow and deepen, and included new exhibition and program developments. This includes one of the most attended and popular exhibitions, Dombrovskis: Journey's into the wild, the revitalisation of the Atrium Gallery and new corporate partnerships, including The Glen with a permanent gallery space gifted to MGA at The Glen. MGA's philanthropic program reached new heights with a stellar outcome including raising \$100,000 via the Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 matched funding campaign for exhibition and acquisitions in 2018-19.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Activities conducted during 2018-2019 were based in the creative and diligent aspiration of the MGA Strategic Plan to achieve the development and implementation of its vision as the Australian Home of Photography. The MGA Strategic Plan 2018-2022 supports the delivery of the Council Plan 2017-2021. In particular, it meets the aspiration of:

Strategic Objective - An inclusive community: Our people and communities are healthy, connected and engaged.

The MGA Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 includes a three year annual action plan, capturing current activities for MGA COM and staff to identify, assess and address the priorities of the Plan. The fourth year actions of the Plan will be developed during its first three years to support Plan development.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

MGA has a unique role in the cultural and community life of Monash. Over the past year, it has welcomed to the gallery and café over 90,000 people to exhibitions, collections and public programs that inspire, inform, confront

and provoke discussion. It is an important local destination for social and cultural connection, for creative and intellectual wellbeing. This is typified by the MGA volunteer program, which provides vital support to MGA and an inclusive opportunity for volunteer participation, representing over 2000 hours of support annually.

A priority for COM is the development of activities and business support that represent and reflect the city's demographic diversity, to sustain relevance and ownership by the community. In addition to its public programs, MGA's activities for children in the gallery spaces is a key aspect of the exhibition experience for families. Further development of children and youth activities continue to be developed.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Gallery of Art exhibition and activities programs accord with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities act 2006 and in particular the following rights: (vii) freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief; (viii) freedom of expression: (ix) peaceful assembly and freedom of association; (xi) taking part in public life; (xii) cultural rights.

CONSULTATION

Through the year, consultation has occurred with visitors to MGA by the medium of a visitor survey. This is a regular feature of MGA's connection with the community and an essential part of its framework for future planning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

For the financial year 2018 – 2019 MGA focused on establishing strategies to develop a diversified and strong financial base. This resulted in an increase in philanthropic and sponsorship opportunities and strategies as detailed in the annual report. In particular raising \$100,000 via the Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 matched funding campaign for exhibition and acquisitions in 2018-19

CONCLUSION

In 2018-19, MGA has begun to grow and cement its reputation locally, nationally and internationally as the Australian Home of Photography with high quality exhibition programming, public programs and partnership development. This has been supported by a focus on renewal, sustainability, network development and sound governance by the COM.