

**Report to General Manager**Attachments:
Nil

SUBJECT: Don Bank Writer in Residence – Overview of 2019 Program and Selection of Writer for 2020**AUTHOR:** Amanda Hudson, Community Development Librarian**ENDORSED BY:** Martin Ellis, Director Community and Library Services**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In 2019 The History Council of New South Wales was awarded the Don Bank Residency. The Council delivered three events at Stanton Library which attracted good publicity and attendance. Two of these workshops *Researching Family History* and *Motherhood and Mothering* were presented by the former President of the History Council, A/Prof Tanya Evans. In June we were also fortunate to have the current President of the History Council Dr Stephen Gapps who gave a talk at Stanton Library for the Gai-maraigal Festival. His talk entitled, *The Sydney Wars 1788- 1817 – Conflict on the North Shore* was well attended it attracted 70 people. In addition to our local community the talk brought in university colleagues, students and members of the History Council introducing some of them for the first time to Stanton library.

The Don Bank Residency clearly benefited the work of The History Council. Their achievements included:

- 70 unique History Week events which included exhibitions, talks and tours;
- 9 general professional development events;
- 5 Speaker Connect talks;
- 227 members; and
- \$1,500 in awards and prizes.

Expressions of interest for the 2020 Writer in Residence at the Don Bank Studio have been processed and recommendations are made. Five applicants from around the State were received. Expectations are that 2020 will deliver as rich a program of events as our community enjoyed in 2019.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council supports the selection of Applicant 5 for the Don Bank Program from 2 March to 2 December 2020.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- Direction: 1. Our Living Environment
- Outcome: 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs
- Direction: 4. Our Social Vitality
- Outcome: 4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events

BACKGROUND

The Don Bank Writer in Residence program began in 2011, in the former caretaker’s quarters which had become unsuitable for that purpose following the development at 100 Pacific Highway next door. Some writers over the years have had a connection with the visual and plastic arts while others have not, with playwrights, poets and crime writers all completing successful residencies. The History Council’s term was completed with the successful delivery of programs at Stanton Library and the successful delivery of key annual events and programs including History Week 2019 which saw 70 unique events showcasing the rich and diverse history being produced across New South Wales.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Protocol.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The following table provides a summary of the key sustainability implications:

QBL Pillar	Implications
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artists are encouraged to use natural and recycled materials and non-toxic paints. Public programs must also be aware of sustainability issues.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interaction between the writer and the community is mandatory in the form of public programs of free community writing workshops, talks or involvement in writing/reading programs.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No cost to Council. Artists/writers provide free workshops which include all materials and other costs.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complies with Council’s Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan. All WH&S risks identified and a risk management plan is completed.