

**Report to General Manager**Attachments:
Nil**SUBJECT:** North Sydney Council's Alfred Street Artist Studios Program - Selection of Artists**AUTHOR:** Alison Clark, Team Leader Arts & Culture**ENDORSED BY:** Rebecca Aukim, A/Director Community and Library Services**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Bradfield Park Community Centre building located in Alfred Street, Bradfield Park South (formerly the Gallipoli Legion Bowling Club in the early 1950s and later the Kirribilli Ex-Servicemen's Bowling Club) is currently not tenanted in its community (northern) half (a commercial restaurant occupies the southern section) and presents an opportunity to accommodate local artists on a temporary basis in this unique Council-owned facility.

The dwelling consists of two rooms/studio space and accessible toilets. It is proposed that the adapted studio spaces will be tenanted for a nine-month lease period with the potential to extend the lease for an additional three months. The program would operate under Council's existing affordable Artist Studio Program where artists are required to pay a weekly rent of \$40 and deliver an accessible and engaging monthly public program of Open Days.

The studios can be accessed 7 days a week from 7am to 9pm. The use of oil paints, solvents and toxic materials is strictly prohibited under Council's WH&S requirements and in line with NSW EPA regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The program will operate under Council's existing affordable Artist Studio Policy and the selected artists will pay a 'low-cost' rent of \$40 per week and \$200 bond. In line with the Artist Studio Guidelines participating artists are required to deliver an engaging monthly Public Program of 'Open Days'.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council supports the selection of the two proposed artists for the Alfred Street Artist Studios Program commencing 1 May 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: 4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe
4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events
4.3 North Sydney supports lifelong learning

BACKGROUND

North Sydney Council is a leader in the provision of affordable and inclusive arts facilities and is committed to ensuring that the artists in the area have access to short-medium term artist studios. The program features Primrose Park Artists Studio Program, Coal Loader Artist Studio Program and Ridge Street Artist in Residence Program.

Council's Artist Studio Programs aim to support local artists in the development of their art practice through the provision of an affordable studio space. The community benefit delivered by the Studio Policy requires artists to open their studio to the public one day per month, offering a program of artist talks or free community art workshops.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement was 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 required to use non-toxic materials in both their practice and the 'Open Day' activities.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interaction between the artist and the community is detailed in the guidelines and agreement in the form of a monthly Public Program of 'Open Days'.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No cost to Council. Artists provide free art activities and workshops which includes all materials and other costs.
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complies with Council's Arts and Cultural Strategic Plan 2019-22. All OH&S risks are identified, and a Risk Management Plan is completed.

DETAIL

Over a four-week period in March local artists were invited to apply for the Alfred Street Artist Studio Program as per Council's Artist Studio Policy and affiliated 'Expression of Interest Guidelines' and 'Application Form' documents. According to the EOI process, professional practicing artists are encouraged to apply and are required to provide a 500-word outline of how the program will benefit their creative practice, detail of their community contribution in the form of a Public Program of Open Days, CV, references and 10 digital images of their work.

Two artists applied for a studio and were selected by Council's Art Team, as both artists fulfilled the selection criteria outlined in the Studio Policy documents. Council's Team Leader Arts & Culture met the artists for an on-site meeting, as per standard practice with all of Council's Artist Studio Programs.

The selected artists will be required to sign an Artist Studio Licence Agreement as per the requirements for all of Council's Artist Studios and Residency Programs, including Primrose Park Artist Studio Program, Coal Loader Artist Studio Program and Bridget Kennedy Project Space/Artist in Residency Program. The Licence Agreement outlines the 'Conditions of Use', fee structure and community contribution and is signed by both the artist and delegated Council Officer.

Support is therefore sought for the selection of the two artists for Alfred Street Artist Studios Program commencing 1 May 2020.
