



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Jo Clay MLA on 24 July 2023: Ms Caroline Fulton took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 24 July 2023, Page 19]

In relation to: Kingston Arts Precinct

MS CLAY: Great. So for the first five years, it is managed by government, and we know how that will go. After that, will it pass onto commercial and then we lose this peppercorn rate? I am concerned, I would like to know what ArtsACT's long-term program is for Kingston arts precinct to make sure that we will, in 5 and 10 years, have a really vibrant art scene there, not mere tourism and merch, and I would also like to know what we are doing to make sure that when it gets handed over to a commercial operator that it does not simply go to a commercial tourism sort of venue?

Ms Fulton: The intent is that it would go to a not-for-profit type of organisation that manages all of our arts facilities. ArtsACT will work through, in terms of the development of that arrangement. Coming back in terms of to your point about the long-term funding for the precinct, ArtsACT has been provided an operational budget over just over \$1 million a year, indexed at 2.5 per cent until 2041-42 for the operation of the precinct, which includes staffing as well as operations and programming costs.

And that would be, you know, transferred over in terms of, probably to the organisation that would be managing the precinct.

MS CLAY: I wonder if you might take on notice of that \$1 million what the breakdown would be of administration, building fees and artists fees, but that on notice if you can?

Ms Fulton: Certainly.

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

For the management of the Kingston Arts Precinct, the ACT Government will provide artsACT, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate over \$1.0 million per year (indexed at 2.5 per cent). This funding will cover staffing, operations and programming costs. Funding of around \$331,000 per year (indexed at 2.5 per cent) will also be provided for a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Space.

In 2021, the ACT Government commissioned Test Pattern to develop a ten-year Founding Strategy for the future arts precinct at Kingston. The Founding Strategy outlined the vision, purpose, values, and high-level governance structure over three stages: transition, implementation, and evolution.

The document included an indicative budget for the transition and implementation stages. Under this strategy in the first year of operation, staffing would make up approximately 54 per cent of the overall expenditure, programming (including artist fees) would comprise approximately 25 per cent and operations (including utilities) would make up approximately 21 per cent. Repairs and maintenance of facilities are expected to be funded from the revenue from the precinct carpark.

The Founding Strategy is a high-level document and is designed to evolve to meet the changing needs of Canberra's visual arts sector. Further and detailed five-year strategic plans will be developed prior to the precinct opening and again during the precinct's operation, which will include updated operational costs.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Chris Steel', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

2/8/23

By the A/g Minister for the Arts, Chris Steel MLA