

ORDINARY MEETING**22 JANUARY 2020****14****TRANSFER OF ART ASSET (JELLY BABIES) FROM ARTS QUEENSLAND TO COUNCIL**

L. Kirchner | 79/4/1 | #6265386

RECOMMENDATION:**That Council:**

- **Approves the transfer of the iconic Cairns Jelly Babies from Arts Queensland to Cairns Regional Council**
- **Approves the proposed location as identified in this report in the north western corner of Munro Martin Parklands; and**
- **Notes that the transfer is at no cost to Council with all expenses incurred to be reimbursed by Arts Queensland.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2019 the State Government funded an upgrade to Bulmba-Ja (formerly CoCa) to strengthen the local arts sector and help expand cultural tourism in Far North Queensland. This has created new performance and creative opportunities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and provided rich cultural experiences to new audiences. Unfortunately, part of this upgrade has been an expansion of the building footprint. This has resulted in the displacement of the five iconic fibreglass Jelly Babies, affectionately known as Gilbert, Oliver, Penelope, Roxanne and Yasmin, designed by local artist Sophie Cadman in 2004. During the renovation period Arts Queensland have stored the famous five in a safe offsite location to mitigate any potential damage during the construction period.

In discussions with Arts Queensland staff, the artist has indicated a preference for the public artworks relocation to Munro Martin Parklands. The Parklands site ensures high visibility to the public whilst providing safety and security and is respectful to the overall artistic intent for this iconic artwork to celebrate the cultural diversity of our community, embracing all, but favouring none. Placement of the artwork adjacent to children's recreational facilities could inadvertently indicate that these are a funky interactive play feature.

Arts Queensland have advised that the artist is happy with the proposed location of Munro Martin Parklands. They have committed to reimburse Council for any expenses incurred and will formally transfer the asset to Council once the site has been approved.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the previous Main Roads Building in Abbott Street was refurbished as the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CoCA). The public artwork component of this refurbishment was supported by the Art Built-in Program and delivered via a competitive commissioning process.

Sophie's conceptual artist statement was key to the success of commission;

"These sculptures aim to communicate and celebrate the cultural diversity of our community, embracing all, but favouring none. Each jelly baby is equal in its form but individual in its colour. This celebration is communicated through a medium that is recognised and enjoyed regardless of culture or age – Lollies!"

The artworks have always been a much-loved part of our cities public art collection. They have become an iconic social media platform winning their way into the hearts and Facebook post of both local and visitors alike.

In 2015, the artworks underwent a complete restoration and fully rejuvenated. With a fresh lease on life, Gilbert, Oliver, Penelope, Roxanne and Yasmin are ready for their next adventure in Cairns.

COMMENT:

A number of sites were considered by Council's Cultural Services staff in consultation with staff from the CBD Master Plan working group. These included both the north east and south east corners of Florence and Abbott Streets intersection, near the Fun Ship at the northern end of the Esplanade, near the Cenotaph and adjacent to Muddies as well as various locations within Munro Martin Parklands (MMP). It is proposed to relocate the figures to the north west corner of MMP. This site has good visibility from Sheridan Street and is within the fenced area. This site is strongly preferred by both Arts Queensland and the artist. Placement of the artwork adjacent to children's recreational facilities could inadvertently indicate that these are a funky interactive play feature. Should this site not be preferred, officers second preference would be the north east corner of the Florence and Abbott Streets intersection.

It is proposed that the installation of the figures occurs as part of the current renovation works at MMP, thereby gaining efficiency for the creation of the footings and the electrical connections for the up lighting. The up lighting will add another dimension to the colourful presentation of MMP in the evenings. An appropriate interpretation panel will also be prepared and installed as part of this exercise.

OPTIONS:**Option 1: (recommended)**

That Council:

- Approves the transfer of the iconic Cairns Jelly Babies from Arts Queensland to Cairns Regional Council
- Approves the proposed location as identified in this report in the north western corner of Munro Martin Parklands and

- Notes that the transfer is at no cost to Council with all expenses incurred to be reimbursed by Arts Queensland.

Option 2:

That Council:

- Approves the transfer of the iconic Cairns Jelly Babies from Arts Queensland to Cairns Regional Council
- Approves the proposed alternative location at [an alternative location]; and
- Notes that the transfer is at no cost to Council with all expenses incurred to be reimbursed by Arts Queensland.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Risk Management:

The pieces have been inspected by senior Council engineering and Cultural Services staff. They appear to be in very sound condition requiring only very minor repairs. The experience gained during the installation of the Bagu figures at CPAC will inform the manner of the Jelly Babies installation (i.e. will be able to be removed quickly and efficiently should a cyclonic event occur).

These figures are much loved by the Cairns community and it is anticipated that there will be strong public support for Council accepting this asset from Arts Queensland.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

Arts Queensland has agreed to reimburse Council for the costs of the relocation / installation.

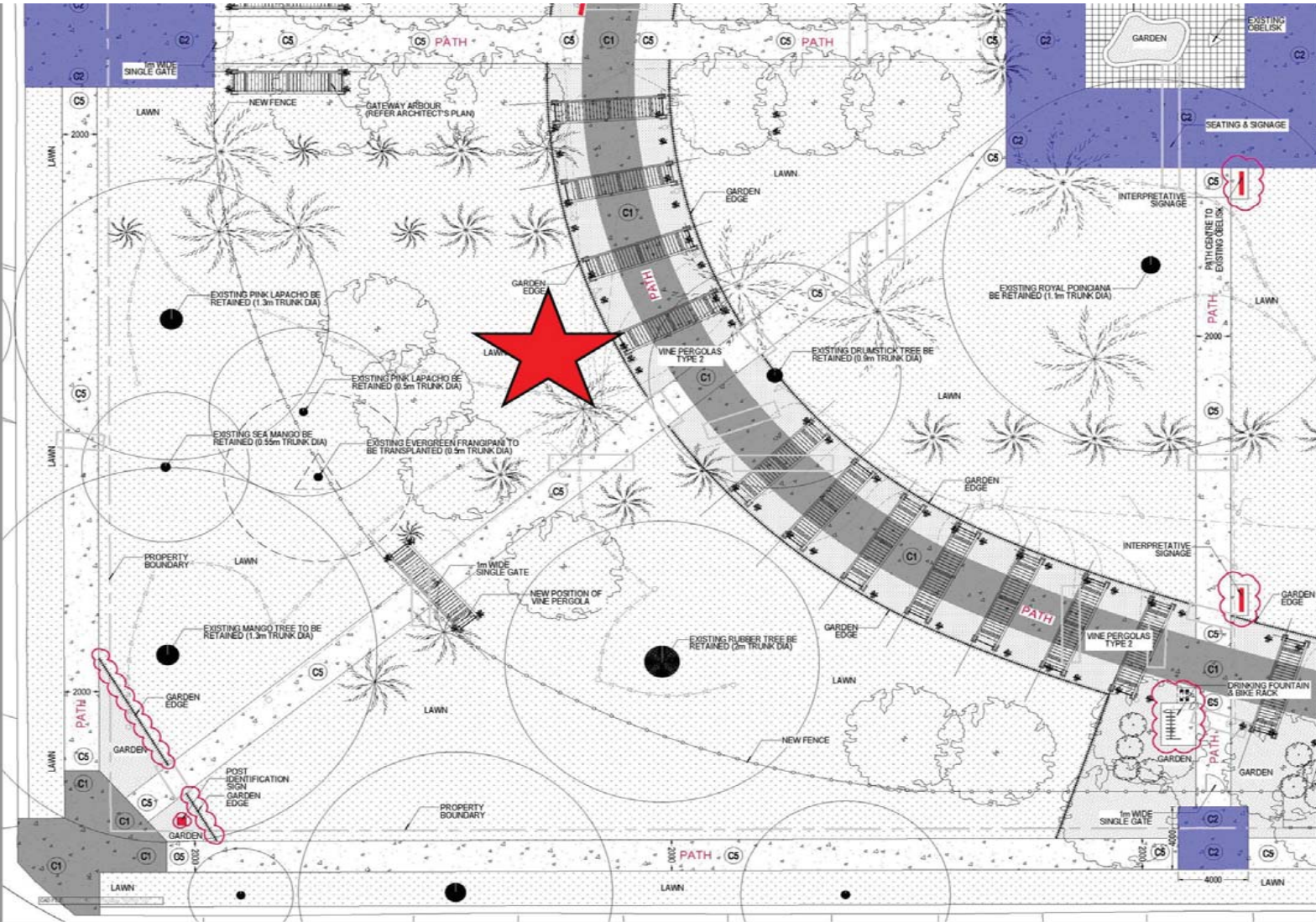
CONSULTATION:

Arts Queensland, as the asset owner has been responsible for consulting with the artist in relation to suitable relocation options.



Linda Kirchner
General Manager Community, Sport and Culture

MINNIE STREET



SHERIDAN STREET