**Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens**

**World Heritage Management Plan Steering Committee**

**MINUTES - adopted 14/12/2021**

**Date:** Friday 11 June 2021

**Time:** 10am – 11am

**Venue:** via Zoom

**Members:**

* (Chair) Steven Avery, Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
* Lynley Crosswell, Chief Executive Officer, Museums Victoria
* Richa Swarup, Senior Adviser, City Heritage, City of Yarra
* Felicity Watson, Executive Manager, Advocacy, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

**Apologies:**Kevin Walsh, City of Melbourne

**Officers attending (non-voting)**:

Fiona Finlayson, City of Melbourne

Tanya Wolkenberg, City of Melbourne

Angela Hill, City of Melbourne

Michelle Stevenson, Museums Victoria

Amanda Bacon, Heritage Victoria, DELWP

Hannah Fairbridge, Heritage Victoria, DELWP

Ronnie Fookes, Museums Victoria

Freya Keam, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

* 1. **Welcome and introduction**

The Chair welcomed and thanked those attending and acknowledged the Traditional Owners whose land the meeting was held on.

* 1. **Steering Committee member update**

The Chair gave an update on membership of the Steering Committee advising that Emma Appleton (Director, City Strategy, Strategy Planning and Climate Change, City of Melbourne) had resigned from City of Melbourne. City of Melbourne were represented by Tanya Wolkenberg (Team Leader Heritage Strategy, City Strategy) and Fiona Finlayson (Team Leader Open Space Planning and Green Infrastructure, Parks and City Greening) as observers.

DELWP will progress appointment of a new member to represent the City of Melbourne member on behalf of the Minister for Planning.

* 1. **Conflicts of interest**

No conflicts were declared.

* 1. **Adoption of minutes of previous meetings (September 28 2020, November 12 2020)**

When the minutes were discussed only one voting member was present. The Chair therefore moved the motion to adopt the minutes.

**Motion:** Adopt the minutes of the previous meetings.

**Moved:** by the Chair

* 1. **Update on review and timing of World Heritage Management Plan component documents**
     1. **Heritage Management Plan (formerly Conservation Management Plan) –Ronnie Fookes**

Ronnie confirmed that the draft Heritage Management Plan had been distributed and publicly advertised mid-2020, and comments made by the public and representative members of the Working Group had been provided to Lovell Chen (consultants). Ronnie advised that Lovell Chen have noted where changes to the HMP will be made in response to submissions. Ronnie confirmed that HMP finalisation has been funded, and that City of Melbourne will have opportunity to provide input into the HMP before it is finalised, to ensure a collaborative approach.

**18.5.2 Master Plans (Carlton Gadens, and Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve) – Angela Hill**

**Carlton Gardens:** Angela advised that City of Melbourne are currently working through the revised Master Plan for the Carlton Gardens and that feedback from the first phase of consultation was being incorporated into the Plan where relevant to the Carlton Gardens. Angela advised that City of Melbourne was scheduled to present a draft revised Master Plan to Council in September, however the plan is awaiting the outcomes from the First Peoples Cultural Values report before progressing a final draft.

**Royal Exhibition Building and Exhibition Reserve:** Ronnie advised that Museums Victoria and City of Melbourne were meeting fortnightly to ensure the Master Plans are coordinated. Work on the REB and Exhibition Reserve Master Plan has been paused to ensure work in the Cultural Values report can inform the Master Plan. Ronnie advised that this document was scheduled to go on public exhibition in September and that Museums Victoria and City of Melbourne will coordinate consultation on both Master Plans.

**18.5.3 World Heritage Strategy Plan for the World Heritage Environs Area – Amanda Bacon**

Amanda advised that Heritage Victoria had received a final draft of the Strategy Plan and were reviewing at the time of this meeting. Amanda advised that there were a small number of matters for the consultant to address before the Strategy Plan is publicly advertised. Amanda additionally advised that Heritage Victoria plan to provide a high-level summary of the recommendations in the draft Plan to the Cities of Melbourne and Yarra in the next fortnight following this meeting. Recommendations in the Plan may need to be cross checked with any proposed planning scheme amendments. Amanda advised that these meetings will not be consultative but are to inform Cities of Melbourne and Yarra of key recommendations prior to the plan going on public exhibition.

Felicity Watson asked how long the Strategy Plan would be exhibited for. Amanda advised that in accordance with the Heritage Act it must be on display for at least 60 days.

* + 1. **First Peoples Cultural Values report – Ronnie Fookes**

Ronnie advised that Context Pty Ltd (consultants) had nearly completed the background history. Ronnie advised that on-site consultation with all three Traditional Owner groups was undertaken and the report was in the process of being drafted. Ronnie advised that Museums Victoria had secured funding to undertake Phase 3 of the report. Phase 3 will allow the consultants to look at the broader significance of the area including the Fitzroy precinct, to Aboriginal communities across Victoria. It is likely that Phase 3 would be completed in approximately 5 weeks from the date of this meeting.

The Chair raised that at the time of this meeting the Aboriginal Heritage Council had announced a proposal to vary the boundaries between the Wurundjeri and Bunurong Traditional Owners. The Chair noted that this proposal does not change the work being completed on the Cultural Values report.

**Action:** Steering Committee members noted the progress and anticipated timing for completion of each component document to the World Heritage Management Plan.

**18.6 Revisit outcomes of governance workshop, 12 November 2020 – Chair**

The Chair provided a summary of the outcomes of the governance workshop.

The two-hour facilitated workshop included a range of topics and discussion questions and included two guest presenters; Kirsteen Thompson and Joanna Lyngcoln.

Facilitated discussions were prompted by the following questions, what is working at the site, what is not working at the site, what could be improved at the site and what barriers are the Steering Committee facing which may inhibit progression. At the conclusion of the workshop, the Steering Committee agreed that the most logical next step was to develop a strategic vision, followed by a communication strategy for the site.

* 1. **Steering Committee Strategic Vision – Amanda Bacon, followed by discussion by all.**

Amanda provided a high-level summary of the intention and aims of the Strategic Vision. Amanda advised that the document had been developed by Heritage Victoria in close collaboration with the working group, who were careful to ensure that some of the critique or suggestions arising in the community consultation were included in the document. Amanda advised that in finalising the draft document a cross check between the governance workshop discussion and outcomes, community consultation and Strategic Vision had been carried out. Amanda additionally advised that the document had been informed by other similar documents for World Heritage Steering Committees including the Australian Convict Sites and the Edinburgh World Heritage site. Amanda advised that the document attempts to include a range of actions, some of which are minor, others are more high level and might carry over beyond the implementation framework of the document. Amanda advised that the primary intention of the document is to meet community expectations and clarify the role and purpose of the Steering Committee. During development of the document Heritage Victoria and the working group have been cognisant of time and resource constraints.

Amanda opened the floor to discussion.

**Mission statement**

* Steering Committee members began by stating that the Mission statement in the document provides a clear and succinct summary of the purpose of the Steering Committee
* Steering Committee members agreed that the Mission or Vision statement should include reference to investment in funding as well as cultural significance
* General discussion surrounding the need for financial investment in the site
* The Chair agreed that the Mission should include explicit reference to investment, suggesting the Steering Committee must *advocate for investment and advocate for its cultural heritage*
* Steering committee raised that the Mission or Vision should refer to the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)
* General discussion around the role the Steering Committee plays in the WHEA
* A member raised that the WHEA is an inextricable part of the site, and protecting the WHEA contributes to protection of the site
* All agreed that there must be greater clarity in regard to the role the Steering Committee plays in the WHEA

**Vision statement**

* Amanda Bacon defined the purposes of a Vision statement, as being an aspirational statement to create a shared sense of purpose
* The Steering Committee discussed whether the WHEA should be referred to in the vision statement
* Steering Committee members discussed use of the words ‘best practice’, noting that community expectations may change over time and not necessarily meet ‘best practice’ heritage outcomes
* Discussion around whether ‘community expectation’ should be included in the Vision statement, agreement that some more aspirational words could be included
* General agreement that the Vision statement could be more aspirational
* A suggestion for wording such as *diverse values understood by community and visitors* was made
* Participants raised that UNESCO has an increasing focus on involving community, in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and that there had been an international shift in practice so it may be important to include goals for community participation in the Vision statement.

**Strategic Objectives**

**Objective 2**

* Concern with use of the wording in Objective 2, which describes ‘shared heritage values’
* Preferable terms would be ‘Aboriginal heritage values and non-Aboriginal heritage values’
* Meeting participants queried terminology used throughout, and preferred the terms Aboriginal or First Peoples
* Museums Victoria offered to consult its First Peoples department and advise preference
* Participants suggested use of words such as ‘all’, ‘entire’ and ‘complete’ instead of shared, noting that the Steering Committee has a legislative responsibility to communicate the multiple values at the site.

**Objective 3:**

* Meeting participants discussed including reference to the WHEA in this objective
* Participants raised that a separate goal on the WHEA could be included in this objective.

**Objective 4:**

* Steering Committee members discussed the importance of resourcing and funding and that the objectives were contingent on adequate resourcing
* One member raised that Objective 4 was meant to provide for financial funding but felt that this could be more explicit within the document
* Steering Committee agreed that Objective 4 and the overarching goals needs to include explicit reference to financial resourcing

**Objective 1:**

* Participants raised that conserving and enhancing the OUV of the site is contingent on resourcing and that it would be advisable to have this stated in the document
* Suggestion to refine the wording of Objective 1 to include advocacy
* Participants discussed responsibility, noting that the current organisations with management responsibility for the site are representatives on the Steering Committee.

**Objective 3:**

* Participants discussed Objective 3 again, noting that the objective should be clearer around the specific and potential actions the Steering Committee could take
* Agreement that the role of the Steering Committee is not only to discuss but to determine appropriate action.
* Agreement that the document should clearly define actions that could be taken
* The issue of conflict of interest regarding development and planning matters within the WHEA was raised.

**Actions:**

* Museums Victoria to consult First Peoples department and report back to Steering Committee and participants on preferred terminology throughout document
* Heritage Victoria and working group to make changes to document, then circulate the updated document to Steering Committee members to review and comment on.

**18.8**  N**ext meeting/ frequency of meetings – Chair**

The Steering Committee and participants agreed that the next meeting would be held in approximately eight weeks, on the **week of 2 July.**

**Meeting concluded at 11.05am**