

ITEM 5

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT ARS ELECTRONICA FESTIVAL - LINZ, AUSTRIA 5-9 SEPTEMBER 2019 - COUNCILLOR ANN MARTIN

Ars Electronica is an annual Festival of Art, Science, Innovation and Technology held in Linz, Austria. Councillor Martin has requested to attend this Festival. This report seeks Council's approval for Councillor Ann Martin to attend and cover accommodation, ticket and other related expenses to attend the festival, excluding airfares.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Approve the attendance of Councillor Ann Martin at the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria between 5-9 September 2019.
- 2 Meet reasonable expenses incurred by Councillor Martin for attendance at the festival including entry costs, six nights' accommodation, transfers and incidental expenses, excluding airfares.
- 3 Grant Councillor Ann Martin a leave of absence from 3 September to 13 September, 2019.

## REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Todd Hopwood, Manager Governance and Customer Service

Authorised by: Renee Campbell, Director Corporate Services - Connected + Engaged City

## ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

## BACKGROUND

Councillor Martin has requested attendance at the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria. The *Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy* requires overseas travel expenses for councillors to be approved by Council. The policy also requires councillors to provide information on the objectives to be achieved, who is to take part in the travel, an itinerary and budget. Councillor Martin has provided this information which is summarised below.

The Ars Electronica Festival has announced that it will develop an annual event in Wollongong, called 3 Festival, which is supported by Wollongong City Council, the NSW Government and University of Wollongong. The event will run early 2020 in Wollongong.

It will feature exhibitions built from Australian and international talent and a selection of Ars Electronica content; as well as symposiums on arts, science, technology, society and entrepreneurship; plus, a contemporary music program which will explore experimentation in composition, instrumentation and cross-media integration.

Cr Martin has been a strong advocate for the arts and cultural development, public art, and the film and digital media sector in the Wollongong and Port Kembla areas.

Council officers will also be attending the Linz Festival, meeting with organisers and discussing the 2020 Program on behalf of Council in an official capacity.

## PROPOSAL

Councillor Martin has requested leave of absence from Council for the period 3 September to 13 September, 2019 and Council support towards the cost of attending the Festival in Linz. She has offered to pay her own airfares, but seeks Council's support towards accommodation costs, and the cost of attending the event itself over a period of five days. The Festival program includes conferences, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, performances and concerts.

Councillor Martin seeks the opportunity to attend the festival as an elected councillor and arts advocate. Councillor Martin has indicated her son will accompany her in this travel at own expense.

## PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal 3 “Wollongong is a creative vibrant city”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2021	Operational Plan 2019-20
Strategy	3 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
3.1.1 Using community art and cultural development practices, our places and spaces reflect the creativity, history and identity of our people	3.1.1.4 Deliver sustainable and successful events and festivals thorough Council investment and delivery of the Major Events Strategy	Contribute to the delivery of the 3 Fest Arts, Science and Technology Festival in 2020

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Estimated expenses for Cr Martin, excluding airfares are detailed below inclusive of GST and local taxes where applicable:

Accommodation (6 nights @ Euro 120 Per night)	\$1160.00
Festival entry (Euro 147)	\$250.00
Transfers	\$300.00
Other incidental expenses (approx. \$100/day)	\$600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,310.00</b>

## CONCLUSION

The Ars Electronica Festival provides an opportunity to actively investigate the Ars Electronica format and content; and identify opportunities to incorporate into, and assist the staging of, the 3 Festival to be held in Wollongong in February / March 2020.