

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Bond on behalf of Teresa Warren:

This question is on behalf of a constituent who is unable to attend the meeting tonight. The constituent was recently traveling to a medical appointment and went through St Kilda Junction and thought all the new art work under the tunnels was fantastic. She has asked me to follow up on another mural at her local tram stop at South Melbourne near the South Melbourne Market which she said is looking old, dated and covered in graffiti. She was wondering if it would be possible to find out who was responsible for that particular mural near the South Melbourne Market tram stop, and if Council is the responsible authority for its maintenance, could it be put on the program of works for the mural to be repainted, updated or cleaned?



Response:

On 22 February 2022, Council met with the tenant of the commercial building (Passionfoods) facing the Tram Stop (as pictured above) which includes the Mural/Graffiti in question. They advised the Artwork is over 15 years old and overtime has faded, aged and has been heavily tagged in the last couple of years. Almost a year ago Passionfoods approached the City of Port Phillip and applied for an Arts Grant to have the mural refreshed. At the time, no funding was available. On 28 February 2022, Council officers met with the Owner of Passionfoods onsite to view the artwork, graffiti, access points and discussed possible options for a refresh/ repair of the artwork.

Passionfoods are committed to get owner approval and provide assistance with painting, preparation and creation of the new Artwork. From a Graffiti Mitigation point of view, Council will provide Passionfoods with Graffiti Removal kits to manage and remove future tagging and graffiti from the wall post mural creation. Passionfoods are committed to do this.

On 2 March 2022 Council officers met with the Meagan Scott, South Melbourne Market Marketing Coordinator to advise of the Mural and the potential refresh or repaint. The market advised that South Melbourne Market doesn't need to be included in the design, aesthetic or creation, but they are very supportive of the Mural being redone. Should the renewal go ahead, the market could assist with Marketing and possible contribution to funding.

Paul Round / Bailer / Urban Enhancements was the original Artist who painted the mural, he is also the same Artist who curated and managed the St Kilda Junction project. There is the

option to utilise Mr Round again or commission another Artist depending on funding and budget.

Other Stakeholders include Yarra Trams who own the Access points to the wall, the same process followed with St Kilda junction project will be followed to get permission to access the wall and ensure pedestrians safely access their transport and Yarra Tram assets.

Stakeholders Involved;

Steven (Owner of Passionfoods)

Owner of Building

South Melbourne Market

Yarra Trams

Artist

Funding body (CoPP, State Government (Urban Canvas), Other)

Calcorp – Graffiti Removal Contractors

Regarding funding options, Council officers have advised Passionfoods of Arts grants and City of Port Phillip funding that fit within a project like this. Council officers are available to assist with the application process if needed. Other funding options are also being explored, through Councils Graffiti Mitigation Street Art program and the State Government funding for Graffiti removal and mitigation on third party assets (Same fund used for the junction – Urban Canvas. The second round of funds come through in July 2022.

Council officers are working on a prospectus for this project and will contact each Stakeholder involved, prospectus document can be shared with involved stakeholders once developed. Council also welcome any thoughts or ideas that Councillors or members of the community have about the above.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*