

Extraordinary Council Meeting

6/12/2023

Item No	8.2
Subject	Draft Bayside Council Historical Marker Policy and Program
Report by	Bobbi Mayne, Manager Libraries & Lifestyle
File	F08/559.002

Summary

In March 2024, Council endorsed the establishment of a Bayside Historical Marker Program.

The Historical Markers Program aims to create visibility and awareness of the history and cultural heritage of the Bayside LGA to build a sense of belonging and connectivity in the community.

The Historical Marker Policy will provide a consistent and transparent approach to the selection, installation and conservation of historical markers that recognises sites of historical and cultural significance in the Bayside Local Government Area (LGA).

Our community will be invited to submit historical marker nominations to recognise a person or event that has cultural or historical significance to the nominated site. Nominations will be assessed by a panel with recommendations submitted to Council for final approval.

It is proposed that up to five (5) historical markers nominations may be selected and installed each financial year.

The inaugural program will be launched early in 2024 and the inaugural winners announced at the May Council Meeting to coincide with the Australian Heritage Festival in April – May 2024.

Further detail regarding the draft Policy and Program is outlined in the report and attachments.

Officer Recommendation

- 1 That Council endorses Bayside Council's Historical Marker Policy.
 - 2 That Council launch nominations for Bayside's inaugural Historical Marker program in early 2024.
 - 3 That a report from the historical marker assessment panel be submitted to Council in May 2024 on the outcome of the nomination process and recommendations for 2024/25 round of Historical Markers to be installed.
 - 4 That up to 5 markers be installed by July 2024.
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Background

Council has previously endorsed the creation of a Bayside Historical Marker Program.

This scope of this project includes;

- Developing a framework, guidelines and process for nominations
- Prepare a design for the Bayside heritage marker
- Prepare a promotion strategy for the program and the plaques that engages our community
- cost and funding source options to support the program
- ongoing maintenance program and cost for the repairs (if damaged, vandalised)
- as a second stage implement an interactive map which the community can use for a virtual and/or physical history / heritage walk.

Manager, Libraries and Lifestyle has worked with various stakeholders to draft a Historical Marker Policy, procedure and physical marker design which is outlined in this report.

Bayside's Historical Marker Policy

Bayside Council LGA has many sites of natural, cultural and historical significance that should be recognised, remembered and promoted to our residents and visitors.

The Historical Markers Program aims to create visibility and awareness of the history and cultural heritage of the Bayside LGA to build a sense of belonging and connectivity in the community.

The draft Historical Marker Policy will provide a consistent and transparent approach to the selection, installation and conservation of historical markers that recognise sites of historical and cultural significance in the Bayside Local Government Area (LGA).

The objective of this policy and the program is to;

- a) Provide a transparent governance framework for the nomination and selection process
- b) Provide opportunities for our community to contribute to the program through the nomination process
- c) Ensure a cohesive and consistent approach to the design and placement of the physical markers.
- d) Ensure the markers are promoted to our community and visitors
- e) Record and preserve the historical markers as an important historical resource and archive.

The draft policy is attached to this report.

The Historical Marker Program and Selection Process

As outlined in the policy, it is proposed that up to five (5) historical marker nominations may be selected and installed each financial year.

Nominations must demonstrate that the site for the marker is of cultural or historical importance to the Bayside LGA, NSW or Australia.

Nominations must meet the following criteria:

- a) Is an interesting and historically or culturally significant story about a real person(s), or event that is strongly associated with the nominated building, site or place
- b) Contributes to an understanding of the area's cultural or natural history and heritage
- c) The marker can be installed at a location in Bayside that is relevant to the story and is visible and accessible to everyone
- d) Is appropriate, sensitive and engaging to a wide public audience

Nominations are assessed and checked for accuracy by Council officers and heritage specialists if required.

The selection panel will comprise the following;

- a) Coordinator Libraries
- b) Local History Librarian
- c) Heritage Advisor - Strategic Planning
- d) One representative from Botany Historical Trust
- e) One representative from the St George Historical Society
- f) Independent Heritage Specialist
- g) The previous winner of the Ron Rathbone History Award

Additional Cultural and/or Heritage specialists may be invited to join the selection panel from time to time based on the type of nominations received.

First Nations representatives must be on the assessment panel for nominations that make reference to First Nations history and/or culture.

A report with the selection panel's recommendation for the historical markers based on the nominations received will be put forward to Council for consideration and formal endorsement.

Council Officers on the selection panel will respond back to all applicants with the outcome of the selection process and publish the approved sites to inform the community.

Historical Marker Design and Installation

The proposed Bayside Historical Marker design would be similar to other historical marker / plaque programs



The design standard for Bayside's Historical Marker is

- Fabricated in material that is weather and vandal resistant (e.g. Cast Aluminium)
- Include Bayside Council and Logo
- States the person(s) or event significant to the site
- Includes a short statement about the story of the person(s) or event relevant to the site

The placement of the marker will be in a location that is publicly visible and accessible and the final placement of the marker will be made in consultation with relevant council staff and specialists and, government agencies and property owners if applicable.

Implementation

Below is the proposed time line for implementation of the program;

December 2023	Policy Adopted
Early February 2024	Launch of Program and Nominations Open
End March 2024	Nominations close
April 2024	Assessment by selection panel
May 2024	Report to Council and winners announced (end of national Heritage Festival)
June-July 2024	Fabrication and installation completed

Financial Implications

Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Included in existing approved budget	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional funds required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approximately \$1500 per marker to install which is currently unfunded and will be included in the 2 nd quarterly budget review..

Community Strategic Plan

Theme One	– In 2032 Bayside will be a vibrant place	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theme Two	– In 2032 Our people will be connected in a creative City	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Theme Three	– In 2032 Bayside will be green, resilient and sustainable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theme Four	– In 2032 Bayside will be a prosperous community	<input type="checkbox"/>

Risk Management – Risk Level Rating

No risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Low risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medium risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
High risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Very High risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extreme risk	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Engagement

The Historical Marker program will be widely promoted through various mediums including our website, newsletter, through our libraries, historical trusts, schools and social media.

Similar to Georges River, Bayside will establish a Have Your Say Page with information about the program and to enable community applications to be lodged and collated.

The second stage to this project is to establish an on line map of the markers and their stories that the community and visitors can access.

Attachments

Bayside Historical Marker Policy