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|  | **City of Yarra**  **Speech & Briefing Information** |

**PREPARED FOR:** Vijaya Vaidyanath

**EVENT:** COURAGE Sculpture LAUNCH

**DATE:** Tuesday 15 July 2014

**EVENT TIME:** 6:30pm – 8pm

**ARRIVAL TIME:** 6:30pm

**SPEECH TIME: 6:45pm**

**VENUE & ADDRESS:** Reading Room. Fitzroy Town Hall

201 Napier Street, Fitzroy

**PARKING:** Parking in Napier and Moor Streets

**OFFICER IN CHARGE & PHONE NUMBER:**

Siu Chan, Arts, Culture and Venues Coordinator

0409 350 778

Louisa Marks, Arts & Cultural Services

0407 811 872

**WHO IS AUDIENCE:** Arts organisations representatives, artists, philanthropic representatives, local residents, AIDS Conference participants and audience, media, members of Yarra Arts Advisory Committees, Yarra City Councillors and staff.

**Order of Proceedings**

18:30 Doors open and guests start to arrive

18:45 Speeches

19:00 Performance starts

19:25 Performances concludes

20:00 Event concludes

SPEECHES

18.40 Background music turned off

18:45 Vijaya Vaidyanath, CEO Yarra City Council

(Welcomes everyone to the event, introduces the Mayor)

18:50 Mayor speaks

18:55 Vijaya Vaidyanath thanks the Mayor and introduces the artist, William Eicholtz

19:00 William Eicholtz speaks

19:05 Vijaya Vaidyanath thanks William Eicholtz, officially declares COURAGE launched, then introduces Michael Dalton to perform

19:10 Michael Dalton starts

19:35 Michael Dalton concludes

19:35 Vijaya Vaidyanath thanks everyone for coming and invites everyone to view the sculpture on the way out

19:40 Informal conversation & champagne continue

20:00 Event ends

**COURAGE LAUNCH – SPEECH NOTES**

**WELCOME**

* Hello, I am Vijaya Vaidyanath, the CEO of the City of Yarra. I am so pleased to be here tonight and to be at the launch of COURAGE, Yarra’s latest public artwork. What a wonderful occasion.
* After years of sustained perseverance, hard work and negotiation, this sculpture by William Eicholtz is finally a reality for Yarra and for our artist.
* The message in this work is universal; courage is an important quality for all people in our community and beyond.
* This sculpture was conceived as (and will become) a fitting monument to the bravery and spirit of our Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex and Queer community. But it also speaks widely to all people about the challenges and difficulties, yet the fulfilment, of being oneself, no matter who we are.
* I am delighted to introduce Cr Jackie Fristacky, our Mayor to tell you more about COURAGE and the background of this project.

**INTRODUCTION TO ARTIST**

* William’s contribution to and generosity in the realisation of this major new sculpture cannot be understated.
* He has been working steadily for 3 years, but intensively in the last year, from planning, negotiating, fundraising, designing, calculating, sculpting and self-promoting to get to this point tonight where we are launching COURAGE to coincide with the 20th International AIDS Conference.
* He has given so much of his personal time, energy and resolve towards successfully delivering this project.
* The beautiful work we now see in Whitlam Park is a testament to his passion and enthusiasm for this project.
* While Council was sourcing additional funds to achieve this commission, William has financially carried the project up until a few months ago.
* We are so pleased that so many people have gathered here tonight to celebrate this occasion and I am delighted to introduce the artist himself, William Eicholtz, to say a few words.

**INTRODUCTION MICHAEL DALTON**

* To mark this very special event, I would like to introduce Michael Dalton who is going to perform some cabaret songs for us tonight.
* Michael recently hosted the AIDS candlelight memorial in City Square for Living Positive Victoria and has just concluded a show for the Melbourne Cabaret Festival as one of "The Three Of Us," which sold out the season at Fortyfive Downstairs.
* He spends a great deal of his time as his alter ego Dolly Diamond and she and Michael have been happy to share performing duties over the years.
* Welcome to Michael.

**FINAL THANKS**

* So allow me to conclude today by saying thanks to all the people here tonight but in particular William who will be leaving a lasting cultural icon for Yarra’s community to enjoy.
* Thank you for the family, friends and associates of Ralph McLean who join us here tonight. We are so honoured to host you here at the Fitzroy Town Hall where Ralph made such a positive and lasting impact on Yarra and the community, and we are glad we could acknowledge his legacy through dedicating William’s sculpture to his memory.
* To everyone who has supported the project in various ways including Council’s Open Space team, in particular Justin Hanrahan and Carrie Lindsay, David Morison from Urban Design, John Ghasperidis from Engineering Services, Toby Walker from Communications, Bridie Jones and Sally Hiller from the Venues and Events team and Ivan Gilbert from Governance.
* Thanks to our Collection Management Advisory Committee, in particular Lyndel Wischer and Tom McFeely from the Peel Hotel who were part of the original selection panel; to Perrin Foundry for the casting, Relume for the lighting, JK Fasham for production of the plinth and the installation, Bosco Civil for the footings and John Saunders for the electrical work, we also give our sincere thank you.
* We would also like to thank the AIDS Conference organisers and City of Melbourne for facilitating the conference’s Cultural Program.

**SPEECH ENDS**

**Background**

**City of Yarra COURAGE Sculpture**