

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, it's the vibe

Sydney, NSW, 2 February 2016

This Friday, visitors to Newtown might be surprised to find a flower thrust into their hands by a smiling *Newtopian*. From 6-8pm, 'Friday Night Vibes' will launch itself on Newtown.

Supported by the City of Sydney, the event will play out on Newtown Square, opposite Newtown Railway Station. Every Friday for the next eight weeks, locals and visitors will be invited to linger awhile and enjoy the vibe - suitcase markets, live music, chill out spaces and even free popcorn.

NNC's CEO, Liz Yeo, said the idea came out of the community forums held last year to look at how to protect the "Newtown Vibe".

"It's really exciting to see the Newtown Vibe forums have led to positive action being taken to address community concerns. We want to keep Newtown vibrant, open and welcoming. Friday Night Vibes will help people kick off their night in Newtown in a fun and relaxed way," Ms Yeo said.

Ms Yeo also said the event extended NNC's services to the community. "At NNC we are about justice, inclusion and fun. Everyone is welcome in Newtown, and the event will promote Newtown's diversity and quirkiness, while also supporting our fantastic creative artists," Ms Yeo said.

Friday Night Vibes has been funded by a City of Sydney grant – complementing the council's work in tackling anti-social behaviour.

City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore said: "Newtown has a long history of live performance, and Friday Night Vibes is a fantastic way to build on this strength in an inclusive setting.

"The City is working to develop a strong, sophisticated and diverse night-time economy for Sydney, and initiatives like Friday Night Vibes are a big part of that.

"We want to give people variety – places to go for a drink or a meal, or simply to gather with other people. We want the city to be appealing to every age group and demographic, and we want it to be safe.

"Giving people the opportunity to get together to listen to some music and relax before they head out is a fantastic way to achieve that."

The program complements the City's OPEN Sydney strategy, which encourages the development of a diverse night time economy, and promotes cooperation and respect between visitors and local residents.

NNC, organiser of the successful Newtown Festival, is well-placed to host the events and to connect visitors with the community.

NEWTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Images

Friday Night Vibes Banner attached.

About Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC)

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre is a not-for-profit incorporated association serving Newtown and the inner west. Our purpose is to work with the community to fulfil its potential; our vision is to achieve a just community that includes and acts.

www.newtowncentre.org

02 9564 7333

The City of Sydney

Friday Night Vibes is generously supported by the City of Sydney.

Contacts

Liz Yeo, CEO: 0403 441 159

Julian Lee, Marketing and Communications: 0403 013 366

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