

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



City Farm Advisory Group – Community Representative



The Council of the City of Sydney

Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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city of villages

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CITY FARM ADVISORY GROUP
SECTION 1**

INTRODUCTION

The Council of the City of Sydney ("Council") invites Expressions of Interest from members of the public to represent the community on the City Farm Advisory Group in accordance with this request.

The City Farm Advisory Group will provide advice and direction for the development and management of the proposed City Farm. A total of four community representatives are required for an initial term of three (3) years.

Respondents must submit Expressions of Interest in the manner required by this document.

BACKGROUND

City farms are large demonstration sites designed to educate residents, businesses, schools and visitors about sustainable living in an interactive setting. While city farms can vary considerably they normally include:

- Demonstration gardens and orchards;
- Space for community arts and events;
- Educational facilities and displays about sustainable living;
- Communal composting facilities;
- Food outlets such as farmers markets and cafes selling organic produce;
- Animals such as chickens and ducks; and,
- Community management.

Central Sydney is one of the few Australian cities that do not have a city farm or a similar large scale demonstration project to showcase sustainability initiatives.

In November 2009, Council endorsed the principle of establishing a city farm in the City's local government area and commissioned a feasibility study to investigate models and potential sites.

The City engaged Clouston Associates to lead a team of consultants including social and economic planners, an urban ecologist, a community engagement specialist and a water sensitive urban design specialist to prepare the City Farm Feasibility Study.

The City Farm Feasibility Study outlines the key components required for a city farm including different management models and site evaluation, as well as some indicative costs for a phased implementation strategy over a five year period.

The City Farm Feasibility Study recommends an articulated model of management using a combination of Sydney Park in St Peters and the PowerHouse Museum carpark in Ultimo

The two sites provide a synergy of open space and support facilities through the use of the council depot, toilets, playground, café and recycled water at Sydney Park, and unique access to existing educational programs at the Powerhouse Museum.

The City Farm Feasibility Study is available on the City's website and may be viewed at:

http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council/documents/meetings/2011/Committee/Environment/311011/111031_EHC_ITEM02_ATTACHMENTS.PDF

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The City Farm Feasibility Study was publicly exhibited for community comment in early 2011. The response has been very good with approximately 90% of respondents in favour of a city farm at the two proposed locations.

On 7 November 2011 the Council endorsed the Sydney City Farm Feasibility Study and resolved that:

- A. a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Powerhouse Museum be produced to jointly fund and develop the project;
- B. a project manager be employed by the City to produce a business plan and project master plan that will be reported to Council for approval;
- C. a Sydney City Farm Advisory Group be set up to oversee the development of the project and that this be made up of two representatives each from the City and Powerhouse Museum and a total of four community representatives; and,
- D. an expression of interest be circulated to select community representatives for the Sydney City Farm Advisory Group.

A copy of the Council report and resolution are available on the City's website and can be viewed at:

http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council/documents/meetings/2011/Committee/Environment/311011/111031_EHC_ITEM02.pdf

PROJECT DELIVERY

The City Farm will be developed as a high quality community education and innovation centre through collaboration with partners, community organisations, the PowerHouse Museum and the City of Sydney.

The City will appoint a project manager who will be responsible for the development and delivery of a business plan, design master plan, site investigations and a development application for the City Farm.

The project manager will be guided by advice and input from the City Farm Advisory Group.

CITY FARM ADVISORY GROUP

The City Farm Advisory Group will comprise of two representatives each from the City of Sydney and the PowerHouse Museum, with an additional four community representatives to oversee the development of the project.

The Advisory Group will guide and review the development and implementation of the City Farm. This will include reviewing and providing input into the preparation of the business plan, and the design brief for the project master plan before they are submitted to Council for endorsement.

Community participation will be integral to the development of the City Farm both in its planning and construction phase as well as in its later operation and management. This is particularly important as the city farm is proposed to be moved to full community management over a period of 5-10 years.

The City Farm Advisory Group will be required to engage with the City's values of collaboration, integrity, courage, quality, innovation and respect in the delivery of the project.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Applications to become a community representative are open to residents living both within and outside of the local government area of the City of Sydney. The City will be looking for a mix of local resident and park user experience from community representatives.

The skills and experience that would be of benefit to the City Farm Advisory Group could include:

- Previous experience in engaging and working with community groups in developing new community facilities;
- Capability to represent relevant community interest in the City Farm project;
- Experience or working knowledge of the operation of a city farm, particularly community engagement and sustainability education;
- An ability to work collaboratively in decision making and to work effectively with the City Farm partners and stakeholders;
- An understanding of the importance of behavioral change in relation to sustainability education;
- Knowledge of the key components of sustainable urban development, urban agriculture and community food systems;
- Understanding of the role of city farms, community gardens and sustainability education centres in building communities;
- Basic understanding of social enterprise models of structuring not-for-profit enterprises or alternative structures such as incorporated association and small business.

COMMITMENT

The role of community representative is a voluntary position.

The commitment for a community representative on the City Farm Advisory Group would be for an initial three year period. This would include attendance at monthly meetings of around two hours with additional time required between meetings for correspondence and other communication as required. Meetings would be scheduled for times convenient for the majority of the members of the group taking into account other commitments such as family and work.

**SECTION 2
CITY FARM ADVISORY GROUP
CONDITIONS OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Name of Expression of Interest	City Farm Advisory Group – Community Representative
Closing Date	17 February 2012
Closing Time	5:00pm
Contact Person	<p>All enquiries relating to this expression of interest should be directed to the contact person as follows:</p> <p>Dave Brodie Park Services Manager Tel: 02 9265 9318 Email: dbrodie@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au</p>
Lodging an Expression of Interest	<p>Expressions of Interest must be lodged with Council by the closing date and time and in accordance with the conditions of Expressions of Interest by email or at the following address:</p> <p>Dave Brodie Level 12 Town Hall House 456 Kent Street SYDNEY NSW 2000</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Email: dbrodie@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au</p>
Assessment Criteria	<p>Expressions of interest will be examined and evaluated according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt of all information required in the document • Demonstrated relevant skills and ability. • Experience in managing or operating city farms, community gardens or community greening projects. • Experience and knowledge of sustainability education and urban agriculture. • Experience in engaging and working with community groups in developing new facilities. • Experience working in an advisory role similar to the City Farm Advisory Group. <p>The above criteria are not in order of priority and nor will they be given equal weight in evaluation.</p>

**SECTION 3
CITY FARM ADVISORY GROUP
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORMS**

The following form **must be completed** and returned as part of this Expression of Interest:

<i>Name of Respondent</i>	
<i>Subsidiary Organisation (if applicable)</i>	
<i>Address of Respondent</i>	
<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>email</i>

Please response to the following questions (maximum 1 page per question).

Please outline why you would like to be a community representative on the City Farm Advisory Group, and the skills and experience you would bring to the project?

Outline your experience in managing or operating city farms, community gardens or community greening projects.

Outline your experience and knowledge of sustainability education and urban agriculture.

Outline your experience in engaging and working with community groups in developing new facilities.

Outline your experience working in an advisory role similar to the City Farm Advisory Group.

Respondents must provide names, phone numbers and association of two references.

I having read, understood and fully informed myself of the contents, requirements and obligations of the expression of interest, submit this expression of interest for the performance by myself of City Farm Advisory Group for the Council of the City of Sydney.

Signature and Date _____