

Response given to the Sydney Morning Herald re artist in The Rocks

Response given to the Sydney Morning Herald on 4 August in response to questions about the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority's interaction with artist, Ms Jane Bennett, during the recent Aroma Festival:

The Authority fully supports and permits buskers and artists performing in its precincts however vending activities are prohibited.

For this purpose, the Authority recently established The Rocks Pop Up Project providing artists, designers and galleries to set up shop in temporarily vacant premises.

Prior to the Aroma Festival it was agreed by Ms Bennett and the Authority that if she wished to paint in another permitted location in The Rocks other than inside or outside her allocated Pop Up premises on 47 George Street, this could be arranged.

On the day however, Ms Bennett chose to paint from a location that had been previously allocated for performing artists during the Aroma Festival when she was approached by the Rangers and asked to move.

In the midst of one of The Rocks' largest outdoor events, the precinct management team offered Ms Bennett a number of alternative options to continue her work however the Authority's endeavours were rejected.