

BRACKS GOVERNMENT SAVES MELBOURNE ART TREASURE

The historic East Melbourne home of famed Melbourne artist and sculptor Ola Cohn has been saved by the Bracks Government.

Education and Training Minister Lynne Kosky today announced the Bracks Government would provide \$100,000 to the Centre for Adult Education (CAE), to restore the Ola Cohn Centre and ensure its continued use.

“Ola Cohn house is an extremely significant Melbourne landmark that has been used extensively, particularly by the Melbourne Society of Women Painters for more than 50 years,” Ms Kosky said.

“Many people would be familiar with The Fairy Tree carved by Ola Cohn in the Fitzroy Gardens, which was a gift to Melburnians.”

Ms Kosky said the CAE had intended to sell the Ola Cohn Centre to raise funds for much-needed capital works projects at its Degrales Street campus.

“With this \$100,000 funding from the Bracks Government, the Ola Cohn Centre will now continue as a significant workspace for women artists.

“We have listened to the people and this Government will continue to include the community in its decisions.”

Ms Kosky said Ola Cohn, who bequeathed her home to the Centre of Adult Education upon her death in 1964, was a significant figure in the cultural development of Victoria.

“Her Gipps Street home - a converted coach house - was a mecca for artists and sculptors from 1948 to 1964 and was just one of the legacies left by this extraordinary woman artist,” the Minister said.

Ms Cohn was born in Bendigo and had studied at the Royal College of Art in London. She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her services to art in 1965.

“This one-off funding is in addition to the \$7.5 million the CAE has received in ongoing funds this year and the additional funding of \$5.6 million the CAE received last year,” Ms Kosky said.

“The Bracks Government has committed record funding of \$36 million to the Adult and Community Education sector this year.

“The Adult and Community Education sector is crucial to the Bracks Government’s commitment to lifelong learning for all Victorians.”