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Kingston Art Precinct Functional Brief Study

Consultation Report

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Cultural Planning

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Introduction

The consultation program was designed to gather information from identified visual arts organisations and other arts and cultural organisations, individuals and institutions as well as relevant representatives from ACT Government. The purpose was to confirm spatial requirements, consider opportunities for co-working and shared facilities and other opportunities and issues around the use of existing and new purpose built arts facilities and open space at the Kingston Arts Precinct.

The intention underlying the program was to use the consultations in association with other research to develop a strategic response to inform functional briefs and colocation opportunities for arts facilities, consider adaptive reuse of parts of the Former Transport Depot and explore the potential for regular use of the Fitters Workshop for arts and cultural uses. Aspects of the consultation process have also contributed to consideration of feasibility and management model considerations.

The consultation process was designed to inform and consult stakeholders as well as selected organisations relevant to the study. The views, issues and interests of stakeholders has contributed positively to the refinement of the future of the precinct.

Aims

The rationale for the consultation was based on the need to:

1. Inform functional requirements - components, scale and inter-relationships.
2. Document potential tenants and others views, issues and interests to contribute positively to the development of spatial requirements.
3. Consider and advise on requirements for new purpose built facilities and adaptive reuse of existing buildings.
4. Test information gathered in the 2011 Kingston Arts Precinct Strategy to identify changes in attitude and strategy relevant to the current study.

Objectives

The focus of the consultations was on informing and involving stakeholders. To fulfil the requirements of the brief the consultant in consultation with other team members identified that the project must:

- Be informed by a sound, sequential methodology and understanding of current and past policy and planning as well as other factors that will impact on the development of the strategy.
- Undertake a limited consultation process, which will provide a range of opportunities for participation.
- Provide clear information about the issues and challenges to all stakeholders.
- Capture the collective wisdom.
- Draw out and highlight common goals and aspirations.
- Identify the potential for future collaboration.
- Contribute to an understanding of the current realities and functioning of the arts and cultural sector in the ACT.
- Develop an understanding of the values, aspirations, concerns and interests of key arts sector, creative industry, cultural institution and government stakeholders that will inform and strengthen the study outcomes.

Methodology

Consultation activities have included:

- Briefing meetings with artsACT representatives.
- 1: 1 consultation with other relevant ACT government agencies.

- 1:1 interviews with identified key ACT visual arts organisations, existing tenants at the site.
- 1:1 interviews with other organisations and individuals who were recommended in consultations and others whom the consultant considered may contribute to the dynamism of the precinct. A survey was used to guide the interviews.
- Issuing of two surveys to key visual arts organisations and a range of other potential tenants. The Background Survey was developed to help quantify aspects of each organisations operations as well as current and future spatial requirements^{1,2}.
- Further consultation has been undertaken with key arts organisations and others to test the functional brief for the precinct as a whole as well as for each organisations prior to finalising the report.
- Members of the design team and artsACT attended a Kingston Foreshore Stakeholder Meeting organised by the LDA.
- Phone discussions with a representative of the Kingston Barton Residents Group.

Communications

Communication activities have included telephone and email contact with key arts/cultural and government stakeholders.

¹ Copies of the Background Survey and Interview Questions documents issued to Key Arts Organisations are attached at the end of this REPORT.

² Detailed information gathered from the Background Survey has been provided under separate cover to the consultant team and Arts ACT.

Consultations

Government Interviews

The consultant conducted a consultative meeting with arts ACT staff and met with other ACT Government agencies as well as representatives of several national cultural institutions.

The range of issues which were considered and discussed at meetings and interviews is summarised as follows:

- The Kingston Arts Precinct has been identified by artsACT as an active arts precinct and thriving destination. It is anticipated that key visual arts organisations located within the precinct will be augmented by other arts and cultural entities and institutions to strengthen the precinct's identity as a key centre for production and presentation for the Canberra community and visitors.
- The relocation of organisations has real potential to build synergies and foster collaborative activity and programs both locally and with national cultural institutions.
- There is some concern that not all organisations are at the right stage for relocation. Organisations need to recognise and understand that by relocating there will be a higher profile and greater demands on their operational activities.
- Organisations will need to think through a range of things in relocating including new operational arrangements, staffing and branding. Organisations will need to be prepared and expect to need more staff, more activity and greater engagement with the public and other arts organisations and cultural institutions. The organisations will need to be mindful and if the market for their product changes through relocation, the organisations will need to be able to be strategic, adaptive and flexible to maintain communities of interest alongside organisational viability and versatility.
- Desire to see a balance between the heritage values of the site and the design of new buildings to be complementary and not restrictive of contemporary design and architectural solutions.
- A key expectation is to ensure that the experience of a visit to the precinct means that visitors will see the arts and production of the arts in action; be able to experience diverse arts and cultural experiences; and be inspired to undertake return visits.
- Anticipate that there could be some issues with neighbours around noise, car parking and movements between the arts precinct and the wider foreshore. It was suggested that there will be a strong push therefore from neighbours to contain and restrict art making impacts from noise, smells and activity.
- Active communications between the arts precinct, its tenants and the wider foreshore was seen as critical to deal neighbour concerns and issues.
- There was some concern that the wider foreshore ambience which was seen as lacking diversity and character could influence the design of new buildings within the precinct and detract from the industrial, active ambience of the precinct. Some staff expressed the desire to see 'a Canberra feel and look' and that the precinct looks and feels open and accessible for visitors.
- There is concern to ensure that future design helps orientate visitors and feels open and welcoming and that it is clear where entry points into the precinct and into arts facilities way-finding and orientation. The existing entry of the Belconnen Arts Centre was identified as an example of what not to do while the New Acton precinct was cited as a model where new and old buildings blend but that importantly, there is curation of activity in the precinct.
- There is attention and investment underway in ACT Government in the digital economy, design and innovation arena with specific initiatives underway within Civic. There is keen interest in facilitating links between entrepreneurial creators and innovators with the wider creative design and arts sectors to strengthen and diversify the ACT economy whilst improving the viability of arts based organisations.
- Several cultural institutions have identified interest in being part of a less institutional setting for presenting some of their activities and resources. A cultural institution resource/technology hub with digital connectivity which draws on both local and national cultural institution capabilities and resources is seen as a great opportunity to diversify the types of audiences and experiences to be offered in the arts precinct.

- The National Archives is interested bringing the history of the site alive for residents, commercial operators, proposed arts organisations and visitors. This could be through contributing to place making public art and events and in developing curated exhibitions of photographs and other material from the Archives collection, curated by the artists living and working in the precinct and broader Canberra region. The National Archives is also keen to work with the key arts organisations to be relocated as well as other local and national cultural institutions within the site.
- CIT has identified a strong interest in establishing a fashion incubator in the precinct. The incubator is seen as having multiple benefits by creating the opportunity to strengthen the link between education and business for young designers as well as contributing to and being part of a diverse arts precinct environment.
- CIT anticipates that there would be interest by incubator tenants in shared access for exhibition, studio and meeting room spaces, a commercial shop, music studio and technology rooms.

Kingston Stakeholder Meeting

Members of the team including the consultation consultant attended a meeting of the Land Development Agency's Kingston Stakeholder Group on the 3 July 2014. An overview of the arts precinct was presented to those in attendance. It is noted that this meeting was not representative of all potential stakeholders. While artsACT and two representatives of the team were in attendance, the meeting arrangements were managed through the LDA. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the Glassworks, Old Bus Depot Markets however the majority of attendees were local developers and some business owners. The primary issue identified by those attending the meeting was associated with parking and traffic movements and opportunities for residential development.

Key Arts Organisations, Arts and Cultural Groups Interviews

Individual interviews with representatives from 16 arts/cultural organisations were conducted including existing tenants: the Canberra Glassworks, Megalo Print Studio + Gallery, and Old Bus Depot Markets; the key visual arts organisations included Craft ACT, PhotoAccess and Canberra Contemporary Art Space and ACT Potters Society.

A range of others considered to be relevant to the study including Gallery of Australian Design, Art Sound FM; Screen ACT, Academy of Interactive Technology, MakeHackVoid and Zierholtz Brewery.

There were also discussions with the Canberra Photographic Society, Skoolbo, Entry 29, Lighthouse Innovation Centre, Canberra Brickworks as well as individual artists interested in sessional gallery access.

The following information is drawn from responses to the interview questions used across the consultation process.

Attitudes to the Precinct

Three years ago there were mixed responses to the concept of the arts precinct. While the Glassworks and Megalo were enthusiastic, other organisations were more cautious and unsure. Most appreciated that there are benefits to arts organisations being collocated but on the other hand were concerned about what the upheaval and uncertainty of relocating may mean. There was considerable interest to see issues associated with governance and resourcing further analysed to determine the impacts and opportunities associated with further development of the precinct.

During the process of the current study there has been a notable shift in position by many of the organisations. Most of the organisations are operating in excess government property with the inherent adverse impacts associated with building, location, image, access, lack of space, WH&S, cost burden, outdated civil and technology infrastructure and over three years there is a clearer desire to be collocated with other similar organisations in purpose built facilities. There is clearly greater optimism about the

anticipated benefits that the arts precinct will bring. There are also new players interested in being part of the precinct and benefiting and contributing to the precinct.

Testing the Vision

The vision³ established in 2011 was retested during the interviews. Across the consultations there was agreement that the vision was still applicable and relevant and that the statement provided something to work toward, that it offered inspiration and was a selling point for the ongoing development of the precinct and for the arts organisation intending to be in the precinct. .

Other comments regarding the vision related to ensuring that the precinct is accessible, that it is a multi-use locality, that there are two-way, interactive experiences and that the precinct attracts 'non-arts' people and provides quality experiences for visitors. It was also noted that there needs to be recognition of the role of digital technology on art making and presentation as well as visitor access.

Potential Benefits

Commonly participants expect there will be enhanced opportunities for synergies, collaboration and cross-pollination amongst the key arts organisations and with other compatible arts, design and creative activities and businesses. For most organisations, there is anticipation that the relocation provides the opportunity to expand, grow and diversify programs and services. Across the discussions participants anticipated an improvement in the quality of building in which to operate and deliver services.

All participants anticipate that being in a highly visible location will lead to higher public exposure, greater profile and be able to improve their brand recognition. Organisations hope that in being located in a life style precinct with improved facilities and amenities that their organisations will be recognised for providing high quality arts and cultural services. Relocating into the arts precinct is also expected to improve access to a wider and more diverse audience of Canberra residents and visitors.

Participants anticipated that accessibility will also be improved by being close to public and private transport while some organisations anticipated being able to upgrade equipment and other resources as part of the relocation.

Proximity to National Cultural Institutions

The proximity to national cultural institutions is seen as having two-way benefits for all the tenant arts organisations within the precinct and the national cultural institutions both for program development as well as improving accessibility for visitors and facilitating visitor movements between national and local arts and cultural experiences.

Potential Issues

Anticipated issues were commonly associated with relocation included the cost of moving, the impact of disruption to the organisations and their services and the subsequent effect on members and programs during the period of relocation.

Other comments included consideration of:

- the need for governance arrangements to be established prior to relocation to facilitate and manage issues and to resolve areas of potential conflict
- tenants/hirers having varying levels of resources and experience in interacting with the public over extended hours of operations
- how to retain a distinctive identity amongst other similar arts experiences activities

³ The Kingston Arts Precinct is dynamic, inspirational, energetic: it's a place where artists, cultural organisations and creative businesses make, teach, exhibit, perform and sell their work.

- the importance of street frontage for sales / presentation for some organisations
- resolving competition for high value, high visibility sites within the precinct amongst tenants
- concern regarding potential for increased rental arrangements and perceived limited options for budget solutions to higher rental costs
- how to make upper building levels work successfully for tenants on those levels as well as ensure a quality experience for visitors
- the impact of progressive buildings works and relocation activities to not unduly impact on current activities and organisations

Engagement: Kingston Arts Precinct, the Foreshore and South Canberra

In thinking about the reactions of neighbours within the foreshore, participants generally expected the wider neighbourhood to be welcoming of arts and cultural organisations as the arts activities would be contributing and adding to the existing experience and characteristics of the foreshore as a lifestyle precinct.

Participants anticipated that there could and should be two way movement between the arts precinct and the wider Foreshore especially the commercial and personal services such as commercial offices, cafes, bars and restaurants and hair and beauty services and that both areas will benefit from visitors looking for destination experiences. On this basis many consulted noted that it will be critical to ensure that there are visible, logical pedestrian and cycle movement pathways within and through the arts precinct that facilitate connects with the wider foreshore as well as Barton and the national cultural institutions.

The Glassworks having been within the precinct for some time suggested that neighbours haven't really thought about what it means to be within or in close proximity to an arts precinct and the attendant hours of operation and on that basis, it could be anticipated that some neighbours will be concerned about multiple matters including noise, increased night lighting and increased pedestrian and traffic movements. While some arts organisations in particular recognise the potential mutual benefits of collocation of the arts precinct with the wider Foreshore for the night time economy, it can be anticipated that the understanding of, and opportunities for strengthening visitation between the cafes and restaurants with the arts precinct can be expected to be developmental and require concerted outreach through representatives of the precinct management team and each arts organisation.

Issues for successful development

Participants were asked to nominate key issues to be addressed for the successful development of the arts precinct. The following summarises the key points made:

- input by arts organisations at detailed design stage into spatial arrangements and facility requirements
- concern that development may take too long to and the arts precinct misses out on the momentum generated by the development of the wider foreshore
- ensuring there is adequate public transport infrastructure
- rationalising traffic movement and ensuring there is sufficient parking
- loading / back of house arrangements
- facilitating pedestrian and cycle movements
- being able to engage with new audiences
- achieving street frontage/high visibility for art retail and exhibition/presentation activities

Barriers to Cooperation and Cohesion

Largely those consulted anticipated that issues would be minimal and most noted that they were looking forward to relocating and being exposed to other art forms and opportunities for audience development.

Cohesion was seen as being vital to the success of the precinct. It was agreed that while peers are competitors, if the organisations work together then it was anticipated that there would be mutual benefits for all.

Building Design and Development

Across the interviews there was agreement that while the future designs of buildings should engage with the industrial character, that new buildings should be modern and contemporary structures using modern materials. *"It's important to value the heritage but the precinct needs clever, contemporary design"*.

There was a call for simplicity of design, defining entry and arrival and having active uses at ground floor that are highly visible from Wentworth Avenue and other entry points around the precinct. The location of tenants and differentiation between different types of activities within the precinct was noted as a key aspect for successful realisation of the precinct.

Interviewees were concerned to that uncertainty in decision making about where to go is minimised. In this context and as previously noted, the importance planning and provision of pedestrian and cycle connectivity into and within the precinct and with the wider Foreshore was seen as an essential part of the arts precinct's future. *"Entry needs to be porous... the place needs to be vibrant morning, noon and night... linkages are critical"*. Wentworth Avenue was noted as a barrier to access and entry and that it is currently unclear how to get into the precinct.

There was also concern about the distance between parking facilities and active uses including the arts precinct and the cafes and restaurants along the waterfront and that the empty and under-utilised spaces encourages a sense of inertia and lack of reason for being in the precinct. Good quality, contemporary designed and effective signage was also noted as essential to the aesthetic qualities and characteristics of the precinct alongside functionality and way-finding.

Another clear issue in thinking about building design and the surrounding landscape was linked to personal and public safety. It was regarded as important to consider the integration of the arts precinct with the wider foreshore and to foster pedestrian cycle movement by day, night and weekend. This included consideration of lighting and good views into and out of the precinct. Specific comments to consider with regard to design and location of buildings included:

- suitable wall heights in exhibition spaces
- studio spaces need to be simple spaces with large doors and natural light,
- having sound separation between different types of tenants within the precinct and with neighbours
- climate control
- having access to a shared commercial kitchen for tenants
- effective waste management
- the need to discriminate between essential storage for day to day operations in close proximity to tenants and storage for less frequently used resources.
- a willingness by some to consider options for shared storage space
- ensure the safety of staff and artists housed on site as artists in residency especially with regard to out of hours operations
- the need for good quality urban green space including outdoor seating and use of public environments for large scale precinct wide events
- provision of outdoor informal meeting and gathering space to foster social engagement and provide a sense of the whole precinct
- the need to make it obvious where to meet people
- maximise winter sun

- industrial lift for activities on upper levels for movement of goods and waste
- suitable truck delivery / loading zone arrangements that don't impact detrimentally on daytime operations

The Glassworks representatives noted that there are some outstanding building issues that need to be resolved for improved functionality in the Powerhouse. These related to improvements to offices, the foyer, resident artist workshop/studio spaces, the establishment of a library and cleaning materials storage. The Glassworks also noted that there are unintentional conflicts arise between its functions and that of Brodburger due to limited storage, waste management and deliveries which need to be resolved.

The Glassworks is also interested in maintaining/creating space suitable for large scale sculptural elements within the precinct and noted that there is also interest in the walls of the Glassworks being used for projections.

Externally a number of issues were noted including the need for bicycle storage, improvements to pick-up drop-off for visiting artists, loading zone and service vehicle access. The Glassworks drew attention to the need to strengthen the concrete apron around the building in order to carry the weights of maintenance vehicle including vehicles needing to undertake external building repairs to the roof.

Megalo advised of the need for artist/delivery drop off/pick up off Wentworth Avenue and is seeking space to establish studios for visiting artists.

Art Sound FM was concerned to ensure that in relocating into the precinct that their microwave link with Black Mountain and Poppet Hill were not disrupted. It was also critical for Art Sound that building design minimised vibration and that there was stringent sound isolation.

A boutique brewer is interested in being located within the arts precinct. It was noted that at detailed design stage consideration needs to be given to a separation between brewing and pub functions. Specific items noted included the need to account for brewery waste and having suitable drainage arrangements. It was noted that some aspects of waste could be underground. It was also noted that restaurants need access to three phase power, gas supplies as well as industrial scale grease and clay traps.

Spatial Limitations and Competing Priorities

Participants were asked to consider the spatial priorities for new buildings. Most interviewees indicated support for shared facilities including kitchen/lunchrooms, amenities, a range of meeting room spaces as well as multi-use, hard wearing workshop spaces. There was concern to ensure that in sharing meeting room spaces that there was recognition of the high frequency of meetings held by each organisation and that this could be a future cause of conflict if there was insufficient allowance for this in the allocation of spaces for meeting rooms.

Functionality between gallery, administration and back of house functions was particularly important to visual arts presenters.

A number of interviewees questioned the value of multiple small shops as part of the development and on testing this further there was conditional support for the concept of one primary shop outlet for high quality products. There was agreement that such a shop should be in a high pedestrian, central location with high visibility to encourage patronage. Participants were clear that the current small shop outlets across individual arts organisations were not effective and that particularly for organisations with a focus on creative and artistic production, commercialisation and shop arrangements did not have strong skill sets for retailing. It was further noted that for a single high quality shop to work, there will need to be suitable arrangements and agreements between arts organisations with shop management to ensure that income from sales continue to contribute to the income streams of respective organisations. It was also suggested that there needs to be consideration if the shop would be limited to Capital Region artists or

was open to national and international arts product. This is particularly relevant for some of the Key Visual Arts Organisations who present and sell works by artists from around the country as well works by international artists.

A number of interviewees commented that having multiple workshop spaces will be useful not just for tenants but for other organisations and community groups.

History and Heritage

Members of the consultant team wanted to understand the views of existing and future tenants had with regard to the heritage listed items (the Powerhouse, the steel rafters in the Former Transport Depot and the Fitters Workshop) within the arts precinct. In particular there was interest to understand what it is about the buildings that makes them significant and how they contribute to the character of the precinct.

Generally there were positive values and characteristics identified with regard to the heritage listed items. The Powerhouse and the Fitters Workshops were valued as some of the oldest industrial buildings in Canberra. The buildings are recognised as having been places of significant employment for the emerging Australian capital, of being an enduring reminder of the city's early developments and in particular helping to define the character of the precinct.

It was noted that the buildings are landmark buildings in their own right, are highly visible and have provided a sense of scale and durability over time. *"They provide a grounding for the precinct, are visually appealing, were purposeful buildings for Kingston and Canberra."*

There was however an alternate view that as a new city, Canberrans struggle with the sense of identity and look for symbols that provide a sense of longevity and that this is a key aspect of the value of the buildings to the community at large.

While the old buildings may contribute to the aesthetic, some felt that there is a clear need for new life and energy and a new legacy to be developed for the buildings and the precinct. The Fitters Workshop was described as being the most appealing building being *"pretty inside and out"*.

With regard to the Former Transport Depot it was noted that the multiple entry points into this building would facilitate a diversity of uses and is strongly identified with the Old Bus Depot Markets. .

Benefits of the heritage items included that:

- they provide a sense of history and exemplifies early Canberra
- the buildings convey a sense of purpose, strength and grounding for the precinct
- they are purposeful, inspiring buildings
- help to build stories of place
- provide the background on which to tell stories about the supply of electricity and early government services such as public transport, ambulance as well as the early development of Canberra
- can inform future programming comparing old and new technologies
- the re-purposing of old buildings
- providing an industrial feel associated with making and production

Opportunities for Active Uses in Existing Facilities

The consultant team was keen to identify potential opportunities that could activate the Former Transport Depot outside OBDM market activities on Sundays as well as increase arts patronage and creative uses of the Fitters Workshop.

Former Transport Depot

Generally participants found it difficult to think about week day / Saturday uses when initially discussing the large spaces however there were some suggestions as follows:

- educational activities
- CIT events and presentations
- film/video makers
- acrobatic and youth based performances and workshops
- Life of Machines type of events (i.e. like myth busters show)
- autonomous vehicle workshops and exhibitions including setting up a course to exhibit the machines and their capabilities
- mini maker fairs
- alternate music venue for the Canberra Music Club was possible particularly on the northern ends of the building
- a flexible space for some library functions such as giggle and wiggle, a place to view international conferences and public forums; a 3D demonstration space
- roller blading event
- a biennale space like Cockatoo Island in Sydney
- temporary festival site – the island of art
- Seniors Week activities
- food markets

It was noted that if activities go in to the halls they need to be of a scale to have impact and provide a meaningful experience. There was concern to ensure that activities are curated to suit the precinct. There were a number of comments on the existing markets being predictable and the need for other market opportunities including night markets and other cultural/creative/design based market initiatives and that the halls would be ideal for fostering more diverse market activities and in the process encouraging each market including the Old Bus Depot Markets to be successful.

There were also suggestions for use of the halls for fashion parade style activities although CIT noted that while the venue has created a successful ambience for some of their end of year fashion events, the uneven surfaces of the floors meant that there were heightened occupational health and safety issues, especially in the evening with performance lighting. It was further noted that for conferences and forums to be held in and around the precinct and in particular within the venue that there would need to be modernising of amenities and electrical supply.

People were also asked to think about some of the existing spaces with limited or no use within the Former Transport Depot. There was considerable interest in a space that is located on an upper level in the south-east corner of the building for either small creative business, co-working office or artist studio spaces. Other suggestions included:

- pocket sized gallery space – especially if commercial space ground floor spaces available
- precinct management office
- studio access for Megalo
- arts businesses like arts marketing, legal, design studios, boutique printers
- jazz loft or folk club (northern end of the building)
- Intimate theatre/music spaces (northern end of building)
- meeting room space/s

It was recognised that the selection of activities would need to limit noise and light spill for immediate residential neighbours to the south of the building in considering alternate uses of the halls. There is also concern to ensure that there is adequate shade, shelter, seating and a good café.

While many noted that scale was a problem for using the buildings, some felt that once people are working in the precinct that it will be the scale of the spaces that people will find attractive to create unique types of work to suit the spaces.

[Fitters Workshop](#)

There was support for retaining the space as a multi-purpose space although there was concern that it would be used for non-arts activities such as carpet sales, parties or weddings which were seen as impacting negatively on the key marketing messages for the arts precinct. There was concern to ensure that the space was branded to attract creative uses, partners and sponsors and not just treated as an empty space for hire.

While a small number of organisations rejected use of the space for exhibition, most were keen to be able to use the space for temporary exhibition/presentation activities and were able to identify a variety of suggestions for use of the facility by multiple users. Reasons for rejecting the space for exhibition indicated amount of time to set up in a multi-use space and that the venue was not set up as an exhibition space.

The operators of the Old Bus Depot Markets commented on the positive experience of stall holders located temporarily in the space while there were maintenance works underway in the depot spaces during 2013 – 14 and believed that as people get to know about the space that it will become a popular venue for a diverse range of creative based activities. Other suggestions included:

- fund raising events
- experimental installations
- image and sound installations
- experimental theatre
- film/video projects
- public art workshop space (for visiting commissioned artist)
- teaching and learning of cinema (for experimental arts practitioners)
- presentation and broadcast of certain classical/chamber music concerts
- book and CD fairs
- concerts linked to a radiothon
- night markets
- a workshop space for development of arts/robotics objects for a weekend event

[Other Opportunities within KAP](#)

The consultant team was keen to draw on the knowledge that those interviewed have of the arts and cultural sector in Canberra and how other activities can add to the viability of the precinct.

There were a range of suggestions provided from participants. Many suggestions overlapped with ideas already made with regard to stimulating uses and activities in existing buildings within the precinct. While there was some support for commercial activity there was also concern that in attracting commercial operators that such tenants identified a desire to be part of the arts precinct and once in place, do not seek to impact negatively on the activities of the arts organisations.

There was considerable interest in the opportunity for offering a more diverse hospitality experience within the precinct whilst also ensuring links to the harbour-side restaurant/café are. Other ideas and suggestions included:

- Pop-up arts/cultural maker/presenter spaces
- Boutique commercial businesses (design, marketing, communications, speciality retailing)
- Micro art businesses
- Furniture maker exhibitions and workshops
- Shared exhibition space for non- tenants
- Have a curated program of events for the precinct
- Attract commercial galleries
- Craft and design, photographic, music, literature
- Local concerts and broadcast activities
- Commercial offices with an interest in arts, engagement or philanthropy
- Non-government cultural entities and activities from embassies or consulates
- Embrace and present other arts not just KAP tenants and think about programs that interest residents in the Foreshore
- Have public access workshop spaces
- Digital art,
- Digital learning hub linked to cultural collecting institutions
- Help people to learn/interact and foster life-long learning and engagement
- Fashfest
- Provide business mentoring for emerging arts businesses
- GovHack weekend jam sessions
- Global game jams
- Increase hospitality offering – such as cheese making weekend or truffle festival
- Boutique bakery
- Foster a slow food group
- Encourage youth and community activity
- Have community gardens to use waste generated on site

Testing the Functional Brief

A meeting of the key visual arts organisations was held on Thursday 28 August to present the draft functional brief for the precinct as a whole and for individual organisations in particular. Overall organisations expressed satisfaction with the draft functional brief presented at the meeting. Each organisation undertook to review the draft functional brief and update/amend their spatial requirements within two weeks of the meeting. While there was some concern about the potential to lose identity overall there was support for the approach taken by the architect in allocating spaces and activities across the precinct.

Further meetings will be held with other organisations and entities into the future to test and refine the functional brief.

Kingston Barton Residents Group

The consultant had two phone discussions and email interaction with a representative of the group during the course of the study. During the preliminary discussion, the role of the study and the range of consultants engaged for the current study were discussed and clarified. On each occasion, the representative was made it clear there is a very strong interest and support for the arts precinct development within the Foreshore. The Group will host a presentation about the arts precinct at its AGM

in November 2014. The resident action is group is keen to be involved in any future consultation activities.

Conclusions

Over time, the level of interest has strengthened and there is strong support for the ongoing development of the precinct across the arts and cultural sectors. With changes in the creative and design sectors in Canberra in recent years including an increasing number of young professionals choosing to stay and develop their practice and business in Canberra, emerging organisations and creative entrepreneurial entities have expressed interest in being an integral part of the evolution of the arts precinct.

The vision established three years ago supports this evolution and is seen as providing a sound base for the precinct being a place which fosters the arts and builds audiences and markets has been confirmed in this process.

Participants recognise the need for exploration of new forms of management and in that context expect the need for an arts precinct management entity. There is an expectation that this entity will need to work with tenants to build a welcoming environment and to facilitate movement and interaction within and between the arts precinct and the wider foreshore.

It is recognised that traffic and parking could cause conflict both within the precinct and with surrounding residential and commercial activity and that these matters need sound analysis and practical solutions for the viability of the Foreshore as a whole.

Member based organisations have ongoing concerns about the impact of relocation on their ability to provides services to their members.

Arts Precinct Considerations

During the course of the consultations, the desire for hire of the Fitters Workshop in the near future was evident in talking with some visual arts organisations, individual artists and several creative industry businesses including Skoolbo which were referred to arts ACT. It is critical to build the brand of the Fitters Workshop as an art space for hire as soon as practicable to demonstrate the level of interest and the diversity of arts and creative activity that is suitable for the venue whilst the precinct develops.

There continues to be support for the Old Bus Depot Markets to remain on site and recognition of the role they play is drawing Canberrans and visitors to the precinct on a weekly basis. As the arts precinct develops, there is a perception that the markets will need to evolve and to think about re-branding. As noted in the report, there is potential for new and diverse activities that need to be tested for functionality and viability and to help potential hirers to recognise the potential of the spaces of the Former Transport Depot.

Participants are very enthusiastic about the potential of working across disciplines to enrich the creative process and the experience for visitors. The recent collaboration *Glint* between the Glassworks and Megalo was seen as the beginning of such opportunities for individual artists and the key arts organisations to engage with one another and to exchange ideas.

Again, the sharing of resources and facilities and facility management were seen as key for making efficiencies, managing for change and evolution, limiting reasons for conflict as well as leading to strengthening the creative processes of respective member and service organisations.

During the consultative processes the emergence of **three clear strands of creative activity to be housed within the precinct was consolidated to include:**

- a. **creative producers and presenters building on the base of key visual arts organisations;**

- b. **a cultural knowledge hub to accommodate local and national cultural knowledge institutions with a focus on public access for research, library, lending and presentation; and**
- c. **creative industries embracing screen production, TV, animation and gaming technology, radio, fashion and other design media.**

Creative Producers and Presenters

The key visual arts organisations are anticipated as being a primary component of the development of precinct augmented by other organisations including Art Sound FM and the Gallery of Australian Design which identified keen interest in the potential relocation to the precinct.

The Canberra Potters Society is interested in having a presence at the precinct however at this stage anticipates keeping its facilities at Watson. The Canberra Photographic Society is very keen to relocate out of the Griffin Centre and to be collocated into the precinct preferably close to PhotoAccess. To be located into the precinct, the Society is interested in a multi-purpose space that can operate for meetings, exhibition, classes and storage. They noted that the current arrangements limit their capacity to grow and develop activities and services for their members. MakeHackVoid is potentially interested in gaining sessional access to large scale venues such as the halls of the Former Transport Depot as well as the Fitters Workshop for large scale autonomous vehicle (arts/robotics) events and activities.

Cultural Knowledge Hub

The key to the cultural knowledge hub is about bringing together components of a local and several national collecting cultural institutions to facilitate public access and strengthen and diversify the range of arts and cultural experience within the precinct. These entities are interested in a visitor access facility in a vibrant urban environment with capacity for print and audio-visual and multimedia resources and library as well as access to exhibition and function spaces open to the public. Being collocated with each other and as part of the arts precinct would strengthen the viability of the precinct whilst delivering new and varied audiences to each of the institutions.

Each is keen to be engaged in and support the ongoing development and evolution of the Kingston Arts Precinct. The consultations with national and local cultural knowledge institutions demonstrates that there is interest from the wider cultural sector for being part of a vibrant and dynamic creative hub and each sees value in building synergies with the creators, presenters and producers that will also be located within the precinct for their own services and how they approach the wider public. The addition of cultural institutions compounds the opportunities and extends and diversifies the reasons for people working, visiting and participating in the arts and cultural life of the precinct.

Creative Industries

Locating viable creative industries within and around the precinct such as design studios, animation and screen production, fashion, music, radio and new media is vital to support the precinct economy, contribute to a dynamic marketplace and offer wider cultural, social and community benefits.

Creative industries are defined as those industries which produce tangible or intangible artistic and creative output, and which have a potential for income generation through the exploitation of cultural assets and the production of knowledge-based goods and services (both traditional and contemporary). Organisations such as Screen ACT have recently signed a three year arrangement with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment at Watson however they are interested in the development of the precinct and get approaches from other screen based entities looking for suitable venues.

Over the last four years Skoolbo has built the largest educational game ever made and have now expanded into numeracy, languages and healthy kids. Skoolbo started with a business grant from ACT Government and after launching the Australian version in February over 45% of Australian primary schools are now using the program. Skoolbo is now a successful international creative industry looking to extend its venture into TV content creation with a focus on language, literacy and numeracy. Skoolbo is interested in the potential of being able to hire suitable spaces on a sessional basis and would consider office accommodation in the future.

Entry 29 located in West Civic has excellent links to the local entrepreneurial sector and offered to provide business planning and advice to arts organisations in the precinct as it develops. The Lighthouse Innovation Centre has over 30 micro arts businesses' and individual artists on its books that noted that many of these would be interested in sessional meeting and gallery spaces. They offer virtual business incubator services and a micro credit loan system. They are working with a fashion incubator, have skills courses for market stall holders and are working with some crafts based businesses' to commercialise their products. The Lighthouse Innovation Centre is also interested in being able to direct some of their client bases to sessional meeting and workshop spaces as well as offer business development services.

The renewal and revitalisation currently underway in Braddon has shown the benefits of a mixed-use precinct where creative entrepreneurs add vitality, energy and commercialisation in the creative and design sectors. Once the majority of industrial property in Braddon has been redeveloped there are opportunities both for Gorman House but also the Kingston Arts Precinct to attract some of the pop-up and design businesses looking for alternate venues which provide interesting, mixed use creative environments with cheaper accommodation.

The location of creative industries within the precinct would bring entrepreneurial capability, strengthen the diversity of experience and contribute to the arts, social and financial sustainability within the precinct. Those consulted from the creative industries sector such as screen arts, fashion and digital arts and technology were very positive about the potential synergies between the visual arts and design with the digital design and creative media sectors.

ATTACHMENT 1: BACKGROUND SURVEY

Describing your Organisation

Please describe the purpose of your organisation, the nature of your work, the pattern of work (and any seasonality).

Where else (outside ACT) do you present/ sell your work?

How many full-time and part-time staff (and combined FTEs) do you have?

Including staff, casuals and volunteers, how many people on average are in your current premises, and what is the maximum number at any one time?

What are the limitations and the pros and cons of the spaces you use currently?

If you hire other facilities, what is your reason for hiring the facilities for e.g. accommodation, production, presentation, training, workshops, storage etc?

What is the cost for hiring off-site facilities to your organisation? Please advise as a cost per month or per event.

What is your total annual expenditure for all your accommodation requirements? \$_____

In relocating to the KAP, do you anticipate all your accommodation needs being met within the precinct or will you continue to use external facilities ? If no, please identify which external facilities you will continue to hire?

Would you be interested in sharing any of the following services?

Service Activity	likely	Quite Likely	Unlikely
Marketing			
Administration			
Financial administration			
Technical support/ production			
Maintenance			
Other (please specify)			

Facility Elements

What are your current accommodation arrangements? Some of the spatial elements below may be used for multiple functions.

Core Organisation Facility Elements	Current Spatial Capacity m²	Expectations for Growth / Status Quo. If growth please estimate m² and any special characteristics
Office /administration		
Front of house		
Training/workshop spaces,		
Exhibition/Presentation spaces		
Creative studios		
Shop/sales/show rooms		
Storage		
Festivals, events & functions		
Meeting rooms		
Waste		
Kitchen/lunch room		
Artist In Residency		
Other – please specify		

The following list is for consideration of facility items which could be shared. Please nominate those items your organisation would be interested in shared access. Where possible, please advise the potential frequency of access.

Common Facility Elements	Frequency (weekly, monthly yearly, etc)
Café/s – indoor/outdoor	
Training/workshop spaces	
Exhibition/Presentation spaces	
Creative studios	
Events, festivals, shows, functions	
Shop/sale/show room	
Open space - gatherings, events, festivals, launches, performances, exhibition	
Meeting (meeting, small scale conference, trade)	
Temporary Performance Space/s	
Arts or design incubator spaces (shared office/creative spaces)	
Artist in residency	
Storage	
Public amenities	
Transport, public, pedestrian movement, cycling and parking (staff/service/visitor)	
Staff kitchen/lunch facilities	
Commercial kitchen	
Waste	
Other – please specify	

MEETING ROOM DEMAND

We are seeking information about the demand for meeting room space/s as part of the future precinct to help us determine in broad terms the amount of space required for such activity. The following table provides a range of options for selecting the types of meetings, frequency, size and resources elements. **Please provide information relevant to your organisation and its needs for access to meeting spaces.**

Type of Meeting Room use	Frequency daily, weekly, monthly etc	Number of Attendees	Facilities/Resources required
Board Meeting			
Staff Meeting			
Individual/small group meeting /interview			
Business/Trade meeting			
Member meeting			
Workshop			
Training			
Conference			
Other			

Organisation: _____

Date: _____

THANK YOU

ATTACHMENT 2: KINGSTON ARTS PRECINCT INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Perceptions about Kingston Foreshore and the KAP

The team is keen to understand what your organisation's interest is in relocating to KAP.

- What will be the benefits in relocating to KAP for your organisation?
- Do you think there will be issues and problems for your organisation in relocating to the KAP?
- How do you think neighbours within the Foreshore will respond to the development and expansion of KAP?
- How do you see the KAP interacting with the wider Foreshore and East Lake developments?
- How would you expect that the KAP will relate to other arts related venues and precincts in a) Kingston/Barton/South Canberra; b) Civic/North Canberra including Gorman House, BAC, Potters etc?
- What issues need to be considered for successful development of KAP?
- Do you think there could be perceived barriers to cooperation and cohesion across potential tenants?



KAP Vision

The vision adopted for the KAP is:

“KAP is dynamic, inspirational, energetic: where artists, cultural organisations and creative businesses make, teach, exhibit, perform and sell their work.” Three years down the track, does this statement still resonate? *Please explain your reasoning*

History and Heritage

The team is keen to understand any views your organisation has on the heritage listed items within the KAP being the Powerhouse, the Former Transport Depot building and the Fitters Workshop. If you believe they are significant, we are keen to understand a) what it is about the buildings that makes them significant; and b) how do they contribute to the character of the precinct? *Please explain your views.*

Kingston Powerhouse	Former Transport Depot	Fitters Workshop

Building Uses, Design and Development

Three buildings are already in place and are housing: arts and cultural organisations and activity; providing space for markets; a venue for hire for arts, cultural and creative uses.

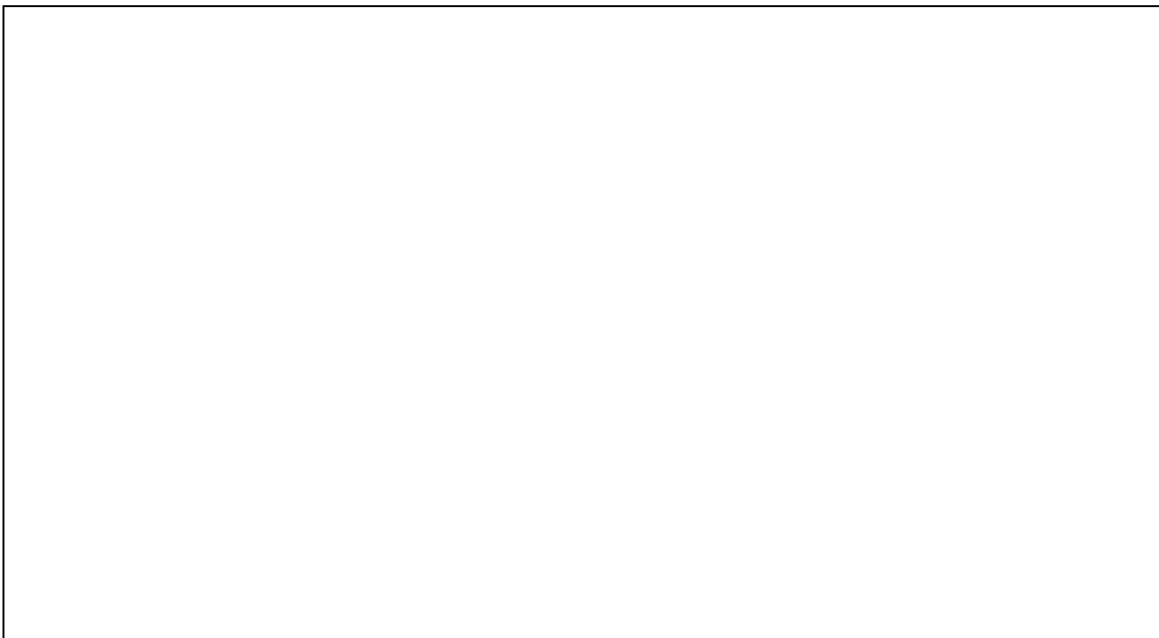
- The Former Transport Depot halls could be used outside OBDM market activities. What types of casual uses would you think might be suitable within the halls? Please nominate types of uses and where they would be suitable to be located?

- There are some spaces within the FTD that could be suitable for permanent arts or commercial activity. Can you suggest suitable types of activities?


- The Fitters Workshop is anticipated to be a space for casual hire by a diverse range of arts and creative activity. Will your organisation be interested in casual hire of the venue for some of your activities and if so, what types of activities would you wish to use the venue for?

Building Uses, Design and Development

- Thinking about the design of a new building and the location of the existing buildings what will be important building elements for your organisation?
- What should the architecture and urban design seek to portray as the character of KAP?
- Think proximity between KAP with the Foreshore, the Lake, Wentworth Avenue and proximity of a new building with the existing buildings.
- Think about visibility; need for quiet/reflective spaces; back of house functions; loading dock; waste management; etc
- Think about parking, cycle and pedestrian access, public transport.



- Considering potential spatial limitations, what should be the priorities for KAP regarding in housing arts and creative organisations?



Other Opportunities within KAP

We are interested in identifying what other types of arts, creative and business activity would contribute to creating a lively and sustainable arts precinct? Please consider the following questions.

- What will your organisation and its activities contribute to the KAP?
- How can others organisations contribute to the viability and sustainability of the precinct?
- Which types of organisations and creative organisations would you see as desirable for collocation with your organisation? e.g. arts advocacy orgs, screen arts, digital arts; music, literature etc?
- What types of commercial activities would be complementary and suitable for collocation within an arts facility? e.g. for commercial galleries, micro or pop-up arts and creative businesses, specialty food and drink; fashion and design, dance studio, tourism facilities; speciality retail; ; others?
- What are the pros and cons of being collocated with private/commercial

Organisation: _____

Date: _____

Thank You