



# CITY OF MELVILLE | CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Final - September 2022 - For Public Release

The City of Melville acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which the City stands today and pays its respects to Elders both past, present and emerging.

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*City of Melville, 2020*

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The City of Melville (the 'City') commissioned the Melville Cultural Infrastructure Strategy ('MCIS') to guide the capital works development of the City's cultural facilities and assets over the course of the next 20 years (2022 – 2042).

Cultural facilities, assets and spaces are defined as places that support the vibrancy and cultural life of our communities and built environments. These places include but are not limited to libraries, museums, galleries, performance spaces, artist studios, rehearsal and practice spaces, event spaces (indoor and outdoor) and music venues. They can also include places for cultural practice and community connection.

The MCIS has been developed to build upon the vision set out in Creative Melville 2018 – 2022, namely:

**Creative Melville is about realising the City's cultural potential, strengthening our collective identity and empowerment through learning, information and creativity.**

**The role of cultural infrastructure (and associated programming) is to help realise Melville's potential as a place for creative people and industry, and where people everywhere can explore their creativity.**

The MCIS is underpinned by the idea that culture, creativity and community are inextricably linked. Further, the MCIS builds upon three key strategic observations and opportunities identified in the development of this report.

The first, **"City and Neighbourhood Exchange"** is a guiding strategy to ensure the City has a thriving centre (focused around the proposed Library and Cultural Centre /LCC) and locally responsive and engaged neighbourhood hubs. Neighbourhood hubs are proposed as *'cultural convergers'*, combining a number of functions and spaces into more flexible and dynamic multi-purpose places. These should be in a constant state of exchange and dialogue, encouraging people to connect at their local level, and through the city centre to cultural activities on the national and international stage.

The second, **"A Cultural Continuum"**, has been developed to create lifelong journeys and pathways within cultural activities, practice, and production. It will create places and spaces for people to experience art, music, performance, making and other forms of cultural activity as first-time participants, emerging and experienced audiences through to master-classes and emeritus practitioners. Cultural Infrastructure may have a focus on one group but be able to adapt and respond across this continuum to ensure that all infrastructure can enhance the user's journey and cultural development.

The final strategy, **"A City of Many Cultures"**, is an overlay across all projects that celebrates the rich diversity of cultures found in Melville – from indigenous practices (both ancient and living) to more recent cultural arrivals since European settlement of the Swan River Colony. Acknowledging the rich tapestry of cultures

that make up Melville will enable harmonious and productive relationships across all cultural practices in Melville.

The MCIS offers a generational opportunity to redefine Melville as a future-focused city for everyone. The Strategy builds on the city's strengths within a framework that celebrates 'hyper-local' neighbourhoods with a thriving city centre – the blueprint for most great cities around the world!

When the Strategy has been implemented Melville will become a place where cultural activity and engagement thrives at all scales – from local, community-based initiatives through to national and international events.

Arts and culture – from professional performance through to weekend hobbies – provide a platform for people to unite, heal, share, generate income, and expand experience. By implementing this Strategy, the City will have a unique and recognisable cultural identity beloved by its residents and embraced warmly by visitors.

As MJ Elson notes, *'spaces for culture and the arts play a vital role in social and economic regeneration.'*<sup>1</sup> Never is this sentiment more relevant than now as cities and communities seek to adjust and redefine themselves optimistically in a post-pandemic world.



Freedom Skate, Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum, 2021.

1. Elson, MJ. *'The Community Infrastructure Levy: Arts Council England, 2012*

## How is this report structured?

The MCIS has been structured in four clear parts:

### A. Outline and Approach

This section provides an overview of the research, engagement and analysis used to develop the MCIS.

Detailed Engagement reports and Site Visit notes are contained in Appendices.

Case Studies and precedents noted throughout this document are also contained in Appendices.

### B. Guiding Strategies

This section addresses key strategies to guide development across all Cultural Infrastructure projects in the City. The MCIS is designed for all Guiding Strategies to be interrelated and overlapping. All three should be addressed equitably and simultaneously in the development of Cultural Infrastructure.

#### 01. City + Neighbourhood Exchange:

- The City of Melville will have both a thriving central locus and a series of neighbourhood hubs that respond to the needs of their surrounding community. The centre and the neighbourhoods are in constant dialogue and creative exchange.

#### 02. A Cultural Continuum:

- Cultural infrastructure will support a continuum of cultural production, experiences and learning across communities, localities, and demographics.

#### 03. A City of Many Cultures:

- Cultural Infrastructure will celebrate and support the diverse communities within the City of Melville, and enable exchange, interaction, and harmonious relationships between all cultures.

### C Transformational Moves:

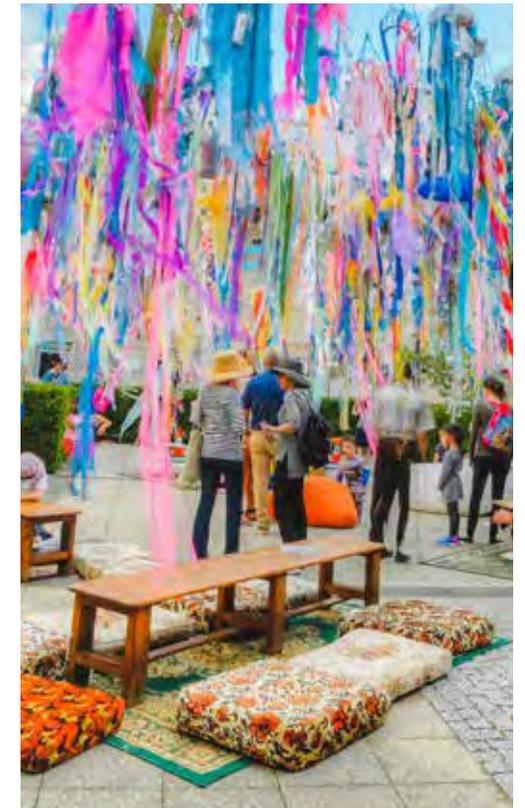
A series of interconnected, place-based and catalytic 'moves' that will enable the Strategy to be implemented:

- The development of a new city precinct that extends from the civic heart at Booragoon to the assemblage of cultural facilities at Yagan Mia Wireless Hill through to the Hickey Street Cottages. A core catalyst is the proposed LCC, which underpins the ability for the City to leverage its neighbourhood networks. This project will provide the City with the strong cultural core that is needed for a modern city to thrive.
- The transformation of libraries from standalone assets into thriving neighbourhood hubs combining traditional library services with the flexibility and space offered by a community centre. The approach will be based on local need and the unique opportunities offered at each site.
- Increase the use of outdoor places and spaces for cultural activity. Extend programming from the river foreshore through to the less active parks south of Leach Highway, using temporary infrastructure.
- Develop a series of low-cost structures with low barriers to entry for experimental cultural activity. This move has been developed in response to global and national trends and should be used to ensure greater access, activation and participation at the four nominated sites.

### D. Asset Specific Actions

An itemised series of detailed guidance for each of the City's nominated existing cultural infrastructure. Each asset has been reviewed through site visits, staff interviews and user engagement.

This section also includes provisional programming of works, including potential 'quick wins' and independent budget estimates.



Jill OMeehan, MERGE Festival, City of Melville, 2017.

## Overview

The City of Melville ('City') is a desirable place to live and work, and a leader in the delivery of high-quality cultural events and programming. Its program of cultural events and activities are well attended, and its libraries experience enviable attendance and engagement. Another great strength is Melville's culturally diverse population, ranging from First Nations people through to communities of first-generation Australians.

The City has a number of integrated strategies that provide guidance and have influenced this project, including Creative Melville 2018 – 2022 and the City's Infrastructure Strategy 2016 – 2036. Many of the cultural venues and facilities within Melville are Council-owned and therefore may be adapted to suit the evolving needs of local communities by using this document. Private facilities are located through the City and have been considered, but are limited for the City in relation to their ability to influence and direct both programming and access.

The City of Melville has also committed to a series of actions and opportunities under its 'Stretch' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP, 2017 - 2021) There are a number of possible alignments within this Strategy to the Respect, Relationships and Opportunities outlined in the RAP.

The Melville Cultural Infrastructure Strategy (MCIS or 'the Strategy') supports and augments the creative vision of the City by creating a framework for the enhancement of cultural infrastructure that it can most directly influence and direct.

## Benchmarking

Local Governments manage and maintain a wide variety of infrastructure across their geographical boundaries, and many of these have undergone significant change as populations shift and technology and communities adapt to contemporary lifestyle aspirations.

It is important to note however that strategies for upgrading existing, and delivering new Cultural Infrastructure are relatively uncommon in Local Government Areas in Australia. The MCIS positions the City of Melville as a national leader in this regard, with a focus on emerging trends and enhancing its existing strength and diversity of cultural practice.

The City's geographical boundary contains a wide array of open spaces, parklands, cultural facilities, museums, galleries, multi-functional spaces, as well as well attended libraries and community centres.

Understanding demographics and the needs of communities in relation to these kinds of spaces is an emerging field of study, and unlike other infrastructure (i.e. sporting infrastructure such as change rooms and playing fields), cultural infrastructure does not have readily available generalised spatial benchmarking to assess the quantity, quality and types of facilities needed to support vibrant, connected, and creative communities.

## Analysis and Inputs

The outcomes recommended by this Strategy are informed by a wide array of research, analysis, and guiding policy documents, including (but not limited to):

The findings outlined in the WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+, along with the City of Melville guiding documents:

- The vision endorsed in Creative Melville 2018 - 2022
- City of Melville Public Art Strategy & Masterplan, City of Melville and FORM
- Strategic Community Plan; Engaging with our diverse community to achieve an inclusive, vibrant and sustainable future 2020-2030, 2019.
- City of Melville Active Reserve Infrastructure Strategy, Dave Lanfear Consulting, 2020.
- Your Future Library in the City of Melville Survey Result
- City of Melville Infrastructure Strategy 2016-36 'Keeping the City Connected'
- Other relevant activity plans, visions and surveys.
- Research and analysis of international, national, and local precedents related to cultural, community and creative infrastructure
- Field study of the City's existing cultural and community infrastructure and research related to demographics and usage
- Community sentiment, feedback and aspirations as revealed through extensive surveys, workshops and interviews, as well as discussion with City staff and analysis of existing programs.

## Alignment to WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+

The MCIS seeks to align infrastructure planning and delivery with the WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+. The three Guiding Strategies support and promote the five focus areas of this state Strategy noted below:

*Five focus areas have been prioritised to meet the outcomes and take advantage of the opportunities identified. These focus areas are broad so that as trends and needs change, WA will be flexible enough to adapt accordingly. The five focus areas are:*

- 1 Maintain and celebrate WA's Aboriginal art, culture and heritage
- 2 Optimise existing cultural assets
- 3 Holistic cultural infrastructure planning
- 4 Incentivise private investment
- 5 Understand and measure the public value of cultural infrastructure

## How was the Strategy developed?

The development of the MCIS involved several stages, including:

- Literature review and background information
- Identification of current and future trends, best practice and standards and guidelines within the arts & cultural industry
- Consultation and engagement with both internal and external community stakeholders
- Review and mapping of existing facilities and assets
- Review of the community and cultural groups that currently use these assets
- Study of current population and projected growth rates
- Consideration of First Nations cultural heritage
- Study of the diverse populations that make up the City of Melville, including Aboriginal, Chinese and South-East Asian communities
- Study of demographics related to age and cultural interest
- Mapping of proposed locations for new and/or transformed facilities and assets.
- Analysis of the hierarchy and relationship between cultural facilities within the City of Melville, regional and state systems
- Development of high-level sketches to demonstrate the potential of facilities in terms of usage, capacity, scale and audience
- Indicative costing over 20 years for use in the City's long term financial plan (prepared by an independent Quantity Surveyor)
- Data to inform business cases for the renewal or development of new facilities including heritage spaces
- Identification of partnership opportunities
- Plan that outlines the priority of works over a 20-year period.

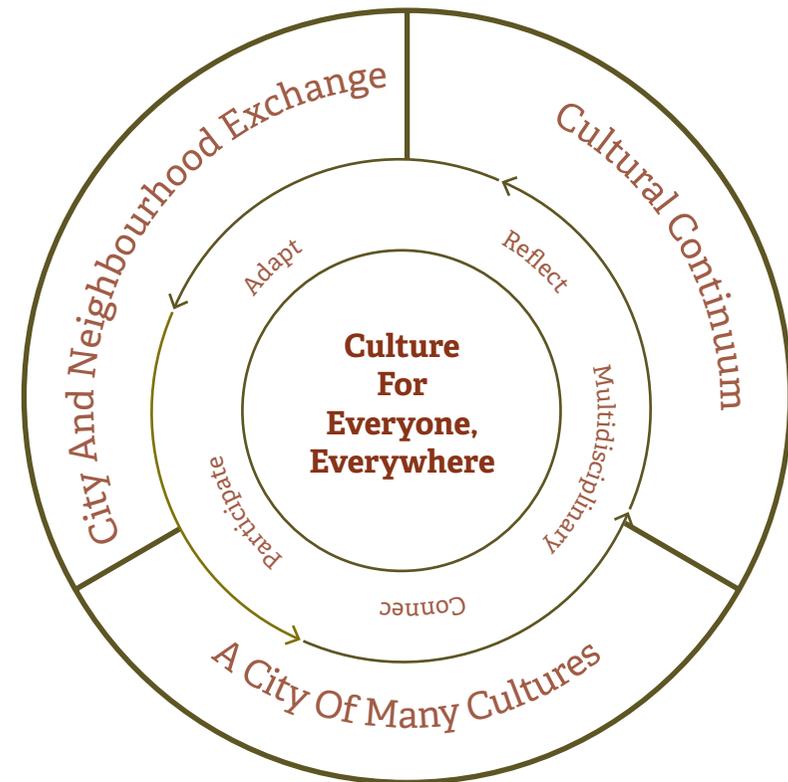


Figure - Three concentric circles can be used to describe the intention of the MCIS. The inner circle with the single most important part of the cultural infrastructure, creating culture for everyone, everywhere in Melville. The second concentric circle identify emergent national and international trends to create the best and most inclusive cultural infrastructure and have been used to create the third concentric circle, the guiding strategies that define this strategy. All of the circles need to work in concert and are dependent on each other to achieve the 20 year plan.



*Image from Goolugatup Sounds.*



# Outline and Approach





Inside Out, Curtis Taylor, Goolugatup Heathcote, 2021.

**The case for culture is manifold. Culture is a field of activity and creative pursuit. Culture is both the glue that holds society together and a rapidly growing economic stream, bringing financial benefit through a robust Creative Economy.**

**Local Governments must find new and innovative ways to support their communities, to build a sense of belonging and to create spaces that are inclusive and accessible to all.**

The City of Melville has a rich collection of cultural facilities, a vibrant calendar of cultural events and some of Australia's most active libraries. We have spoken to many excited and passionate cultural agents; they refer to Melville as a place of possibility, where like the rest of Australia, art and culture will soon overtake sport in attendance numbers.<sup>1</sup> Visual art, literature, performance, and design are critical to maintaining social cohesion; they reflect our diversity as a nation; they shape and express our identity; create empathy, understanding and connection.<sup>2</sup> It is because of these factors that we have spent considerable time ensuring that a broad cross-section of Melville's population have had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the MCIS.

The MCIS focuses on an inter-cultural approach to culture where the City's multicultural identity has been highlighted and used as a tool for analysis. Our research has shown that Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) peoples have less access to culture and cultural facilities than other segments of the population. The MCIS focuses on addressing this imbalance.

### What is Culture and Cultural Infrastructure?

Culture reflects the values and aspirations held by community members, and the ways that they accommodate, debate, and expand these to create dynamic communities. Culture is also used in its familiar sense, encompassing arts and creative expression.<sup>3</sup>

Cultural infrastructure includes places and spaces that support and enable culture; these include but are not limited to libraries, museums, galleries, performance spaces, studios, event spaces and music venues. Cultural infrastructure also includes outdoor amphitheatres and public art.

Infrastructure also speaks to the activation and programming of these structures and non-structures. It embraces access to culture and the communication of cultural events and spaces. It is the spaces where the cultural sector and broader community can come together to create, share, learn and store products or experiences.

Other elements, such as Public Art and Public Spaces influence and can enhance Cultural Infrastructure. The City of Melville has two strategies addressing these topics which have been reviewed for alignment to the recommendations within this report. Ensuring inclusive, accessible and vibrant public spaces and public artwork will strengthen and support cultural practice, expression, recognition and respect across the City.

### Why do we need a Cultural Infrastructure Strategy?

The MCIS sets out a long-term and holistic set of priorities for the City to focus on in coming years. It provides an insight into future trends and outlines how improvements to cultural infrastructure can benefit the various communities living within the city. The MCIS unites current resources with consultation from community members, research, analysis and benchmarking to create a unified voice and direction.

It also aims for greater impact for investment through a more strategic approach to assets and development.

*“Australians’ engagement with arts and creativity creates stronger individual and collective futures and builds a more civil society for generations to come.”*

*Creating Our Future Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, 2020.*

<sup>1</sup> The Australian Council for the Arts, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Connecting Australians, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Creative Melville, 2018-2022

**From the outset, it was critical that the views and experience of the people and communities who make up the City of Melville inform the development of the MCIS. Engagement took place with a wide range of users and stakeholders, including City staff and asset managers, and most importantly, residents and current users of City facilities.**

The Creative Melville document provided rich data and insight into earlier engagement processes; our engagement plan was strategically aimed at residents and key community groups who had not previously been consulted in a targeted way, including Youth, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, and First Nations. These conversations, workshops and surveys revealed a series of themes and needs not previously documented.

**During the development of this Strategy the City has:**

- Spoken with over 50 people from cultural groups, associations, and organisations in the City of Melville
- Received over 700 resident's comments on Melville's current cultural infrastructure
- Met with management from all the cultural facilities owned and run by City of Melville to discuss their ambitions for their centres
- Held a youth workshop at the Willagee Library to discuss access and to better understand culture from a CALD perspective
- Held a workshop with members of the Chinese community in Bull Creek Library to better understand their needs
- Consulted with Whadjuk Reference Group to better understand their needs in relation to cultural infrastructure.



*“We need more space that is multi-functional that can host cultural gatherings and be used for multicultural events. The space needs to be inclusive and accessible with more focus on diversity, Chinese language and others.”*

*Participant in the Chinese Workshop at Bull Creek*

These conversations revealed some common themes in how the City's cultural programs and spaces are viewed by the community and various cultural stakeholders. Both groups appreciate the effort that the City puts in to building community through cultural events and activity.

Feedback and research also revealed sections of the community who do not feel connected or aware of what's happening across the City. The following is a summary of our conversations with community and stakeholders:

### What is working

- The City of Melville has a vibrant and creative cultural community
- The City of Melville supports a wide range of cultural groups and activities
- Cultural facilities provide places for older generations to meet and have access to culture
- Green spaces and the riverside are well utilised and appreciated by the community.
- The City has an ambition to become a creative hub in a way that is different to other Local Governments
- Concerts and music programs are very popular
- There is great excitement and expectations about new cultural facilities
- The libraries are well utilised but need more space.

### What could work better

- Need for a multicultural focus in existing and new cultural centres
- There is a desire for diverse communities to come together across cultural facilities and through events and programs
- Cultural facilities need to become more inclusive and welcoming to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Need for more visibility and signage in LOTE across all libraries
- All stakeholders want the cultural assets to be given more attention and not to be hidden away
- Desire for more youth-focused activation and experimentation
- Desire to see concerts and music programs rolled out across the City
- The broader community is lacking information about cultural assets and activities that exist within the City
- Perceived access to culture varies across the suburbs. Consideration of programming across the LGA that is more diverse, inclusive and easier to access should be considered.
- Community and cultural assets should interact more with each other and work in symbiosis
- Potential need for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre
- Need for more cultural facilities and access to cultural infrastructure south of Leach Highway.

*“Libraries operate within walls and not outside of them, we need them to reflect us and have them be shown to us as a resource of knowledge.”*

A community engagement survey was developed with the City's Cultural Managers and the Engagement team. The survey was conducted through the City's Melville Talks platform and received 751 responses. The respondents came from across Melville, however Attadale was slightly overrepresented and Kardinya was slightly underrepresented. An outline of the findings is noted below (with more detailed information included in the Appendices):

**95%** of all respondents noted cultural infrastructure is important to the City, with 75 % of overall responses noting it as very important. Free access, affordability and access to cultural facilities were highlighted as key indicators for good cultural infrastructure.

The survey highlighted community demand for more free public events, cultural programming and workshops both within cultural facilities as well as parks and outdoor venues. More festivals, music events, community art and theatre were also common responses. The survey confirmed that the City's libraries are the most utilised and popular cultural facilities amongst the community members who responded.

**87%** of survey participants use libraries weekly or monthly, whilst in the comments many residents asked for longer opening hours, larger and more agile spaces and more opportunities for community programs.

*"More venues closer to my home in Bull Creek; currently most CoM things are centred around the richer suburbs. True there may be more participation over there, but it is worth trying."*

- Participant in MCIS Engagement Survey.



**50%** of respondents noted that they rarely or never visit the City's museums, art galleries, music venues or theatres. Just over a third of respondents noted they visited these cultural facilities once a year.

Other findings from the survey included a desire for greater First Nations inputs into art and culture throughout the city and for a more diverse cultural facilities that reflect the local community. The survey also highlights that access to cultural infrastructure is highly dependent upon the suburb you live in.

Overall, the survey outcomes have guided the themes of the MCIS, with a clear focus on enhancing local community access and ensuring a more diverse cultural offering for residents. The survey found residents are generally happy with the City's infrastructure but highlighted the need for greater levels of inclusion, and for facilities that can function flexibly and adaptively for a range of cultural, community and creative programs.

*“A museum, library, art gallery hub all in one area would be great, it isn't the infrastructure that would inspire me, more how the infrastructure is used. Art exhibitions or concerts that I would actually want to visit would make me visit, not the infrastructure itself.”*

- Participant in MCIS Engagement Survey.



Wireless Hill War Memorial, 'The People', Arterial Design, City Of Melville.

# Key Findings - Equitable Access to Cultural Infrastructure

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Stakeholder engagements, online surveys and research highlighted the lack of cultural infrastructure (and activities / events) in the southern suburbs of the City, or more specifically, south of Leach Highway.

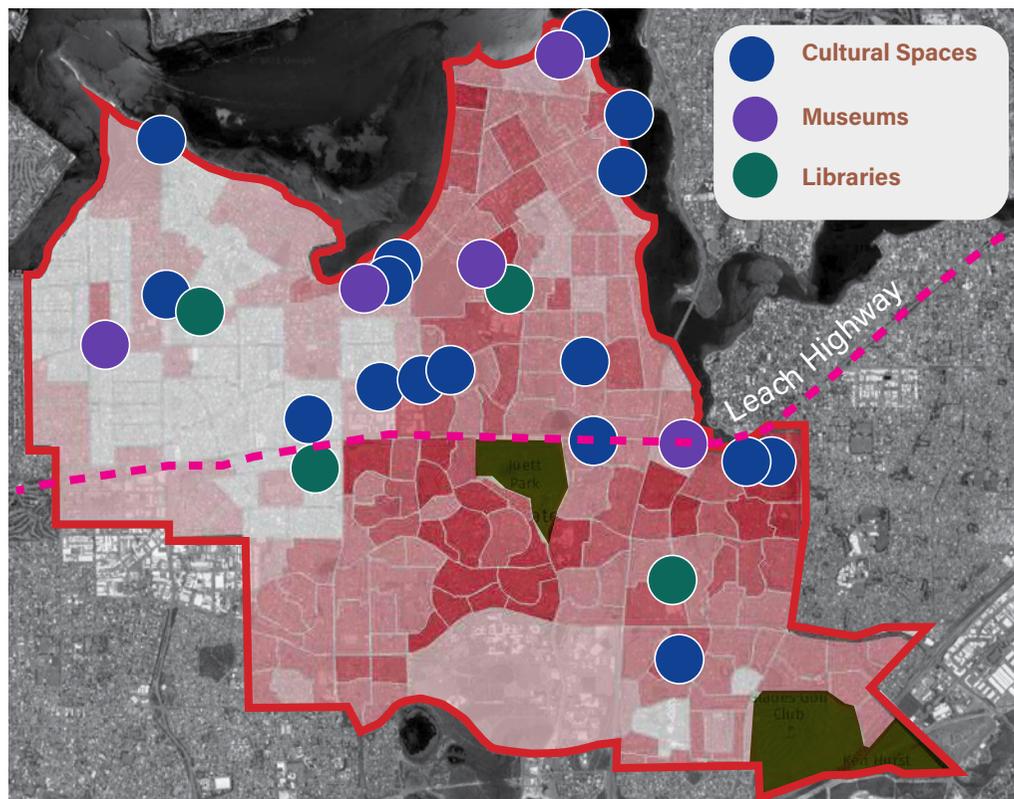
A key focus of the MCIS is addressing this imbalance, with opportunities to expand the cultural infrastructure more equitably across the City.

The composite map, a combination of id demographic resource<sup>1</sup> and Cultural infrastructure interactive map<sup>2</sup>, highlights the locations of cultural spaces, museums and libraries across the City of Melville (shown in red boundary) overlaid onto a heat map representing percentages of local populations born overseas.

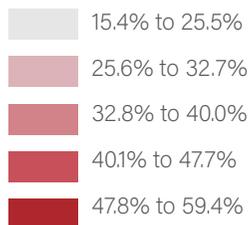
The dividing line of Leach Highway stands out as a physical marker, separating more multi-cultural populations to the south, with the significantly larger supply of cultural infrastructure to the north.

Compared to greater Perth the population in the City has:

- A larger percentage of people with Chinese ancestry (10.7% compared to 5.1%)
- A larger percentage of people with Italian ancestry (6.4% compared to 5.3%)
- And those populations are growing.
- A larger percentage of people born in Malaysia (3.2% compared to 1.5%)
- A smaller percentage of people born in United Kingdom (8.7% compared to 10.4%)
- A smaller percentage of people born in New Zealand (1.9% compared to 3.2%)



Melville Demographics / % Born Overseas



The five areas with the highest percentages of people born overseas were:

- Winthrop (46.5%)
- Bull Creek (44.2%)
- Bateman (41.2%)
- South East Melville (40.3%)
- Murdoch (39.2%)

<sup>1</sup> <https://atlas.id.com.au/melville>

<sup>2</sup> <https://waculturalmap.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/>

### How does the MCIS address this Cultural Infrastructural imbalance?

The MCIS uses multiple forward-thinking approaches to tackle the City's cultural infrastructure imbalance and to strengthen its identity as a 'City of Many Cultures with Culture for Everyone, Everywhere', including:

The central recommendation is the development of a series of neighbourhood hubs that converge library services with community and cultural space across the City to address the limited facilities available south of the Leach Highway line.

It is also recommended that the City develop a 'Social Infrastructure Strategy' to investigate this model further and review the usage and needs of other community assets across the City.

The 'Testing Grounds' initiative, which provides a platform for both new locations and new artists to be tested, with a focus on supporting neighbourhoods and communities of many cultures in local contexts.

Strategy 3: A City of Many Cultures, which focuses on increasing the participation of CaLD communities and First Nations people in cultural spaces and activities across the City, but in particular around neighbourhood hubs located south of the Leach Highway line.

Better leveraging the City's outdoor spaces and places with activation, programming and creative participation in parks and reserves south of Leach Highway.

All cultural infrastructure, existing and future, to be more inclusive and accessible.

*"Probably more local activities within our suburb, I feel like we have to travel to enjoy activities would be great if there was something we could all walk too with the kids."*

*– Participant in MCIS Engagement Survey.*

Blue Room Theatre, 2020.



### The MCIS Strategy and process have been guided by the WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+:

*"Equitable access to our cultural centres, creative workspaces, civic spaces and festival spaces where communities engage with one another on a day-to-day basis is essential. These spaces provide opportunities to share what makes our communities vibrant, rich, and diverse, and contribute to a harmonious and inclusive society.*

*People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CaLD) are integral to the fabric of cultural infrastructure in this State, are leaders in creative industries, world-renowned artists, run cultural spaces, and program and participate in cultural activities.*

*Creative people of colour have identified barriers when navigating the arts sector in Australia. Increasing the availability of safe, accessible and affordable spaces has been identified as a key opportunity to addressing some of these barriers.*

*When communities are fully engaged with cultural infrastructure planning their needs and aspirations can be better fulfilled. This will enable the celebration of our rich cultural tapestry across the State and ensure WA is a safe place for all communities to celebrate their culture.*

*Culturally diverse interactions, collaborations and artistic experimentation promotes shared understanding and the celebration of our culturally diverse state. This is fundamental to the identity of Western Australians and our unique place in the world."*

Desktop research was conducted to gain a better understanding of how other agencies, governments and organisations have delivered successful cultural infrastructure and as a result five key trends were identified. These five trends, together with the outcomes of the engagement process, have informed the criteria for the development of the MCIS.

The MCIS has investigated international, national and local case studies that have achieved one or several of these trends in their approach. These case studies provide inspiration and guidance on how the City can deliver innovative cultural infrastructure for its community over the next 20 years.

### 1. Multidisciplinary

Common to all trends - global, national and local - is that these spaces must provide multidisciplinary activation.<sup>1</sup> Future users will expect multiple avenues for engagement, activities for people of all ages, and a degree of affordability not possible within the private realm.

### 2. Adaptability

Public cultural buildings must respond to rapidly changing, trend-sensitive communities.

Future facilities need to provide spaces that are adaptive and flexible. The spaces provide insight into community needs and can be adapted as needs evolve and develop<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Connectivity

Cultural infrastructure provide opportunities for connection and build a sense of belonging to a community. Cultural spaces worldwide are becoming places that foster all levels of collaboration.

They provide new and varied opportunities for people to come together to learn a new skill – the perfect icebreaker for those seeking to expand their social connections.<sup>3</sup> Studies have shown that creative cities build more innovative and resilient communities.<sup>4</sup>

### 4. Hyper-Local

Globally and nationally, the trend is towards spaces that reflect the character of their surrounding communities and environment.<sup>5</sup>

As people become increasingly conditioned to high levels of personalisation and digitalisation within their civic and work environments, cultural spaces must reflect this trend too. The built environment is adapting to a future that is inclusive of its connections with the past.<sup>6</sup>

### 5. Participatory

Spaces for fabrication and prototyping foster innovation, creativity and engage diverse audiences.

There is a global trend towards providing dynamic spaces for small-scale fabrication and the prototyping of ideas, allowing a wide range of people to participate in the creative economy.

These creative workshops are becoming recognised as places of cultural and social innovation due to their ability to capture the attention of people who might not typically engage with the arts.<sup>7</sup>



'Not yet perfect', Ceramics Studio , Goolugatup Heathcote.

1 Gensler Institute of Research, 2019.

2 'Making the case for creative spaces in Australian libraries', Emily Boyle, Michelle Collins, Robyn Kinsey, Clare Noonan & Andrew Pocock, 2016.

3 Ibid

4 Quantum Culture and the Museum of the Future , Jasper Visser, 2021

5 Gensler Institute of Research, 2019.

6 Connecting with Country Framework, NSW, 2021.

7 Participatory Innovation and Prototyping in the Cultural Sector: A case study, Stefania Boiano, Ann Borda & Guilliano Gaia, InvisibleStudio 2019.

The MCIS has sought to provide an evidence base for recommendations and analysis. There are, however, no consistent benchmarking requirements for cultural facility provision in LGA's across Australia.

Local Government Authorities (LGA) define cultural facilities differently with many including community centres as cultural spaces. Public Library Standards provide overall guidance for comparative areas in libraries, but have limited relevance to hybrid spaces promoted by the MCIS.

The following notes are provided as an overview of the analysis conducted for this document. A mix of field study and desktop research was used to create a comparison with adjacent LGAs including the City of Fremantle, City of Canning, City of Cockburn and City of Stirling.

A quick comparison is noted below:

- City of Melville libraries adequately compare in floor size and amount of libraries to the adjacent LGA's and against the standards provided by ALIA.
- Desktop research suggests that libraries in the adjacent LGAs have more meeting rooms and spaces for activities. They tend to be located adjacent to or in conjunction with community centres, and many are managed in conjunction or solely by the Community Development department within Council.

### Future Growth

According to projected growth figures, the number of residents in the City of Melville will increase by 25% by 2042, taking the population to 135,000. Based on these figures an additional 600m2 of library space will be required. The development of the new Canning Beach Road Library, the new Booragoon Library and Cultural Centre and the proposed new building in Willagee, recommended in this report, will likely meet this requirement.

### Other Cultural Spaces

- The City of Canning and City of Stirling have developed an integrated approach to the operation of the cultural facilities, and in many instances, their libraries and community centres are connected. The City of Stirling has adopted a neighbourhood hub approach, which provides the community with good access to cultural space. These models have been successful in providing better access to infrastructure and creating more interaction with the community.
- Research on neighbouring LGAs has indicated that the City of Melville owns more cultural facilities.
- In comparison with other LGAs, the City of Melville lacks adequate space for community hire. While the City of Melville owns more space, they tend to be managed by external organisations such as Atwell House, Melville Theatre Company, and the Tivoli Club.
- The City of Melville is lacking a music and performance venue of the scale and capability of Fremantle Arts Centre or Canning Civic Park.
- City of Cockburn has an impressive Youth Centre that attracts large audiences, while the City of Canning has a highly activated Youth Pop-Up Space.

City	City of Melville	City of Canning	City of Fremantle	City of Stirling	City of Cockburn
LGA Population	103,581	94,130	34,844	219,981	104,473
Libraries	5	4	1	6	3
Museums	1 Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum	1 200m2	1 3 State owned Museums	1 Mount Flora Regional Museum 700m2	1 Azelia Ley Museum
Art Galleries	2	0	2	0	0
Other Cultural Facilities Owned by LGA	7 (managed by others)				Youth Centre 1950m2
Public Library Standard Through Library Building Calculator Standard, People and Places, NSW	Required: 3895m2 Currently in the city: 4070 m2	Required: 3642 m2 Currently in the city: 5444 m2	Required: 2010 m2 Currently in the city: 1100m2 New Walyalup Civic Centre Library	Required: 6082 m2 Currently in the city: 6705 m2	Required: 3995 m2 Currently in the city: Approximately 2638 m2

**Building or redeveloping cultural infrastructure alone will not achieve the aspirations outlined in the MCIS. Several additional factors need to be considered by the City to ensure a successful and sustainable outcome.**

**While the MCIS focuses on the capital works and infrastructure required to support cultural outcomes, the following factors that have influence over the successful operation of cultural infrastructure will require detailed investigation to ensure the capital investment being delivered by the City is optimised.**

## Programming + Activation

To activate cultural infrastructure the emphasis must be on developing a dynamic and responsive program of events and activities.

New and proposed infrastructure changes can only be managed through extensive programming and activation. The City already use the creative producer/curator model where stakeholders in the industry help provide input to programming. This model is a great way to ensure that the City's efforts remain current and effective for the participation and activation of its audiences.

The MCIS recommends that a combined curatorial team is utilised to ensure coordination between all cultural infrastructure.

Opportunities for Programming and Activation are to be supported by Hospitality offerings that are carefully considered and curated.

## Ensuring Adequate Resources

Adequate financial support is required to drive further engagement and participation.

Converged facilities will enable greater opportunities for effective use of resources but also in shared knowledges and experiences between community centres and library places.

Staff continue to be adequately trained, particularly in relation to issues of cultural awareness and inclusion.

The MCIS recommends that long term resourcing of staff roles, staff training and professional development is planned to allow for the optimal utilization of cultural infrastructure.

## Effective Management

MCIS recommends that an investigation of all existing cultural infrastructure Management Contracts (including performance clauses) to ensure that all City-owned facilities that are managed by external organisations deliver on the key principles outlined in Creative Melville and support the MCIS.

Miller Bakehouse, Tivoli Club, Atwell Gallery and Hickey Street should be looked at as a priority. New assets such as Karlup Ceramics Studio and the Melville Woodturners should have new contracts with more focused reporting and have greater accountability measures against the City's cultural goals.

Internal management processes will need further investigation to adapt to the converged model. Some of the benefits of this model include sharing of resources, space, equipment, and staff and create stronger incentives for cross-collaboration between community and cultural management.

## Effective Maintenance

Maintenance requires strategic planning and investment, proactive governance, and physical work to sustain and repair assets adequately.

Proactive governance ensures that the resource implications of maintenance are clear and budgeted in advance, that the work is completed and that the funds are expended as approved.

Effective maintenance maximises the service delivery return from existing assets and minimises the inconvenience and cost of a disruption to services and the impact on reputation.

Well planned maintenance also provides wider

community benefits, particularly for local companies engaged in maintenance services. With adequate maintenance, the life of an asset is greatly improved.<sup>1</sup>

## Sustainability Focus

The MCIS supports the City's guiding principles and vision for its *Infrastructure Strategy 2016-2036*. The MCIS is developed on the basis that all new infrastructure in the City will align with its Sustainability Policy and aim for being Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Cultural Infrastructure assets are critical to the City's economic health and community wellbeing, as well as supporting and enhancing intergenerational equity by being financially, socially and environmentally sustainable.

Asset management balances infrastructure renewal, upgrading and expansion to support the City's vision of working together to achieve community wellbeing for today and tomorrow.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-02/samf-maintenance.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> City of Melville Infrastructure Strategy 2016-2036

## Communication

Great communication is key to ensuring the successful activation of cultural assets now and in the future. Throughout the engagement process, communication with stakeholders and users (both existing and potential) was repeatedly mentioned as something to be improved. This was particularly evident in the consultation with representatives from youth and CaLD communities. The outcomes of the Bull Creek Workshop, Whadjuk Reference Group and Willagee and Youth Engagement Survey all revealed that the City needs 'further engagement with audiences that currently feel unseen and unheard'.<sup>1</sup>

The Western Australian Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+ suggests that 'co-design and collaboration with diverse communities can inform how existing and new cultural infrastructure can be made more accessible and identify and address systemic barriers that impede access, such as communications styles that are inaccessible for speakers whose first language is not English'.<sup>2</sup>

The City of Melville's 2021 Youth Engagement Survey revealed that people not being aware of things to do remains the biggest barrier for engagement.<sup>3</sup> 77% of survey participants responded to the question about barriers that stopped them doing what they wanted to do in Melville within the engagement survey, with approximately 53% responding not being aware of things to do as a barrier for them.

The ideas for improving communication and engagement presented in Creative Melville, including, 'an online calendar of cultural events; better signage and wayfinding; a coordinated social media focus; and the elimination of unnecessary barriers to using the City's cultural spaces'<sup>4</sup> are all supported by the MCIS and encouraged action steps.

The communication of cultural capital needs to be improved. Creative Melville, the City of Melville Youth Survey 2021 and anecdotal evidence revealed a lack of community knowledge about the various facilities and events that exist within the cultural space. Youth and CaLD communities particularly lack an understanding of what the City has on offer.

Enhanced communication of facilities, cultural offering, and programs should be considered a quick win for the City and implemented as soon as possible as it will have direct social and cultural impact and create greater diversity to its cultural offerings if done well.

## Attracting private investment and developer contributions.

The City has an opportunity to work with the private sector to leverage investment in cultural assets as part of the development approval process. Innovative LGAs are now working with developers to incorporate cultural infrastructure into private developments or to explore the private development of infrastructure in Government owned buildings and land.

Communication is key to the success of these initiatives. Developers need to be informed of the City's needs and priorities regarding cultural infrastructure to determine where they can be most impactful. The City of Melville must work collaboratively across Council-departments to create opportunities for the private sector to contribute to cultural infrastructure as part of major development proposals.

Development contributions to cultural infrastructure have the potential to become mainstream, in much the same way as the LPP1.4 Provision of Public Art in Development Proposals Policy.<sup>5</sup>

## Better cooperation and incentives for private venues.

The City of Melville is home to private cultural venues and institutions, including live music venues, workshops and studios, schools, and universities. The City should be proactive in leveraging the success of these venues, and promoting their events and activities as part of a holistic cultural eco-system. Where possible, roadblocks and unnecessary red tape should be removed to allow venues and institutions to strengthen their place in the city.<sup>6</sup>

Similarly, many schools and universities offer facilities that are otherwise non-existent in the City (i.e. large-scale performance space), and further exploration is necessary to determine if these could be used by community organisations on an agreed basis. While private institutions will always prioritise their own activities, the City could act as a conduit between the institutions and community, offering incentives and funding for collaborative use. This model is supported by several major Cultural Infrastructure Strategies, such as WA Cultural Infrastructure Strategy 2030+ and NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+.

1 Bull Creek Workshop, Whadjuk Reference Group, Willagee and Youth Engagement Survey.

2 Western Australian Cultural Infrastructure 2030+

3 City of Melville - Youth Engagement Survey 2021

4 Creative Melville, 2018-22.

5 City of Melville - Public Art Strategy and Masterplan

6 Creative Melville, 2018-22.

A wide ranging literature review was conducted as part of the desktop research phase of the MCIS. The following list of references highlight documents as useful reference / benchmarking for the Strategy.

### **A new model for public Library**

*Gensler Institute of Research, 2019*

### **Arts and Culture Masterplan**

*City of Victoria, 2017.*

### **Arts and Culture Plan, Town of Victoria Park, 2020.**

**Arts Infrastructure framework; a five year plan, City of Melbourne. 2016.**

**Artscape 5.0 | strategic plan 2018-2022, Artscape, 2018.**

**Background Paper- Our Future, Western Australian Public Libraries, 2021**

**Cities, Culture, Creativity; Leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable urban development and inclusive growth, UNESCO and World Banks, 2021.**

**Creating Our Future Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, August 2020**

**Cities, Culture, Creativity; Leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable urban development and inclusive growth, UNESCO and World Banks, 2021.**

**Connecting with Country Draft Framework, NSW Government and Government Architect NSW, 2020**

### **Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+**

*NSW, 2020.*

### **Cultural Infrastructure Plan**

*London Authority 2019.*

### **Cultural Plan**

*City of Wanneroo, 2018.*

### **Cultural Precinct Strategy**

*Arts Queensland, 2013-15*

### **Culture Infrastructure Plan**

*London Authority, 2019.*

### **Culture Infrastructure**

*Metabolic Cities, 2018.*

### **Future Libraries**

*ARUP, 2015.*

**How to design cultural development strategies to boost local and regional competitiveness and comparative advantage: overview of good practices, European Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture, 2018.**

### **Implementing the Principles of Multiculturalism Locally**

*A planning guide for Western Australian local governments, Published 20 July 2020.*

**Indigenous spaces in library places, State Library of NSW, 2016.**

**Kaart, Koort, Waarnginy, Dr Richard Walley, 2017.**

**Making the case for creative spaces in Australian libraries, The Australian Library Journal, Emily Boyle, Michelle Collins, Robyn Kinsey, Clare Noonan & Andrew Pocock, 2019.**

### **Museum and Experience Index**

*Gensler Institute of Research, 2019*

### **Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition**

*Triennial International Conference of Museums, 2019*

### **Participatory Approaches and Social Inclusion in Cultural Heritage**

*Regeneration and Optimisation of Cultural heritage in Creative Knowledge cities, 2020.*

### **Participatory Innovation and Prototyping in the Cultural Sector: A case study**

*Stefania Boiano, Ann Borda & Guilliano Gaia, InvisibleStudio 2019.*

### **People Places; A guide to planning a public library**

*NSW, 2021.*

### **Planning Cultural Infrastructure for the City of Parramatta**

*A Research Report Prepared by the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University, March 2020*

### **Quantum Culture and the Museum of the Future**

*Jasper Visser, 2018 and 2021*

### **Strategic plan 2022-25**

*Next Wave, 2021.*

### **The Future 100: Trends and Change to watch in 2021**

*Wundermann-Thompson, 2021*

### **University museums and collections as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition**

*Andrew Simpson, Akiko Fukuno & Hiroshi Minami, 2019.*

### **Western Australian Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+**

*Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, 2020.*

*Plus an additional array of internal documents:*

### **CREATIVE Melville, Realising the City's Cultural Potential 2018-2022**

### **City of Melville Public Art Strategy & Masterplan**

*City of Melville and FORM*

### **City of Melville Youth Survey**

*2021.*

### **Strategic Community Plan; Engaging with our diverse community to achieve an inclusive, vibrant and sustainable future 2020-2030,**

*City of Melville, 2019.*

The following key documents (refer to Appendices for more detailed referencing) have helped inform the direction of the MCIS and subsequent strategies:

## **People and Places, A guide to planning a public library.**

*NSW Government and Government Architect NSW, 2020*

Key document informing future of library spaces and places.

## **Western Australian Public Libraries: Our Future**

Public participation, creative spaces in libraries and community centric focus.

## **The New Model for the Public Library**

*Gensler Institute of Research, 2019.*

International precedents, design implications and spatial planning.

## **Museum Experience Index**

*Gensler Research Institute, 2019*

Multigenerational approaches and multimodal experiences.

## **Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition**

*Triennial International Conference of Museums, 2019*

Proactive spaces of knowledge and agile museums as cultural hubs.

## **The Future 100: Trends and Change to watch in 2021.**

*Wundermann-Thompson, 2021.*

Metaverse, flexperiences and semi-outdoor experiences.

## **Connecting with Country Draft Framework**

*NSW Government and Government Architect NSW, 2020*

Best practice for built environment and First Nations participation.

## **Cultural Infrastructure Plan**

*London Authority 2019.*

Local planning, multicultural participation and international precedents.

## **Creating Our Future,**

*National Arts Participation Survey, 2020,*

Arts participation, celebrating diversity through culture and social cohesion.

## **Kaart Koort Waarnginy**

*Whadjuk Traditional Owners and Metropolitan*

Local example of Indigenous design framework in built environment.

## **How to design cultural development strategies to boost local and regional competitiveness and comparative advantage: overview of good practices**

*European Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture, 2018.*

Best practice of local cultural strategies with European precedents.

## **Participatory Innovation and Prototyping in the Cultural Sector: A case study**

*Stefania Boiano, Ann Borda & Guiliano Gaia, InvisibleStudio 2019.*

National study on testing and creative space in the cultural sector.

## **Participatory Approaches and Social Inclusion in Cultural Heritage**

*Regeneration and Optimisation of Cultural Heritage in Creative Knowledge Cities, 2020.*

International precedents and recommendations for best practice based on over 40 strategies.

## **Future Libraries**

*ARUP, 2015.*

Outlines the future of libraries and their relationship to public space.

## **Cities, Culture, Creativity; Leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable urban development and inclusive growth**

*UNESCO and World Banks, 2021.*

Creative cities, creative ecosystems and creative enablers to assets and resources.

## **Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+**

*NSW Government, 2019.*

National benchmark in creative infrastructure with cutting edge and futureforward planning.

## **Making the case for creative spaces in Australian libraries, The Australian Library Journal**

*Emily Boyle, Michelle Collins, Robyn Kinsey, Clare Noonan & Andrew Pocock, 2019.*

Creative spaces in libraries and its effects on communities, creativity and cultural practices.

## **Quantum Culture and the Museum of the Future**

*Jasper Visser, 2018 and 2021*

Public cultural spaces, community cohesion and innovative cities.

A number of case studies and precedents have been closely examined to inform and provide inspiration for the development of the Strategy. These are outlined here related to the Strategic Themes of the MCIS.

Some of these are highlighted in this overview but further details and information can be found in the Appendices.

## City and Neighbourhood Exchange

Each of these facilities offer a unique approach to the creation of culture and community through multi-functional infrastructure.

### Mirrabooka Community Hub

A unique spatial hub with a series of differently-sized spaces for everything from a library to innovation hub, Women's Health Centre to recreation space.

### Garaget - Malmo Sweden

Multi-functional library with high engagement from youth and CaLD community. Unique offerings include ability to borrow sewing machines, tools and other creative equipment.

### Surry Hills Library

Inspiring community and library centre combining agile, diverse spaces for reflection, learning and making.

### Falcon Mandurah

A local success story! Of particular note is their FabLab, a makerspace for sharing knowledge and using technology such as 3D printers, sewing machines, electronics and computer programming.

### Albury Library/Museum

This pioneered the model of a library and museum that share staff and management. The City of Albury, needed the building to be an urban marker that would engender a sense of place and a central focal point.

## A Cultural Continuum

The following case studies generate culture through a multi-layered approach, and generate users from a broad range of demographics.

### Brunswick Mechanics Institute - Next Wave Administration

Next Wave is an engine room for art making and experimentation, dreaming and doing, exchange and connection.

Cultural heritage building at the core of this cultural node

Activation and programming funded by Creative Victoria.

### Abbotsford Convent

This facility exemplifies best practice in terms of combining culture and heritage, and should be used as a reference for the ongoing development of both Yagan Mia and Goolugatup Heathcote.

## A City of Many Cultures

The following precedents serve as an inspiration for the City to create culture for and alongside its diverse population.

### Katoomba Library Centre

The centre has been specifically developed to be welcoming to First Nations people and community. Elements of Indigenous culture have been woven into all aspects of the design.

### Champion Centre

This centre was developed following thorough consultation with First Nations community and artists.

### Prototyping Models

Agile, cost effective cultural infrastructure that places innovation, participation and engagement at the fore.

### Testing Grounds

Testing Grounds is a place where people at all stages of practice can test, develop and share their work. Cultural infrastructure is not limited to permanent construction and can be made available through temporary structures.

### Blak Box

Urban Theatre Project's Blak Box is an agile and cost effective temporary venue to support specific production design and content.



'Museum of inverted History'; Jesse Lee Johns, Rohin Kickett and Jacob Diamond, Blackwall Reef. City of Melville and Fremantle Biennale, 2021.



Aboriginal Knowledge Section in the Katoomba Library and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, NSW.



*Creative capital helps build thriving communities including creating additional positive cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes for the communities in which they're located.*

*A world that engages art, culture and creativity act as a catalyst for community vibrancy, sustainability, prosperity and inclusiveness.*

*- Artscape, international leaders in creative placemaking.*

# Guiding Strategies

The MCIS is underpinned by three Strategic Themes to inform the development of cultural infrastructure over a 20-year period.

These have been informed by research, future trends, benchmarking and feedback received through extensive consultation with stakeholders.

### The three Strategic Themes are:

#### Strategy 01:

##### City + Neighbourhood Exchange

A guiding strategy to ensure the City has a thriving centre (focused around the proposed Library and Cultural Centre /LCC) and locally responsive and engaged neighbourhood hubs. Neighbourhood hubs are proposed as '*cultural convergers*', combining a number of functions and spaces into more flexible and dynamic places. These should be in a constant state of exchange and dialogue, encouraging people to connect at their local level, and through the city centre to cultural activities on the national and international stage.

#### Strategy 02:

##### The Cultural Continuum

Has been developed to create lifelong journeys and pathways within cultural activities, practice, and production. It will create places and spaces for people to experience art, music, performance, making and other forms of cultural activity as first-time participants, emerging and experienced audiences through to master-classes and emeritus practitioners. Cultural Infrastructure may have a focus on one group but be able to adapt and respond across this continuum to ensure that all infrastructure can enhance users' journeys, cultural development and professional opportunities.

#### Strategy 03:

##### A City of Many Cultures

This strategy is an overlay across all projects and celebrates the rich diversity of cultures found in Melville – from indigenous practices (both ancient and living) to more recent cultural arrivals since European settlement of the Swan River Colony. Acknowledging the rich tapestry of cultures that make up Melville will enable harmonious and productive relationships across all cultural practices in Melville.

#### The MCIS is structured for clarity to provide:

- Guiding Strategies - addressing key strategies to guide development across all Cultural Infrastructure projects in the City. The MCIS is designed for all Guiding Strategies to be interrelated and overlapping. All three should be addressed equitably and simultaneously in the development of Cultural Infrastructure.
- Transformational Moves - a series of key focus areas that utilise the strategic themes in distinct place based responses.
- Asset Specific Actions - an itemised series of detailed guidance for each of the City's nominated existing cultural infrastructure. Also includes provisional programming of works, including potential 'quick wins'



Jhom, Bollywood, Abbotsford Convent, 2020.



North Melbourne School of Displacement as part of Refuge 2019, by Keg de Souza and Claire G. Coleman. / Arts House, Melbourne.

# Guiding Strategy 01

## City + Neighbourhood Exchange

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**The City of Melville will host both a thriving central heart and a series of neighbourhood hubs that respond to the needs of their surrounding community. These two elements will be in constant interaction, conversation and creative exchange.**

**The City will redefine itself as a thriving cultural hub and a future focused city for everyone.**

**The delivery of the City+Neighbourhood Exchange Strategy will provide space for creativity to flourish, lifelong engagement and a place that people will return to time and time again.<sup>1</sup>**

### Civic and Cultural Heart

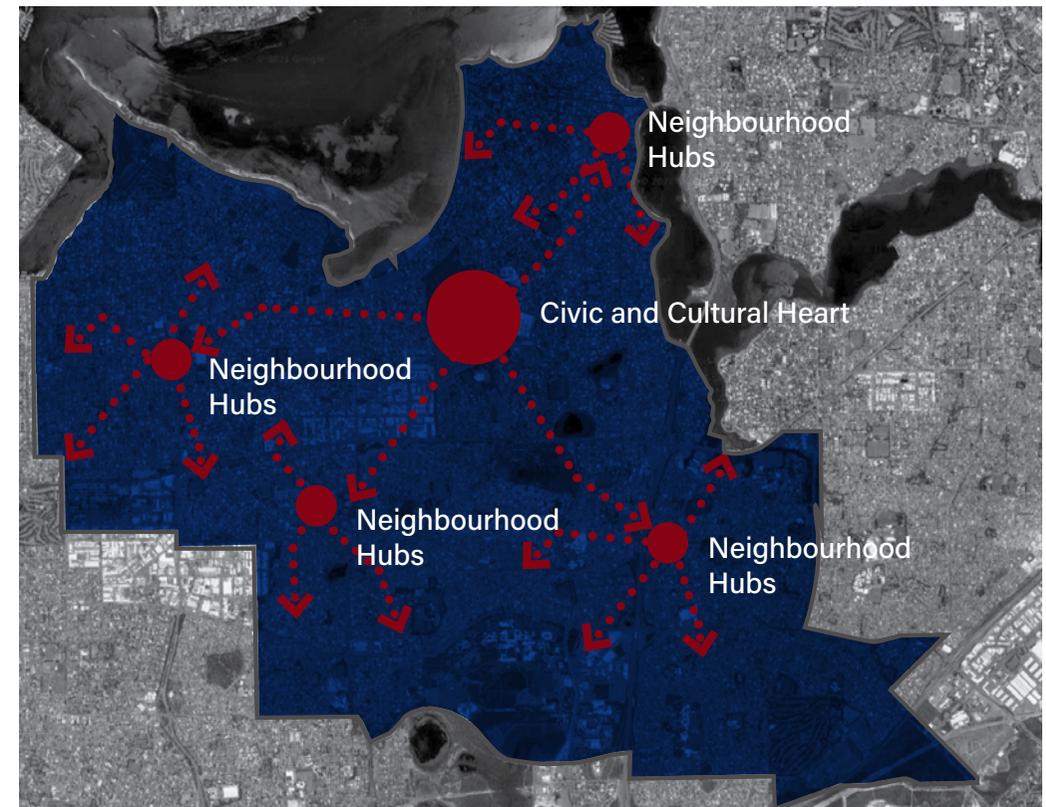
The MCIS supports the development of a new Library and Culture Centre (LCC) alongside the existing civic building and Booragoon shopping centre as a key catalyst for community and cultural capital. This location is busy and well known amongst the local community and further afield. The LCC will transform the current commercial nature of Booragoon into a true civic centre - a focal point for state-of-the-art civic and cultural experiences, and a central location for the community to come together in an exciting new environment.

The MCIS recommends that this new cultural heart be broadened to encompass neighbouring Yagan Mia Wireless Hill. Combined, the two sites offer a unique window into Melville – the contemporary experience at Booragoon, rich Aboriginal history at Yagan Mia, early settler Australian history at Wireless Hill and emergent creativity at Hickey Street. The landscape between Booragoon and Yagan Mia is just as important as the built environment and should be thought of as a key part of the cultural experience at the site through a detailed masterplan.

This converged cultural precinct responds to global trends for cultural precincts that offer multidisciplinary activation, adaptation, connection, reflection, and active participation.<sup>2</sup>

From a city perspective, this converged precinct provides an opportunity for the City to weave together its cultural, social and learning ambitions, and at the same time, promote economic activity in a location that has greater public access for everyone in the City and greater Perth.

Engaging fully with this Strategy will create a unique cultural experience within Perth, and an appealing destination for cultural tourism. Linking the strengths and attraction of commercial, civic, community, cultural and ecological assets at the City's disposal would provide overlapping and transformative opportunities for Melville's residents and visitors.



<sup>1</sup> MERGE Festival, City of Melville 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Key Findings -Trends and Research, page 16.

## Neighbourhood Hubs

At the same time as the City Heart is being transformed, attention must be given to the suburbs and communities that make up Melville. Consultation and community feedback clearly demonstrated the need for more cultural opportunities outside the city centre or Goolugatup Heathcote precinct.<sup>1</sup>

Research has shown that libraries around the world are increasingly becoming neighbourhood precincts that combine traditional library services with the flexibility and free space of a community centre. In instances where no library exists, multi-purpose facilities are being designed with libraries at their core. The purpose of these hubs is not to minimise essential library services but to build on their success and engagement.

The City is well positioned to adopt this model of cultural delivery: existing libraries are well-attended and evenly dispersed across the city, and several are positioned within or adjacent to existing community centres. These new precincts need not be large but must have the ability to accommodate a range of uses, including (but not limited to) a library, community centre, art display as well as agile spaces for creativity and meetings. From a management perspective, the neighbourhood hubs create efficiencies around planning and resourcing.

## Creative Exchange

These two elements – the city heart and neighbourhood hubs – must not be seen as distinct from one another but instead exist in a state of constant interaction, conversation, and most critically, exchange.

For instance, exhibitions held first at the LCC could be rotated (even in a pared back or adapted form) through neighbourhood hubs. Vice versa, if community projects are shown to engage at neighbourhood level, they can then inform future projects and larger programs at the LCC. Responsive and flexible programming is key to this model of cultural delivery. Regardless of the scale, type or activity that may be developed within the neighbourhood hubs, opportunities exist for the LCC to enhance and expand upon these local occurrences to create new modes of programming and exchange.

*75 % of the Youth in the City feel little to no part of the community due to lack of events and activities for them and the lack of representation, seeing people like them in communication and spaces.*



## Strategy 01 Goals

- Connect libraries to existing community centres, creating flexible and agile spaces for cultural gatherings, performance, music, creative learning, access to technology, dance, and increased spaces for hire.
- Investigate convergent uses with community centres to avoid duplication of services, encouraging more coordinated service delivery and cost effective use of staff, space and equipment. <sup>2</sup>
- Include provision for exhibitions and the display of artworks and cultural material, including from the City's art collection, arts programs and local history and heritage.
- Improve indoor and outdoor connections and usability through landscape improvements, wayfinding, and signage, and through dedicated event programming such as markets, festivals and other community attractions
- Extend the range and type of cultural activities in library precincts to include:
  - Affordable access to cultural participation, and for emergent art makers.
  - Enhanced youth engagement with experimental programming and dynamic spaces
  - Low-cost and flexible spaces for experimentation and prototyping, as well as innovative cultural programming and 'pop-up' activation (i.e. Testing Grounds)

<sup>1</sup> MCIS Engagement Report, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> People and Places, NSW, 2021.

# Guiding Strategy 02

## Cultural Continuum

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**Cultural infrastructure should support a continuum of cultural production, experiences, career cycles and learning across communities, localities, and demographics.**

The City of Melville will become a thriving cultural hub, providing residents and visitors with opportunities to experience creative output, pursue personal creativity and/or creative business.

The Cultural Continuum strategy was inspired by UNESCO's value chain model, Framework for Cultural Statistics<sup>1</sup> and provides a series of actions to encourage young people, families, professional artists, and performers to participate in the cultural life of the city.

The Cultural Continuum exists across three distinct phases of an individual's life, career and/or engagement with cultural activity. The enabling of cultural production at all phases in return create activities and exciting opportunities for the city's residents to experience. Audience experience is a critical component with each of the three phases offering different opportunities for engagement and community cultural offering.

The three phases ensure that from an experiential point of view, people can participate in cultural activity at all levels of skill and experience. Non-practitioners are able to experience everything from the work of emerging artists to major exhibitions or performances by masters' practitioners.

Experiencing cultural practices and activities is central to the Phases - starting a lifelong cultural journey.

### Phase 1: Emerging

Cultural infrastructure where emergent ideas and creative endeavours can be tested. These are spaces that support innovation, experimentation, success, and failure. They allow for emerging practice, community ideation and first-time makers to test ideas and develop skills. Community audience participation is encouraged to allow for the testing of ideas, formats and programs that could be developed further.

### Phase 2: Established

Cultural infrastructure that support established practitioners to improve, explore, refine their craft, and grow their practice, business, and/or cultural community. Again, community/audience participation is essential; these spaces must provide a platform for people at all stages of the continuum to engage with established artists and experience culture.

### Phase 3: Emeritus

Cultural infrastructure that provide space to celebrate and learn from master practitioners, including performances, mentoring, talks, presentations, and exhibitions. Community/audience engagement can range from established audience cohorts to first time audience members. Encouraging the development of a lifelong connection to culture and creativity that is inspiring and expands critical thinking.

All existing and planned infrastructure should be reviewed through the Cultural Continuum to ensure cultural production, experience and learning is possible across all communities, localities, and demographics.

The Cultural Continuum provides a holistic approach to the City's cultural ecosystem, with places like the LCC offering experiences across all three phases.

Smaller, neighbourhood facilities and places address one or two phases at a time. The key is that all phases are addressed across the City, and that all facilities remain in conversation and exchange.

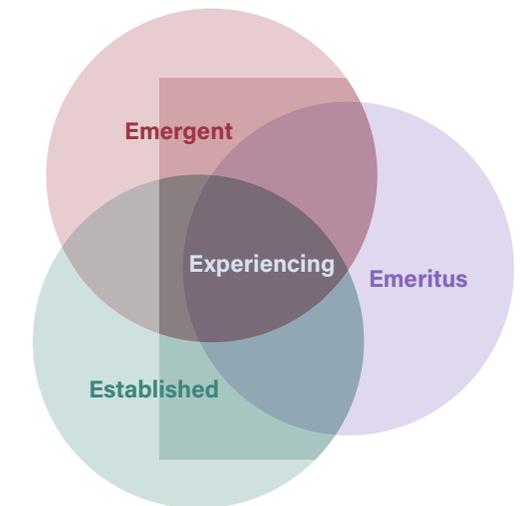


Fig. 1 - The diagram reference how the City will ensure an audience experiencing culture from all phases, which in turn enables culture at all phases to be practiced.

<sup>1</sup> The 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS)



Autumn Salon, Testing Grounds, Melbourne, 2020.

*“Arts and culture should be more tangible than a place or thing. We could look at investing in atypical ways, such as how we encourage art and culture and intertwine it within every day life. this would be more inspiring.”*

- Participant MCIS Engagement Survey.

#### Strategy 02 Goals

- Ensure that there are sufficient and appropriately designed/programmed spaces to support the three phases of the Cultural Continuum across the City's geographical and demographic zones.
- Ensure that the 'Civic and Cultural Heart' at Booragoon and Yagan Mia Wireless Hill provides space for cultural participation across all phases of the Cultural Continuum.
- Ensure that Emerging spaces are located with neighbourhood hubs and library precincts to encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas and engagement with community.
- Develop spaces and places that support music and performance across all three phases but with a particular emphasis on Emerging practitioners to fill identified gap.
- Support and highlight the existing cultural practices on the cultural continuum through increased communication and awareness building.

# Guiding Strategy 03

## A City of Many Cultures

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**Cultural Infrastructure should celebrate and support the diverse communities within the City of Melville, and encourage exchange, interaction and harmonious relationships between all cultures.**

The ability to participate in, to express and/or to observe cultural activity is critical to the development of resilient and inclusive communities. Places such as cultural centres, creative workshops, civic places, and festival spaces enable diverse people to interact on a day-to-day basis and are essential to a harmonious city.<sup>1</sup>

Melville is home to people from all over the world, in particular large communities of people from across Southern and South-East Asia. Melville is also home to a strong First Nations community. The current state of cultural infrastructure does not reflect the dynamism of such a diverse community. Cultural facilities and activities are primarily concentrated along the corridor between the river and Leach Highway. Melville residents must have equitable access to cultural facilities, regardless of where they live.

Changes will be manifest through improvements to new and existing built infrastructure, interpretations of space, storytelling, and digital technologies.

The City has undertaken considerable, meaningful engagement with Traditional Owner groups as part of this strategy but importantly also in development of key cultural spaces, facilities and projects to date. These include the Goolugatup Heathcote Lower Lands, Local City Centre and Naming Project. This has developed into an ongoing engagement, relationship building and a cross-cultural process.



As one of few LGA's embedding this process into all projects, the continuation and ongoing support of such best practices should be promoted.

*“We need more cultural diversity and inclusion representing all cultures and religions.”*

- Participant MCIS Engagement Survey.

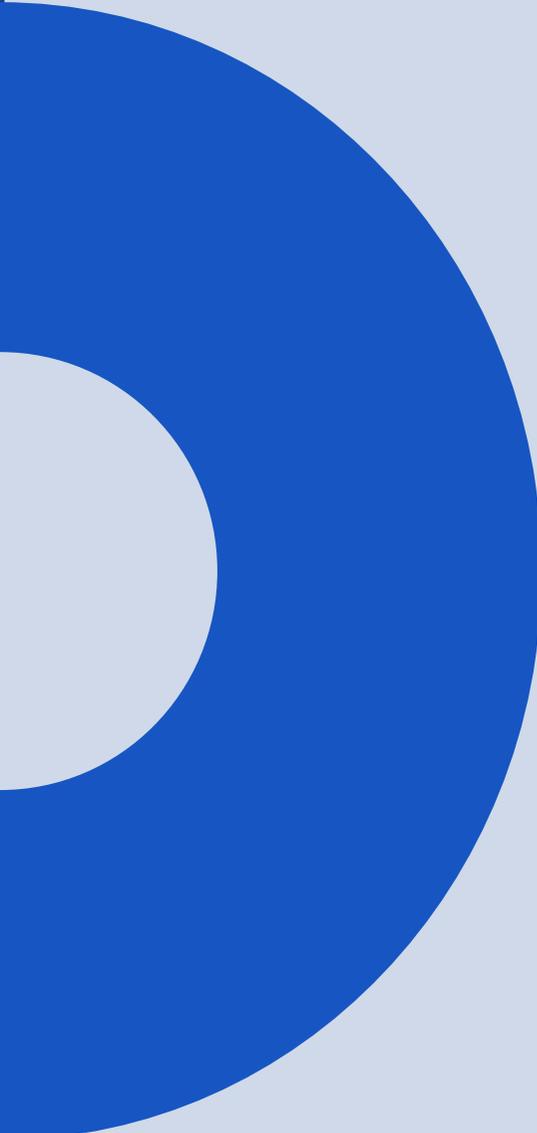
*“Goolugatup Heathcote is a sad place, has a traumatic history, many older people won’t come here. But children might be able to reclaim it. Reiterate the narrative to be about the cultural significance and focus on that with Truth-telling and reflection of our history.”*

- Participant in Whadjuk Reference Group



### Strategy 03 Goals

- All cultural infrastructure must celebrate its place on Whadjuk boodja, and acknowledge, respond to, and promote strong relationships with First Nations people and culture.
- All cultural buildings and spaces must respond to the demographics of local neighbourhoods and be welcoming to people from all cultural backgrounds.
- All future development must be developed through a co-design process with the local community and include First Nations and multi-cultural perspectives.
- Cultural infrastructure is equitably dispersed across the City's suburbs, with a particular focus on providing culturally diverse opportunities for programming and activation south of Leach Highway.
- Cultural infrastructure includes opportunities for site interpretation into new and existing facilities to enhance cultural understanding, with a focus on truth-telling, multifaceted stories, and new technology.



*Equitable access to our cultural centres, creative workspaces, civic spaces and festival spaces where communities engage with one another on a day-to-day basis is essential. These spaces provide opportunities to share what makes our communities vibrant, rich, and diverse, and contribute to a harmonious and inclusive society.*

- WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+

# Transformational Moves

# Transformational Move 01

## A Civic and Cultural Heart

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**Transformational Move 1 will create a thriving city heart by connecting the civic and cultural facilities at Booragoon with the landscape and facilities at Yagan Mia Wireless Hill and the Hickey Street Cottages.**

The MCIS supports the plan for the development of a new Library and Cultural Centre (LCC) alongside the existing civic building and Booragoon shopping centre. This location is busy and well known amongst the local community and further afield. The LCC will transform the current commercial nature of Booragoon into a true city hub - a focal point for state-of-the-art civic and cultural experiences, and a place for the community to come together in an exciting new environment.

The LCC will be a place where learning, art and cultural participation can thrive; a space for creativity to flourish, for lifelong engagement and for people to return to time and time again.<sup>1</sup>

Its development is key to fulfilling the ambitions set out in Creative Melville and for achieving the variety of cultural infrastructure required in a modern city.<sup>2</sup>

The MCIS builds on the plan for the LCC by recommending that the new cultural precinct be extended into neighbouring Yagan Mia Wireless Hill, celebrating the precinct's unique bushland landscape.

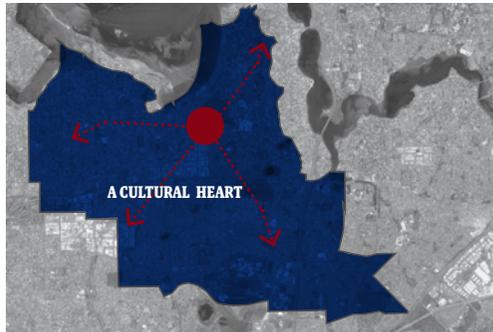
Combined, the two sites offer a unique window into Melville – the contemporary experience at Booragoon, community in the Main Hall, rich Aboriginal history at Yagan Mia, early settler Australian history at Wireless Hill and emergent creativity at Hickey Street. The development would provide an unparalleled opportunity for the City to reinforce its identity as a thriving hub for culture and the arts.

The development of this converged precinct also responds to global trends for cultural precincts that offer space for multidisciplinary activation, adaptation, connection, reflection, and active participation. The landscape between Booragoon and Yagan Mia, was highlighted as key to the development by the Whadjuk Reference Group and is just as important as the built environment and should be thought of as a key part of the cultural experience at the site.<sup>3</sup>

The rationale for the new cultural precinct is supported by the data that was gathered through the consultation process and analysis of current assets.

The new precinct would address the need for an additional museum and space for creative learning and collection display; it will also enrich the built environment and support diverse communities to enjoy and participate in a new era of cultural possibilities.<sup>4</sup> Once complete, the precinct will place Melville at the cutting-edge of creative environments and will set a new benchmark for the development of cultural infrastructure at local government level.

*“The LCC will transform the current commercial nature of Booragoon into a truly civic centre - a focal point for state-of-the-art civic and cultural experiences, and a hub for the community to come together in an exciting new environment.”*

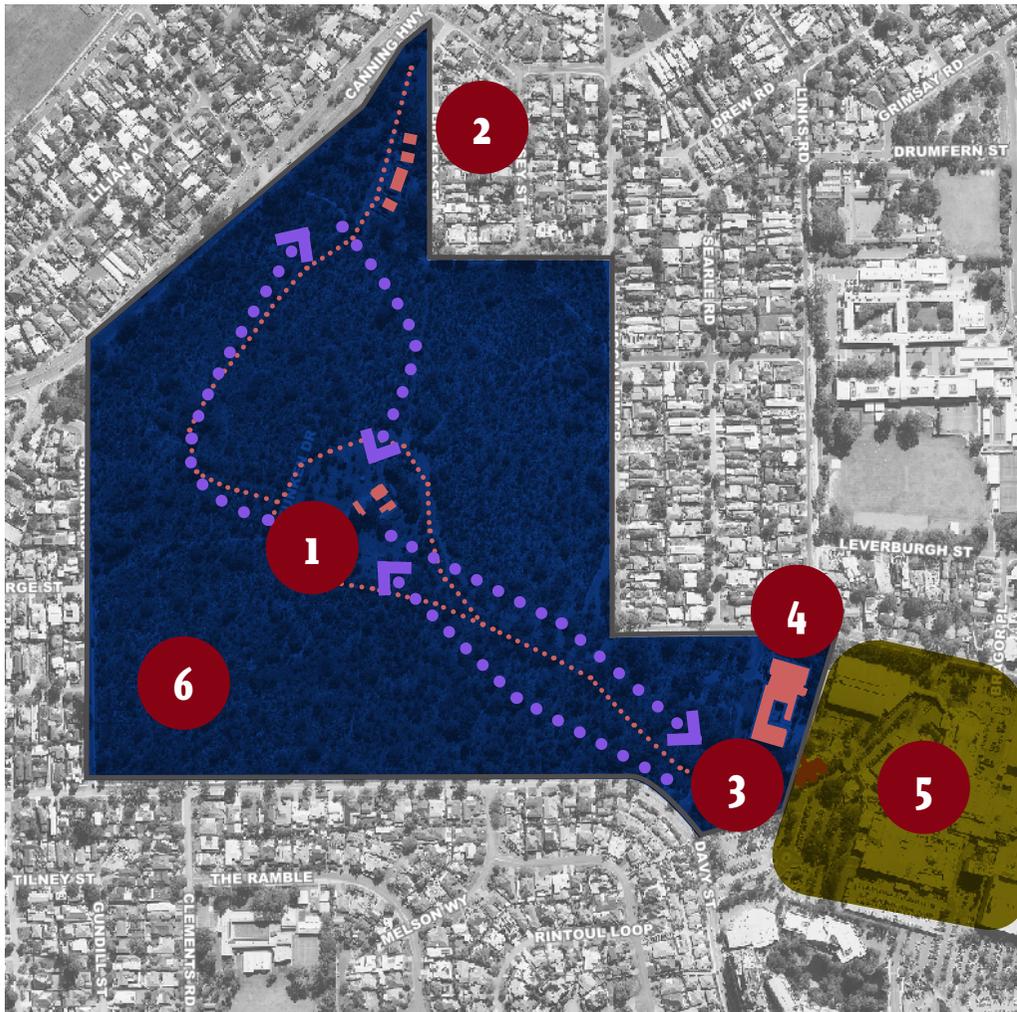


1 MERGE Festival, City of Melville, 2017.

2 Creative Melville, 2018-2022.

3 City of Melville Library Cultural Centre Concept Planning Aboriginal Reference Group, 2021.

4 Creative Melville, 2018-2022.



LEGEND:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum        | 4. Civic Centre Building and Main Hall |
| 2. Hickey Street Cottages                | 5. Commercial District                 |
| 3. New Library and Cultural Centre (LCC) | 6. Landscape and Bushland Areas        |



### Hickey Street Cottages

Identified as a unique and inspiring cultural opportunity, the Hickey Street cottages provide an excellent opportunity to further the emergent and established experiences and production in the City.

Through further investigation it could provide an innovative precinct that allows for the successful Artist in Residency program to continue and develop the whole street to act as a node of creative practice and experience. The MCIS recommend the exploration of an expansion of creative and cultural uses for the remaining cottages.

## Catalyst: Library and Cultural Centre

From the City of Melville Library and Cultural Centre  
Vision Document, supplied 2022

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### Creating the Civic and Cultural Heart of the City of Melville.

The new facility and piazza will create the civic and cultural heart of the City providing a peoples' place in the mixed use precinct of retail, commercial and residential.

The facility will replace the Civic Square Library the City's current main library. The new facility will also accommodate other existing City services to create a multi use facility, including the City's municipal museum in a contemporary converged model, the Melville Theatre Company, Child Health Clinic and the City's Customer Service front of house

### Our Vision

To create a hub of culture and activity for the whole of the City to enjoy. A place where people can connect, learn, enjoy and celebrate their identity ...an opportunity to bring Arts, Culture, History and Literature together for the community.

### Our Ambition

The new civic building will be the central community facility for the City of Melville. It is envisaged to be the active face of the City with the vision to create a hub of culture and activity for the whole of the City to enjoy. It will be judged as successful if it stimulates collaboration and creative partnerships; supports creative endeavors of all kinds for all ages; provides beautiful and useful spaces and places in which to meet, share, learn and create; provides excellent cultural facilities and programs; and, ultimately, helps make the City of Melville a more liveable, enjoyable, healthy and alive place that affords cultural experiences and opportunities for participation to all of its citizens.

People are central to the facility design. Spaces will be designed around people, seeing people and attracting people. All other elements will support functional people spaces. It is vital that the building be designed under a strong people focussed philosophy making intergenerational experiences possible and attract people of different cultures and ethnicities.

The library and cultural centre should be based on peoples current needs with built in future flexibility.

Elements to add to a community focussed design will include a seamless inside outside blend to allow for diverse place making activation, easy way finding and a physical link to Wireless Hill.

### The new facility will house the following core services:

- The City's Main Library
- Municipal/Community Museum
- A Class Gallery and Exhibition space
- Performance Space / Theatre
- Flexible meeting spaces
- City's customer service interface
- Community Information Service and JP service
- Melville Volunteer Resource Centre
- Outdoor Civic Space
- Commercial Café/Restaurant
- Commercial Space/ Co-working
- Complementary retail

And include spaces for a

- Youth Space
- Aboriginal Cultural Space



The Pauline Gandel Children's Quarter at State Library of Victoria.  
Image courtesy State Library of Victoria .

### Community Consultation:

The City of Melville is creating a new civic and cultural heart that will enable growth, vitality and community services being brought together into one great facility. Visioning exercises, and preliminary concept work has been done to gauge community's desire to see a mixture of vibrant, and readily accessible community based facilities.

The next phase of engagement activities with the community is to inform and involve people in the journey of creating the new Library and Cultural Centre, showcasing the possibilities that are available for the development and truly understanding the aspirations of the community in terms of activation and functionality.

Research allowed the gathering of information about design objectives and understanding the core services needed. The next stage of community engagement will be key to informing the ideals and project delivery for the future facility. A unique opportunity for consultation was developed to engage directly with the community during the 2017 Merge Festival.

### Social Benefits

The opportunity to create a new civic/ cultural facility for the City of Melville community presents numerous social benefits.

The library's value as a place that is a safe, trusted, welcoming and inclusive environment is the most often quoted contribution. Libraries promote acceptance and understanding of others by acting as neutral meeting places accessible to the whole community. The availability of public library collections, information and lifelong learning can address disadvantage by ensuring free and equitable access for all community members; address the needs of specific target groups; contribute to developing, maintaining and improving literacy levels; and preserving the past through local and family history collections. This well known value of the public library will provide the core of this multi purpose facility.

The City of Melville Library and Cultural Centre will be a hub of cultural activities appealing to all. To accompany the library, a converged museum, A Class gallery and a performing arts theatre completes the cultural environment required for a healthy, sustainable community. The facility will have strong social benefits including a sense of connection, belonging, a safe and trusted, vibrant and accessible place that is inspiring and enriching. This facility will specifically address many of the City's Corporate Plan and Strategic Community Plan objectives.

The theatre is an important part of the facility and a new performing arts theatre ensures the continuing life of the successful Melville Theatre Company which for over three decades has

been a part of the cultural make up of Melville. Further to the influence on strengthening social fabric, a performing arts space will help activate the new Library Cultural Centre beyond normal library and museum operating hours. Strong activity that could spill out onto the piazza of the building will help attract extra people to the Cultural Centre and surrounding businesses, enriching their lives in the process. The theatre can perform as both economic and community value drivers. The City will gain a flexible venue that can be hired out to commercial and community users on an hourly, half day, full day or weekly basis.

Events held in the Library and Cultural Centre will further enliven the building by bringing additional people into it as participants in a diverse program of activities within the theatre, meeting spaces, ground floor, piazza and gallery. These could include:

- daytime community workshops in dance, movement and yoga workshops
- youth and seniors programs
- intimate music concerts
- mini festivals with events taking place on all levels of the Library and Cultural Centre
- commercial conferences and regional meetings
- foyer exhibitions and showcases
- business and community training programs
- an activity-extension place for the other cultural activities to expand programs created by the library, museum or other resident non-profit organisations
- awards and cultural ceremonies



*The facility will have strong social benefits including a sense of connection, belonging, a safe and trusted, vibrant and accessible place that is inspiring and enriching.*

# Transformational Move 02

## Leverage Neighbourhood Hubs

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**Transformational Move 2 will leverage the success of the existing library network to create a series of neighbourhood hubs that merge community services with vibrant cultural activity.**

Libraries in Melville operate with great success – they are dispersed in neighbourhood nodes across the city and are very well attended. With their focus on literacy, digital literacy, life-long learning and creativity, libraries are key to delivering a vibrant, creative, and future-focussed city.

The MCIS recommends that libraries be leveraged into neighbourhood hubs that converge traditional library services with the flexibility and space offered by a community centre. The new hubs are places of learning and platforms for cultural participation and/or experience. Built form is woven together with programming, and the relationship between different services becomes fluid, much like the converged service model developed in Creative Melville.<sup>1</sup>

This priority has been developed through research, benchmarking against global trends, and engagement with primary stakeholders and the community. The benefits of this model include sharing of resources, space, equipment, and staff; encouraging wider public use by providing access to a range of services under one roof; and creating a critical mass of visitors and vibrant hub. Additionally, density of connections has been shown to support innovation and creativity and cross-disciplinary pollination.



Languages Other Than English Collection at Bull Creek Library.

*“Co-location and joint use libraries models typically provide a community hub or community precinct, acting as a strong focal point for community activities and identity.”*

Quote from NSW State Library Planning Guide, a national guideline already used by the City and standard nationally.

*Benefits include; sharing of resources such as staff, space and equipment, encouraging wider public use by providing access to a range of services at one facility - the ‘one stop shop’, creating a critical mass of visitors and a vibrant hub, improving the cost effectiveness of the service provided while enhancing service quality<sup>1</sup>*

### 01 City Library and Cultural Centre

The City of Melville currently lacks the central infrastructure that builds a citywide cultural identity. The proposed City Library and Cultural Centre is set to address this issue and will become the first precinct to combine a library with a burgeoning cultural precinct in and around it. The new precinct will form the 'civic heart and cultural' of Melville and will become a place of participation, exploration, and observation.

### 02 Willagee Library

Willagee Library is the library with the highest levels of youth and CALD engagement. Geographically, it is perfectly situated to develop into a vibrant and active neighbourhood hub; and going forward, a business case could be developed for a new building that unites the library and adjacent community centre, linking to surrounding landscape and George Humes Park.

### 03 Canning Bridge Library

The planned Canning Bridge Edge Library addresses the need for a new library to replace the Canning Bridge Express Library and to service this area's growing population. It also emphasises the need for Library spaces to become spaces of creative pursuit and learning with its Atelier and workshop.

This shift frees up the Canning Bridge Library site for temporary space for innovative emergent performance, extending and building on Tivoli's existing engagement in performance and enabling new audiences to discover the cultural entryway to the city.

The overall vision for this site to become a significant cultural node also leverages existing private venues as well as developer contributions. Canning Bridge Cultural Node provides a focus on the City's Cultural Identity at one of the main entry points.

### 04 Bull Creek Library

Bull Creek Library is already located in the same building as the community centre, offering an opportunity for the two facilities to collaborate and converge. This move would also enable a focus on more cultural activation, participation and learning. There is also the potential to set up a 'Testing Grounds' in the forecourt of the library and community centre to further these possibilities, to improve wayfinding and signage from the adjacent shopping centre.

### 05 AH Bracks

AH Bracks runs successfully and is considered the lowest priority in regards to upgrades or changes to its operating model. It already works through a co-located philosophy; however minor adjustments will allow the library and creative spaces to be further activated. The MCIS identifies a series of quick wins to increase participation and to create more agile spaces through furniture selection and interiors.

### Willagee Neighborhood Hub



- 1 Willagee Library
- 2 Spatial Intervention
- 3 Community Centre
- 4 George Humes Park



*A converged community and library centre with room for spatial intervention. It will amplify an already vibrant hub with gallery display, innovative activation and participation with agile spaces and reflection of the local community.*

# Transformational Move 03

## Innovative Spatial Interventions

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**Inspired by emerging global and national trends, develop a series of agile, low-cost and context-specific structures to be used for innovative and experimental cultural activity.**

A foundation for the MCIS is to respond to the vision set out in Creative Melville, which includes a willingness to:

- Pilot new arts and culture programs in established and unexpected places,
- Adopt a more experimental approach to what we do and how we do it.

In response to these two ambitions, the MCIS recommends that the City develop a series of agile, small-scale structures that can act as incubators for experimental cultural activity. The briefing for these structures have been influenced by 'Testing Grounds' in Melbourne, a static piece of cultural infrastructure that provides a venue for emerging artists to present their work.

It is important that these structures be positioned in areas lacking an established cultural facility and/or needing space to pursue more innovative programming. The following four sites have been identified as prime locations for these spatial interventions:

- Bull Creek Library
- Willagee Library
- Murdoch Health & Knowledge Precinct
- Canning Bridge Cultural Node



Little Library Box, City of Melville, Melville Plaza.

The City of Melville has already had success with this type of model through 'Little Library Box', a successful pop-up project at Melville Plaza and Cirque Community space with its pop-up weekend long art events and showcase.

The Testing Grounds model is similar in that the infrastructure is static but the programming is rolling and ever-changing. A performance or activity may only stay a couple of weeks before being replaced by something new.

Research has demonstrated that creative community-based spaces are becoming places of cultural and social innovation due to their ability to capture the attention of people who might not typically engage with the arts! This model offers a platform for artists to test ideas and provides the community with new cultural experiences on a regular basis.

### What form would these interventions take?

An example of the model that has been successful is Testing Grounds in Melbourne. This is a series of simple structures, spaces, storage areas and such spaces utilizing shipping containers and landscape. The MCIS envisages spatial interventions of this scale and language, utilizing 'ready-made' structures grafted into existing spaces, and connected with simple, well-planned landscape and hardscape elements to create dynamic backdrops for cultural activity. Each nominated site will require design to ascertain the most relevant form, layout and typology of intervention to achieve the strategic goals of the MCIS.



Testing Grounds, consist of several containers with affordable and agile infrastructure. 2019.

1 Participatory Innovation and Prototyping in the Cultural Sector: A case study. Stefania Boiano, Ann Borda & Guiliano Gaia, InvisibleStudio 2019.

## Case Study - Testing Grounds

### What is it?

Testing Grounds is a temporary space for creative practices encompassing art, performance and design. The outdoor grounds are programmed through an open application process that supports interdisciplinary practice, experimentation and courage.

Testing Grounds is a place where people at all levels can test, develop and share their work. We encourage both creative and education-related activities.

Where: Melbourne, Victoria.

Funding: Supported by the City of Melbourne and State Government through the Melbourne City Recovery Fund.

Who: Creative Victoria and The Projects.

When: 2013-Present

More details

<https://www.theprojects.com.au/testing-grounds>

<https://creative.vic.gov.au/showcase/co-working-and-collaboration/testing-grounds>

### Program objectives

- Cross programming; seeing what emerges when divergent groups come together on-site and work alongside and with each other.
- Development of a flexible and robust creative program, which is not immutable and is free to respond to creativity.
- A shortening of the time between when art is created and when art is presented.
- Pooling of knowledge, information and resources for sharing.
- Seeing how the Testing Grounds infrastructure can participate in creative projects.
- A free site to use, within our standard hours of operation.

### Program outcomes

- Carefully considered creative projects that are combined with rigorous practice-led research.
- An online archive, documenting and collecting in-formation about Melbourne's creative community, with a focus on new, experimental and emerging models of creative practice.
- A stronger relationship between creative practitioners, their arts precinct and audiences.
- More civic agency to be creative.
- More experimentation, more innovation and more discovery.
- Place activation

### Selection of projects

- Testing Grounds programs creative projects on an ongoing basis through the online EOI portal.
- Testing Grounds reviews all EOIs and select projects that are considered to be experimental, site-responsive or related to creative education. Read the Glossary of Terms, expanding on these terms.
- We value projects that bring a diversity of creative practice, cultures and people to the arts precinct.



Overview of the area.



Jaffle Symposium, 2019.



Midsumma Horizon, performance, 2017.

# Transformational Move 04

## Leverage Outdoor Spaces and Places

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**Extend the City's successful outdoor events program into new landscapes, parks and spaces across the breadth of Melville.**

**The City of Melville is distinguished by its rich and unique collection of public outdoor spaces and its spectacular connection to the river and wetlands.**

**The City has had great success activating the spaces adjacent to the river through activities such as Goolugatup Sounds, Goolugatup Markets and the Melville Music Summer Music Program.**

**Extensive public space along the river provides ample opportunities for activation and cultural participation and is already well used for these purposes.**

The MCIS provides a framework to strengthen the City's identity as a place for unique and exciting outdoor cultural experiences. Outdoor venues provide an agile and dynamic alternative to investing in expensive fixed infrastructure; however, their success relies on the city maintaining significant investment in their programming and activation. Outdoor venues should be seen as a place for the local community to experience culture, as a drawcard for people from the greater Perth, and as a place for the City to test and prototype new ideas.

The Goolugatup Heathcote Lowerlands project offers a means for making Goolugatup more inviting to First Nations people and is a great place for low impact cultural activity. There are also several outdoor spaces south of Leach Highway that could accommodate events, and in doing so, enhance cultural activity in currently

under-serviced parts of Melville. These spaces include Piney Lakes Reserve, Centennial Park and Bob Gordon Reserve.

The MCIS does not recommend investing in permanent structures (e.g. a sound bowl, stage or similar) at any outdoor venue. The strength of the existing suite of outdoor spaces is its ability to adapt according to programming and future trends. Similarly, the MCIS recommends that the City continues to hire specific technical equipment (e.g. AV, amenities and staging) rather than purchasing it.

The hiring of equipment allows the City to adapt according to changing performance needs, and removes the burden of storage and maintenance.

Temporary structures, festivals and pavilions provide an experimental and innovative way of engaging with local communities. Successful examples include Blak Box temporary sound pavilion at Barangaroo Reserve, MPavilion and Testing Grounds in Melbourne. The aim of a temporary structure is twofold: to explore the potential for more permanent infrastructure in untested sites and to more evenly distribute cultural activities across the city.

*Outdoor events spaces – brings culture into our communities and makes it accessible for all of us.*

*The Hon. Don Harwin MLC Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, Minister for the Arts Leader of the NSW Government in the Upper House and Vice President of the Executive Council*



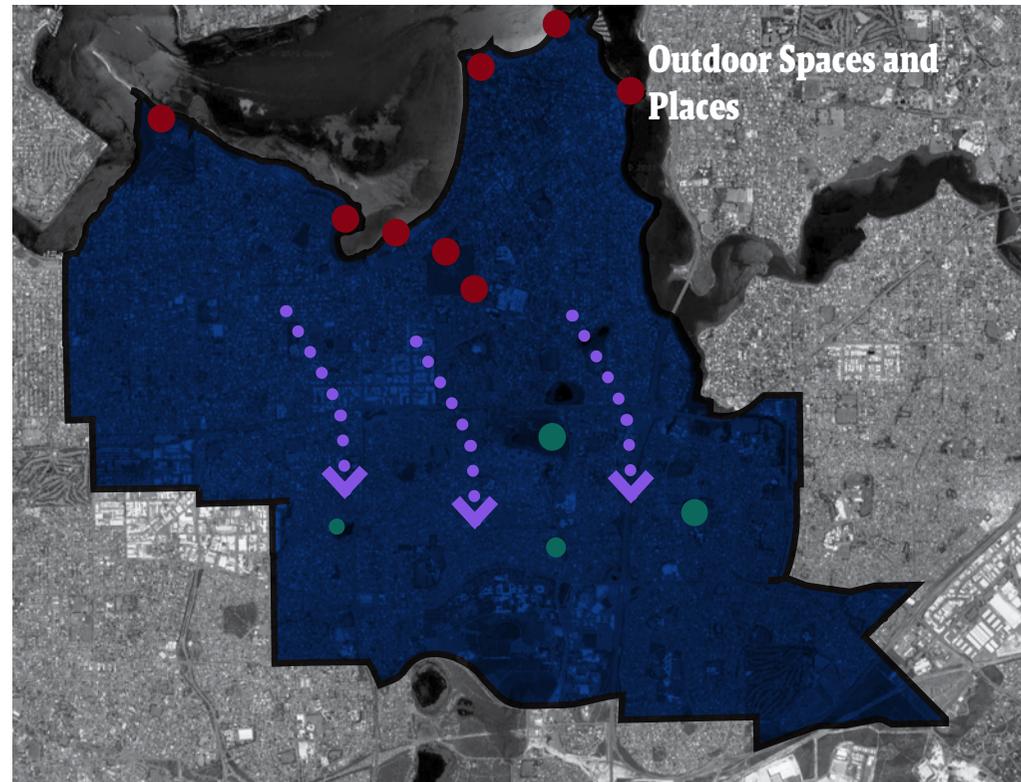
Conversations of space, MPavilion, 2016.

*Point Walter this year was a standout, because it engaged indigenous families as well as other music lovers, had fantastic music and wonderful visual presentation. Would like to see more acknowledgment of the indigenous history including all the bad stuff. I'd like to join the history group when they move from 200 years of history to 65,000+ years.*

- Participant in MCIS Engagement Survey.

*More outdoor events- eg free or cheap music concerts etc. Pop up bars/food with entertainment in the summer. Similar events under marquees in Winter.*

Participant in MCIS Engagement Survey.



Song for Freedom, Roebourne Community, The City of Melville and Big hART, 2020.



Moombaki, Fremantle Biennale, Point Walter. 2022.



Piney Lakes- Tai Chi, 2020.



Melville Summer Music, Wireless Hill, 2022.



*The arts, culture and creative industries diversify our economy and improve the liveability of Western Australia. Cultural infrastructure is often not considered as essential social infrastructure and the time to change this mindset is now.*

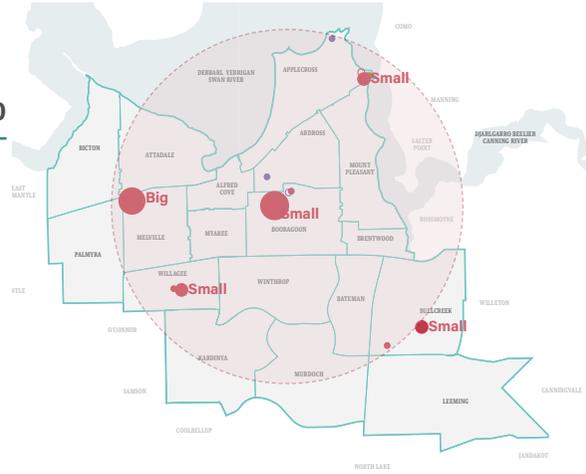
*Cultural infrastructure is critical for increasing participation in the arts, culture and creative activity.*

- WA Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2030+

# Asset Specific Actions Overview

## Libraries

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Current

Future

## Libraries

The City of Melville currently has 5 local library sites being:

- AH Bracks
- Bull Creek Library
- Canning Bridge Library
- Civic Square Library
- Willagee Library

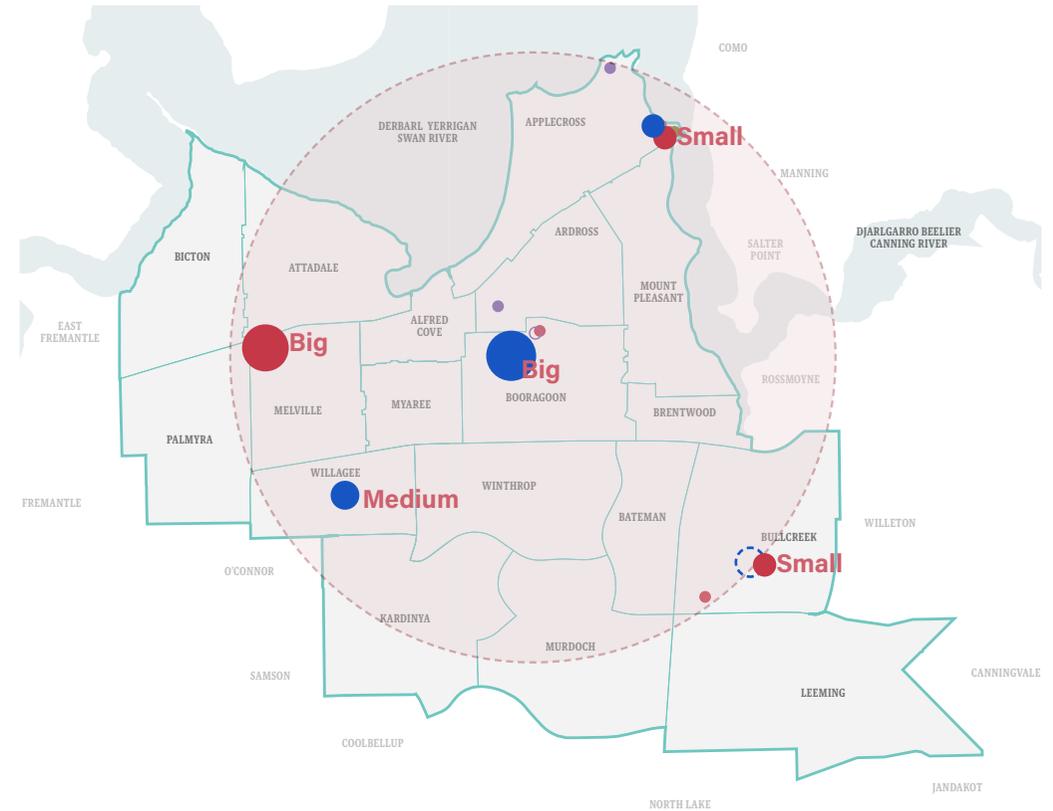
## Current

The existing libraries are well placed throughout the City of Melville, providing residents with a cultural and community hub close to their homes. Library staff are well engaged within their local communities, and activate the site with a range of projects and programs. As a result, each library is active and well attended.

Except for Willagee Library, the libraries struggle to engage with youth and some young professionals. This could be addressed through improvements to wayfinding, temporary interventions such as coffee carts and the provision of multipurpose spaces for creative activity.

## Opportunities

- The libraries do not have enough creative space for making, creating and experiencing culture.
- Many spaces are static and can only be used for one purpose.
- The libraries south of Leach Hwy are smaller and have even less ability to provide dynamic, creative space.
- The limited interaction and collaboration between libraries and adjacent community centres means that services are often duplicated.
- Consideration of programming of spaces to allow for a diverse user profile - from working professionals, to youth and specialist community groups (i.e. writing groups that may need to meet after hours)
- Consideration of hospitality offering in libraries, such as coffee carts, cafes or other forms of vendors (i.e. programmed food trucks)
- Consideration of co-working spaces available for residents.



## Future

Libraries must maintain their neighbourhood focus and develop programming that reflects the communities they serve. Agile and multi-purpose spaces must be created for the exploration of new activities. The recommendations in the Strategy establish new opportunities for residents to interact with culture and pursue activities that previously couldn't be accommodated.

Any future works should be pursued for the benefit of many rather than a few.

## Enabling Infrastructure

- Willagee Library and Community Centre
- Civic Library and Culture Centre
- Canning Bridge Edge Library and Creative Studio
- Testing Ground providing more space for multicultural events, programming and creative interaction in Bull Creek.

The City of Melville has a suite of museums and galleries under its control, including established facilities like Goolugatup Heathcote and Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum that showcase the city's history and collections, while the museum at the proposed Library and Cultural Centre at Booragoon will substantially enhance the City's ability to present art and artefact in new and immersive ways.

Globally, museums and galleries are shifting away from the traditional model of passive observation to become places for exploration and active learning. Exhibits are no longer framed by expert appreciation but instead acknowledge subjectivity and multiple perspectives. This emerging model is evident in the increasing popularity of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaborations.

Museums are uniquely positioned to blend education and recreation in ways that can both challenge and catalyse communities.<sup>1</sup>

Museums stimulate curiosity and create educational experiences by providing access to collections and fostering a range of interpretations. Contemporary galleries and museums are increasingly becoming spaces where public talks, community meetings, workshops and educational courses can be held.

### Heritage Assets

The City has a range of heritage buildings and spaces in varying states of activation, use and condition. Consideration should be given to ensuring that future capital works opportunities include an analysis of existing heritage sites and assets to determine if any can be more fully utilised or preserved for cultural uses.

### Civic and Cultural Heart

The new museum and gallery at the proposed LCC will be the premier cultural facility in the City of Melville, attracting the work of local, national, and international emeritus artists and curators. For the facility to resonate with the community, it's important that it also become a place for the telling of stories relevant to the local people and places.

The LCC should offer a platform for major touring exhibitions and major curated shows to be presented within the City of Melville. Doing this will provide residents with an opportunity to enjoy world-class exhibitions, act as a drawcard for visitors in the City, and cement Melville's position as a place of importance within the West Australian cultural landscape.

Innovative digital solutions, such as Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) should be integrated throughout the design of the new facility to ensure engagement. Today, technology exists in galleries, museums, and visitor's personal devices to make the presentation of history, culture and art more inclusive, responsive and relevant to diverse audiences.

### Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum and Gallery

Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum and Gallery is a great example of an inclusive and vibrant cultural space. The current programme of events, exhibitions and talks attracts diverse audiences and brings the building to life as a living museum. This museum and gallery model is futureforward and will empower Yagan Mia to have its focus on balancing the cultural continuum and the whole ecosystem in the precinct.

Ultimately, Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum and Gallery will connect to the LCC at Booragoon, and the two facilities will work in concert as part of the Civic and Cultural Heart. In preparation, it is critical that the building itself undergo a series of backhouse improvements, including a storage solution and renovation of the office space. The addition of a café is recommended subject to a detailed business case.

*“the best use of digital is not to make you aware of the technology, but to make you aware of the art.”*

*Jane Alexander, South African Artist*

### Goolugatup Heathcote Gallery and Museum

Goolugatup Heathcote is well on its way to achieve its vision as a significant cultural asset in Metropolitan Perth and Western Australia. The precinct enables emergent practice, excellent quality in its art gallery and exhibitions and through its programming attracted people from all over the metropolitan area.

The City's vision for Goolugatup Heathcote as a place of 'integrated' diversity aligns with the strategies set out in the MCIS. The identity of Goolugatup Heathcote should not be centred around one or two uses but instead encompass a range of dynamic spaces and activities. Its current use as an arts centre, parkland and playground should continue while at the same time incorporating new, flexible spaces for knowledge sharing and learning.

The concept of truth-telling<sup>2</sup> is an important layer to add to Goolugatup Heathcote, in recognition of its history as a psychiatric hospital and place of incarceration, including for First Nations people. As Melville's Whadjuk Reference Group have advised, the facility continues to be a place of sadness for many Indigenous people, and this should be addressed through the landscape and built form.

The recent TILT exhibition featuring Martu artist, Curtis Taylor<sup>3</sup>, is a great example of truth-telling through programming. In terms of infrastructure, the Goolugatup Heathcote Museum collection should be re-opened to the public; but, prior to this happening, Traditional Owners must be consulted to ensure that their experience is fully incorporated into exhibition, programming, and the stories we tell.

<sup>1</sup> *Museum Experience Index*, Gensler Research Institute, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/reconciliation/truth-telling/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.heathcotewa.com/curtis-taylor>

The Goolugatup Lowerlands project presents another opportunity to capitalise on Melville's unique position on the Swan River. Through treatments to the landscape and careful programming, the project offers an opportunity to make Goolugatup Heathcote more inviting to all, and in particular, First Nations people. Again, Traditional Owners must be consulted in the design of the new environment to ensure that it becomes a place of reconciliation and agency. Once complete, Goolugatup Lowerlands should offer a place for low impact cultural activity, with minimal built interventions.

### Activating Neighbourhood Hubs through Roving Exhibitions

Neighbourhood hubs, centred on transformed library spaces, provide another platform for the sharing of culture through the City of Melville. A series of roving exhibitions should be developed that move through these hubs that consist of work belonging to either the City's art or historical collections. This model not only responds to MCIS's Neighbourhood Culture Strategy but acts on Creative Melville's ambition to

'weave together the City's cultural services – libraries, galleries, museums, programs, events, precincts and festivals – in exciting new ways.'<sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup>As the Gensler research into museum's suggests, temporary offsite exhibitions support a higher level of experimentation and require less operating budget. Moreover, the roving model provides opportunities for people who might not typically visit a gallery or museum to experience what they have to offer but in a familiar setting. The organisation Art on the Move<sup>6</sup> offers a similar service, but at a state-wide level, and is a local key source of inspiration for this model.

### Miller Bakehouse Museum

The Miller Bakehouse Museum is an underutilised asset on the City's cultural landscape. Whilst small in scale, the facility is a unique historical curiosity, and is surrounded by quality parkland and an active community.

It is recommended that the site become a hybrid living museum namely an experiential interpretation of history combined with a commercial enterprise. The opportunity is for the facility to become a café or bakery, in keeping with its original purpose and creating living history.

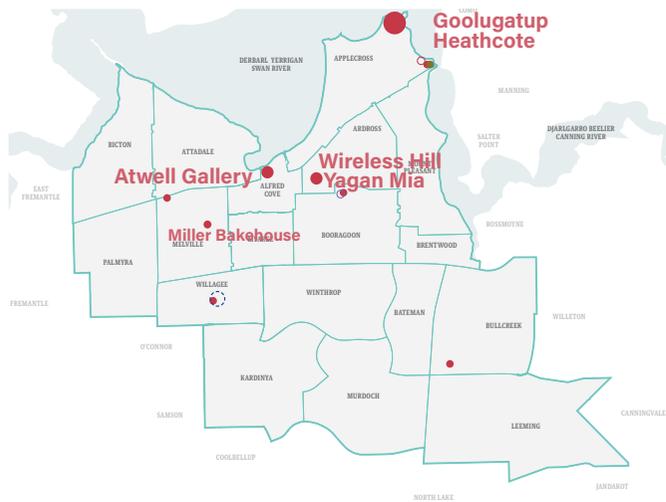


Home front, War front, Wireless Hill Museum. 2015.

<sup>4</sup> *Creative Melville, 2018-2022.*

<sup>5</sup> *Museum Experience Index, Gensler Research Institute, 2019*

<sup>6</sup> <https://artonthemove.art>



### ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

- Goolugatup Heathcote Gallery and Museum
- Yagan Mia Wireless Hill Museum
- Miller Bakehouse Museum
- Atwell Gallery

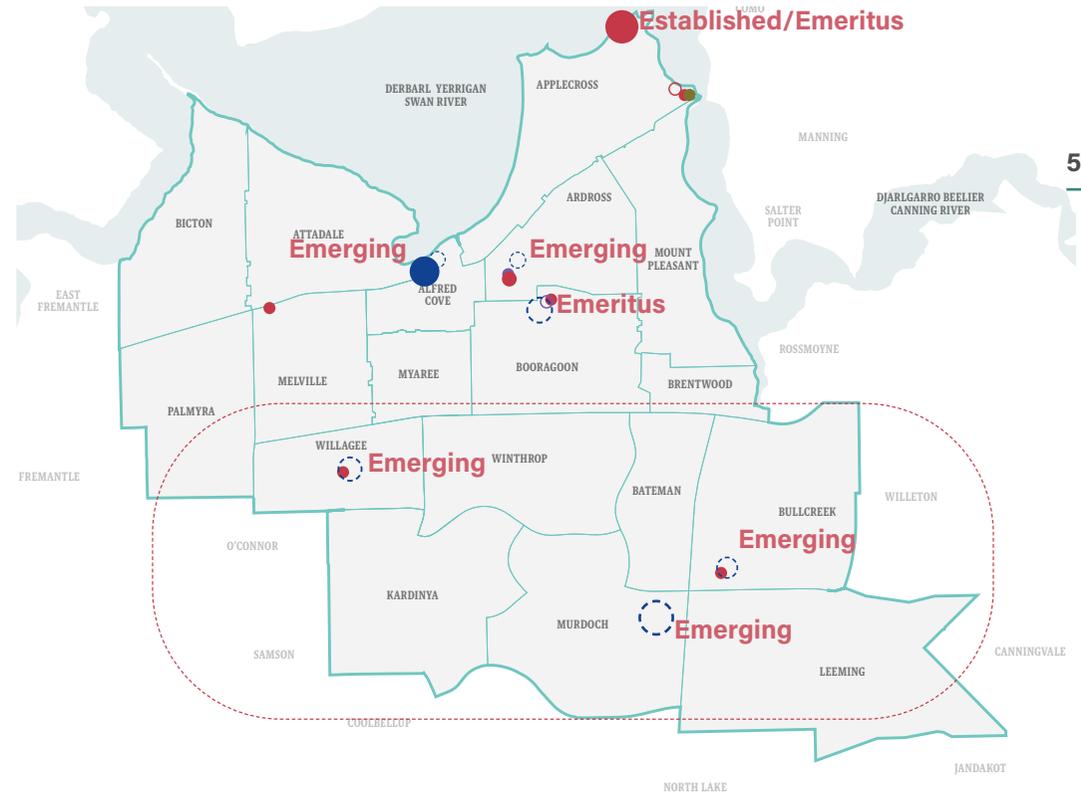
#### Current

The City owns a suite of galleries and museums that provide access to high-quality art and artefacts. Research has indicated that more needs to be done to communicate the value of these assets to residents and the engagements suggest that the museums and galleries need to be accessed more holistically.

The galleries at Goolugatup Heathcote and the proposed gallery at the City Library and Cultural Centre primarily provide space for the exhibition of established and emeritus artists. More focus on emergent culture, art and participation is needed as the only current gallery space dedicated for emerging artists is at Atwell Gallery, which is managed by an external organisation.

#### Gaps

- Gallery space for emerging artists
- Art galleries on the riverside, with nothing south side of Leach highway
- Lack of multicultural representation, narrative and participation
- Underutilised Miller Bakehouse Museum
- Little space for museum collection
- Over 50% of people surveyed rarely or never interact with museums and art galleries. It is not clear if communication was a barrier for this attendance rate (refer to Youth Survey regarding a lack of access to information about events being perceived as a barrier)



#### Future

The City must strive towards a more equitable spread of art galleries and museums across the City. The Strategy recommends that Goolugatup Heathcote and the new gallery at the Cultural Heart remain for emeritus and established artists but with temporary emergent practices assisting in roving exhibitions throughout the city.

Hickey Street and Atwell Gallery undergo transformation to serve even more as places for emerging artists and practitioners.

Miller Bakehouse Museum is in need for activation and new leaseholders that can combine heritage and commercial value, giving the space new life without losing history.

On the south side of Leach Highway, three locations have been identified that could support the creation and presentation of emerging and hobbyist art. These spaces could be

'testing grounds' that provide dynamic cultural interventions within established community hubs.

#### Enabling Infrastructure

- Civic and Cultural Heart
- The New Library and Cultural Centre
- Hickey Street Cottages and Cultural Precinct
- Redevelopment of Atwell Gallery
- Upgrades to libraries to provide space for moving collections and art exhibitions
- Dynamic Cultural Interventions - Testing Grounds (Willagee Library, Bull Creek Library and Murdoch Health and Knowledge Precinct)
- New model for Miller Bakehouse Museum

**The future of music, performance and Theatre requires a dynamic approach to the development of assets across the City. The MCIS recommends three actions:**

01. Creating more opportunities for citywide activation and participation
02. Amplify and build on the cultural node at Canning Bridge, and
03. Develop stronger relationships with private venues, including incentives for incorporating cultural outputs into private developments through targeted Developer Contributions.

**1: Creating more opportunities for citywide activation and participation**

Outdoor spaces provide a dynamic alternative to investing in expensive fixed infrastructure; while initiatives such as a roving Testing Grounds structure will provide opportunities for emergent performance to be enjoyed and new locations to be tested.

Outdoor venues should be seen as a place for the local community to experience culture and as a drawcard for people from the greater Perth.

**2: New Music and Performance Space**

The Canning Bridge precinct offers one of the best locations for the development of a niche music venue. Access to public transport is excellent and the area is surrounded by burgeoning residential developments.

Once the Canning Bridge Library relocates to become the 'Edge Library', work should commence on developing this location into a cultural node (as per the Activity Centre Plan).

An emerging music space should be considered for this space.

The Tivoli Theatre is a much-loved and well-used cultural asset; the audience is older, and the space generates nostalgia and sense of belonging through its programming. The Tivoli Theatre is heritage listed and should remain as a place for community performance and participation. However, it does require a 'younger sibling' to attract a more diverse audience to this location.

**3: Better Cooperation and incentives for private venues.**

This precinct offers excellent opportunities to leverage off private venues such as the Raffles Hotel and incentivise future development proposals through Developer Contributions towards a music and performance space.

The City also has the existing Library site as a developable site, and could target specific developer contributions in the form of dedicated performance or music space/s within any new development on this site.

Large Scale venue:

An investigation was conducted into the demand for a large-scale professional performance space that could accommodate an audience of up to 400 and a symphony orchestra or major theatre production. At the time of writing, the South Side Symphony Orchestra (SSSO) are the only group who would benefit from a facility of this scale. Further, analysis did not indicate any future need for the City to own or manage such a facility.

There are a couple of schools within the Melville catchment, including All Saints College, that possess professional performance spaces, and the MCIS recommends that the City negotiates access to these facilities for occasional community use.

Alternatively, the City could provide community organisations such as the SSSO with a financial grant that would enable them to hire private facilities for performances. The City could assist community organisations such as the SSSO through financial grants enabling them hire of private facilities for performances. (NB: All Saints Performance Space hire is approximately \$2,500/day, so financial grants to enable up to six performances would be in the region of \$30,000 p.a.)

A further recommendation is that the City approach neighbouring LGAs (Fremantle, South Perth, Cockburn and/or the City of Perth), which each have large performance spaces to develop opportunities for venue hire/sharing throughout the course of the year. This could be done as a formal agreement (such as an MOU) or on an annual basis subject to community demand.



Summer Nights, Blueroom Theatre, 2021.

# Music and Performance



## MUSIC/PERFORMANCE/THEATRE

- Tivoli Club
- Melville Theatre/ Main Hall
- Outdoor events and programming

### Current

There are limited spaces for theatre and music performance within the current range of cultural infrastructure. The existing theatres are run by external community groups and are often fully programmed (with performance, rehearsal and training), offering little opportunity to expand to include additional new music and performance. The City's outdoor music events and cultural programs are popular amongst the residents but to a great extent limited to the foreshore of the river. This is something to build on and leverage to a citywide approach.

### Gaps

- There is no cultural facility with a performance stage for emergent artists
- No space for musical performance except outdoor and temporary stages
- Limited knowledge about current facilities and offering
- Limited youth engagement
- Current assets are managed by external cultural groups.



### Future

The future of music and performance requires a dynamic approach to the development of assets across the City of Melville. One move towards this vision is the Rehearsal spaces at Myaree Makerspace and Community Music Facility. The strategy supports the relocation of Melville Theatre to the Main Hall at Booragoon.

Tivoli Theatre and the adjacent library space present an exciting opportunity to develop this area into a key cultural node. The soon-to-be-vacant library at Canning Bridge could provide much-needed temporary rehearsal space to a new, more diverse audience while taking the pressure off the theatre next door.

Development projects within the precinct should liaise with the City for Developer contributions towards a performance space within new development footprints.

This could be for emerging artists and more intimate venues for established and emeritus performers.

A dynamic spatial intervention should be placed in Bull Creek offering a 'Testing Ground' for performance art in a previously under-represented part of the City.

### Enabling Infrastructure

- Canning Bridge Performance Space
- Library and Culture Centre Performance Space (two spaces available here)
- Testing Grounds at Bull Creek
- Refurbishment of Melville Hall
- Leveraging private facilities and venues
- Leverage outdoor spaces and places for more events, programming with a city wide approach
- Myaree Makerspace

**Practicing and experiencing art and culture is essential to community wellbeing. The City of Melville has rich spaces that support the community in art making, however, more is needed to provide equitable access to other aspects of culture, including performance, learning and observation. The MCIS recommends several moves that are in line with the following steps for community resilience in Creative Melville:**

- Equality of access to knowledge, learning, digital technologies and platforms, and diverse cultural experiences.
- More avenues in which to participate in life affirming, creative thought and artistic practices, for all ages, at all levels of proficiency.
- Places in which citizens with different backgrounds, ideas and cultural experiences can mingle in non-demanding ways.
- Develop skills and professional pathways.

The focus on the cultural sectors is to diversify and make existing assets more inclusive and accessible to everyone. This is achieved through the following actions:

- Civic and Cultural Heart providing a focal point of experiences and state of the art facilities.
- Neighbourhood Hubs providing better access to culture at a community level.
- Temporary structures providing space for experimental participation, testing of locations, multi-cultural participation, and emergent artists.
- 'Maker-spaces' throughout the City with focused attention on broadening access to culture across the City, and in particular to locations south of Leach Highway

*“Australians increasingly recognise the positive impact of arts and creativity on our sense of wellbeing and happiness and on helping us deal with stress, anxiety or depression.”*

*Creating Our Future Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, 2020.*



Swan River Print Studio, Located in Goolugatup Heathcote. 2019.

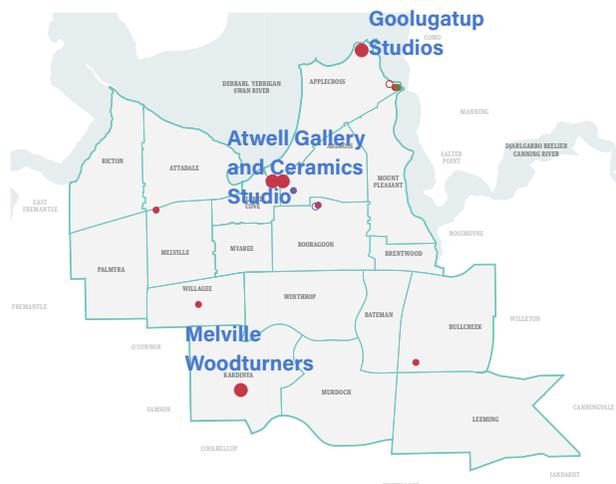


Digitalisation, VR and AR experiences are part of the new trends in cultural maker spaces.



Tactile making and creativity is part of the future trends, Melville Woodturners, 2021.

## Cultural Sectors



### CULTURAL SECTORS

- Atwell Gallery
- Karlup Ceramics Studio
- Goolugatup Heathcote Studios
- Melville Woodturners

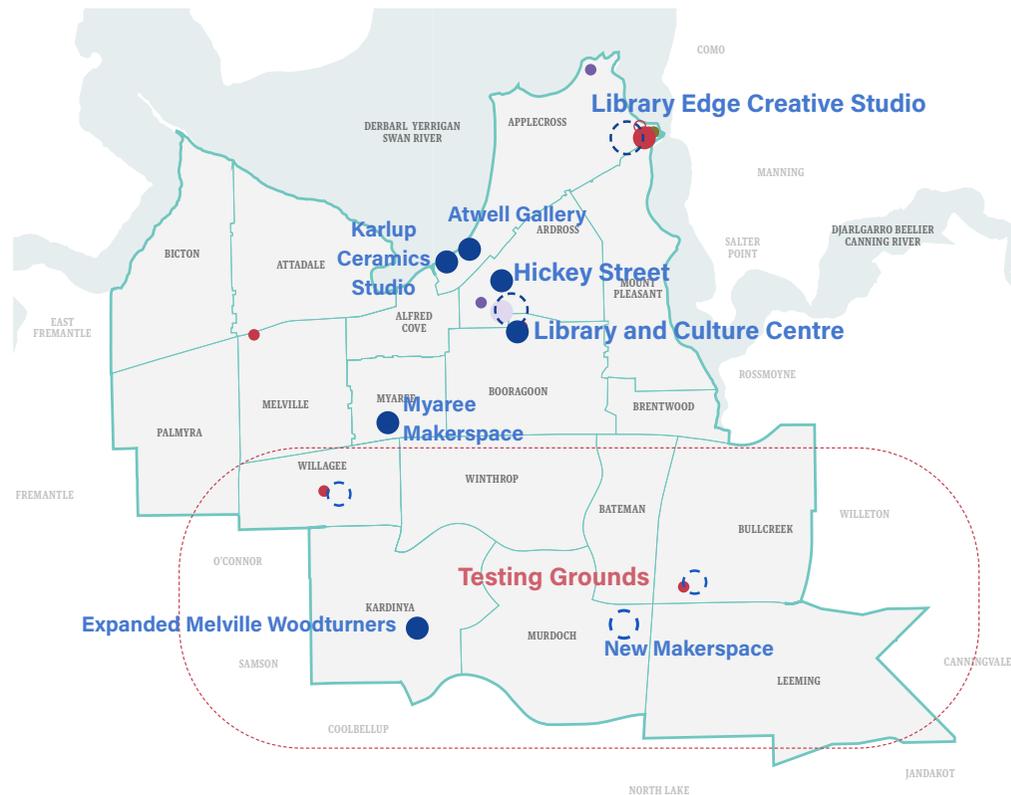
### Current

There are a variety of spaces and organisations that support hobbyist art practice within the City of Melville. Supporting the emergent artists and community art is of highest priority. The majority, however, are in suburbs close to the river with a membership body that reflects their geographical location.

More could be done to encourage diverse participation, in both age and demographics, in these creative activities. Goolugatup Studios offer excellent studios for established and emeritus artists.

### Gaps

- Limited focus on youth engagement
- Static groups managing several sites especially the ones that City own but are managed by other cultural groups/ organisations especially
- Concentration of facilities and organisations one side of the City
- Lack of dynamic spaces for community ideation and participation



### Future

Future Melville must include a mix of culture and art-making spaces that spread throughout the City and are welcoming to all. These spaces must accommodate a range of interests and be available to people across the spectrum of art practice – ‘Emergent, Established and Emeritus’. By doing this, Creative Melville’s vision for ‘everyone, everywhere’ will be realised.

Libraries are an important part of the puzzle, and will play an even greater role in the new strategy, providing access to multi-functional spaces across the breadth of the City, as are existing facilities such as the Melville Woodturners, Myaree Makerspace and Community Music Facility, Karlup Ceramic Studio and Atwell Gallery.

These spaces are well attended and must be assessed in a forward-thinking way, ensuring that they are being used to maximum advantage.

The Hickey Street precinct and the emerging Murdoch Health and Knowledge precinct present an opportunity to engage with youth and multicultural communities.

Expansion of key facilities into ‘precincts’ will also expand capacity and engagement, such as the Civic Heart Cultural precinct and Atwell precinct.

### Enabling Infrastructure

- Melville Woodturners
- New Atwell Gallery
- Myaree Makerspace
- Murdoch Health and Knowledge - Technological Makerspace
- Hickey Street Makerspace
- Karlup Ceramics Studio
- Agile Multifunctional Libraries
- Library and Cultural Centre



# Asset Specific Actions

## Civic & Cultural Heart: Overview

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The proposed Civic and Cultural Heart includes the following assets:

- Future Library & Cultural Centre - NB: refer to LCC Overview previously outlined in report for detailed notes on functions and uses.
- City of Melville Civic Building (including the Main Hall)
- Yagan Mia Wireless Hill (including the museum and other buildings on site)
- Hickey St Cottages
- Landscape - both natural and modified settings.



Aerial image of the proposed Civic & Cultural Heart precinct



**ASSET SUMMARY**

**Address**

10 Almondbury Road, Booragoon.

**Context**

- Located adjacent to Civic Centre and Westfield Booragoon Shopping Centre.

**Use & Programs**

- Staff have filled the technology gap that Post Offices & Government have left by providing access to forms (online e.g. census, phones).
- Printing is a big service (via remote app). Scanning.
- Adjoined café.

**Users**

- Parents and young children (programs).
- A range/mix of people borrowing items.
- Using spaces - Secondary students secondary students (doing homework), seniors (newspapers, socialising), businesses (interviews).

**Capacity & Demand**

- Visitation: 137,013.
- Books borrowed: 236,330 (top users in order: Mt Pleasant, Booragoon, Ardross, Applecross, Winthrop).
- Capacity: 100 people.
- Currently operating at capacity.

**Built history**

- Built somewhere between 1982-1985.
- Refurbished 2012/2014.

**Land Use**

- 'Centre'

**Existing Condition (anecdotal)**

- Building is generally in very good condition, with the exception of the public toilets which require urgent repairs.

**Universal Access & Equality of Access**

- Externally accessed storage via steps.
- No UAT.
- Entry ramp is non-compliant.
- Poor signage/wayfinding/arrival, not accessible from public transport.
- Difficult to find collection due to layout.
- Internal signage needs improvement.

**Fitness for Purpose**

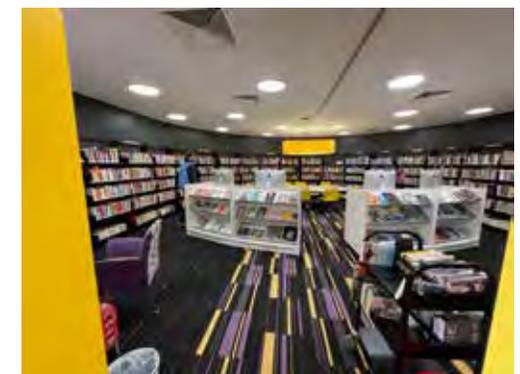
- Not enough space in main library.
- Café needs more space for seating.



*Footprint of the existing Civic Square Library*



*Exterior of Civic Square Library*



*Interior of Civic Square Library*

## Civic & Cultural Heart: Civic Square Library

62 The Civic Square Library is at the end of its life but will continue to operate until the new Library and Cultural Centre is built. The existing toilets need to be improved as a priority. The location of the library, next to a busy shopping and civic centre, is very good. The recommendation is to maintain this location in all plans going forward. The design of the new library must include cultural elements including flexible spaces for artmaking, performance and general community use.

### Recommendation

#### Quick Wins

→ Upgrade toilets as they present a safety issue (24sq.m).

#### Short Term

→ Shift the library temporarily to the foyer of the Civic Centre for the duration of the build or alternatively investigate the option for a prototype intervention ('testing ground') in the area.

→ Ensure that the new library is situated in the same (or close to) the location of the current facility.

→ Ensure that the new library contains flexible spaces that can be used by the community for art-making, performance and general cultural activity.

→ Ensure that the new library has access to flexible outdoor space and is serviced by a cafe.

→ Develop Master Plan for enhanced landscape connection as per Transformational Moves and Guiding Strategies.

### Rationale

→ The toilets are in poor condition and the access is from the outside. They are currently accessible to the public however are unsafe to use at night.

→ During construction, the library collection should be temporarily relocated to the foyer of Melville's Civic Centre. Doing so would maintain the libraries presence at this key hub within the City.

→ Staff have expressed that they feel restricted by what they can do indoors. The new library must provide flexible outdoor space to facilitate programming.

**The trend of theatres closing in Perth does not reflect Melville Theatre Company (MTC) experience. They have gained a very respected place in Theatre companies in Perth and Western Australia. MTC believe the new premises in the Civic Building will provide a fresh start and opportunity to reach a broader audience, with a fresh approach, and the ability to tackle more challenging shows that have previously not been possible. Details of leasing and arrangements for sharing the space with other users are being finalised to ensure access for diverse users to central civic facilities.**

### Recommendation

- Relocate from existing premises to the Main Hall in the Civic Building.
- Activate outdoor areas.
- Review suitability of theatre space in the Civic Building. Consideration should be given to integration/relationship of Main Hall with future developments in the central precinct area.

### Rationale

- The existing premises have come to their end of functional life. Once upgraded, the Main Hall in the Civic Building should meet MTC's needs as it offers more space and customised amenity. It will also better provide a quality of space more suited to a premier civic facility for community use.
- The limestone amphitheatre adjacent the Civic Building and Civic Square Library is currently underutilised but offers some interesting spaces, the like of which could suit small/temporary activations, and may provide opportunity for MTC.
- Architectural and technical plans for the Main Hall upgrade have been finalised. Once finalised and in use, a review may be advisable to ensure the MTC maintains a central and accessible location within an active precinct as part of a thriving cultural centre. The sharing of a space amongst groups must be managed carefully and appropriately.



*Footprint of the Main Hall within the Civic Building*

# Civic & Cultural Heart: Yagan Mia Wireless Hill

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## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

Telefunken Drive, Applecross.

### Context

- Located within Wireless Hill Park and in close proximity to the Civic Centre and future Library & Cultural Centre.

### Character

- The Yagan Mia Wireless Hill precinct offers a unique range of community facilities, a combination of the natural environment, and First Nations heritage and history.

### Use & Programs

- Museum space, cottage, lookout tower
- Park (3 trails, Telecom/Industrial, Indigenous Heritage, Biodiversity)
- Place activation: Vintage Vinyl Blues and Records, Baby Rhyme Sessions, Lime Stone Concerts, Education, Highway to Hell
- Noongar Stories. Music Venue
- Open Space
- Activation Plan: Local histories, digital technologies, science-based themes, exhibitions, events, site specific artworks, learning programs
- Will host festivals, markets, classes, symposia, workshops
- Office space
- Home of Capital Radio.

### Users

- Museum: Elderly people and mothers with kids, school children
- Park: wider audience for wildflower walks and schoolkids for biodiversity walks

### Non-users

- Teenagers
- Young Adults

### Built history

- Built from 1912.
- Recent upgrades to interpretative signage

### Land Use

- Parks and Recreation

### Heritage

- State Register of Heritage Places
- 'Parent' place is Wireless Park, 'Child' places include the Museum group and Caretakers residence.

### Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Condition is good and well maintained. Storage spaces could be in better condition and offer better amenity
- Ramping and decking installed in 2020/21 which has been very successful. Spaces are mostly accessible including 1 x UAT accessed from the park
- Some signs of dilapidation in some areas.

### Universal Access & Equality of Access

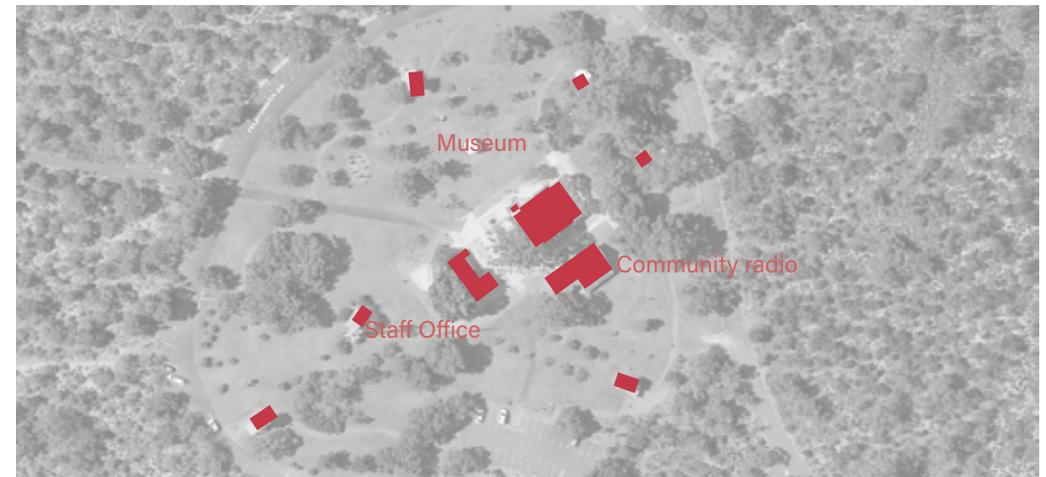
- Fair-Good

### Fitness for Purpose

- Museum is agile (moveable furniture, ability to create different layouts/exhibitions). Collection is not static.
- Cottage well utilised.
- Lookout tower appreciated.
- Plinths and ramps work well.
- Activation of the space is good.
- Ringroad works well.
- Back of house storage limitations - space & accessibility & climate control to archives.
- Obstacle - staff capacity - too much to manage.
- Obstacle - No cafe.



Community radio (L) and Museum (R)



Building footprints on aerial image



**ASSET SUMMARY**

**Address**

2-8 Hickey Street, Ardross.

**Context**

- Suburban location, set back from Canning Highway with a grassed area in between. Edge of the Wireless Hill bushland reserve.

**Character**

- Single story heritage cottages in bushland/ park setting.

**Use & Programs**

- Art Residency, storage for Museum and longterm lease to Attitudinal Healing of Western Australia.

**Users**

- #2 & #4 are long term private rentals.
- #6 is partially leased on temporary basis and also used for CoM storage
- #8 has recently been trialling an artist in residence program.

**Universal Access**

- Poor

**Heritage**

- Registered with the State Heritage Register.



Rear of cottage #6



Storage in cottage #6



Entry to cottage #6



Building footprints on aerial image

## Civic & Cultural Heart: Yagan Mia Wireless Hill

66 The precinct has the foundations to become a vibrant cultural and community precinct, enveloped by native bushland. Minor improvements should be made to the amenity the site, including storage, and a permanent food and beverage option should be explored. Moreover, connections should be established between the current Civic Centre, future Library and Cultural Centre, and the Hickey Street Cottages.

### Recommendation

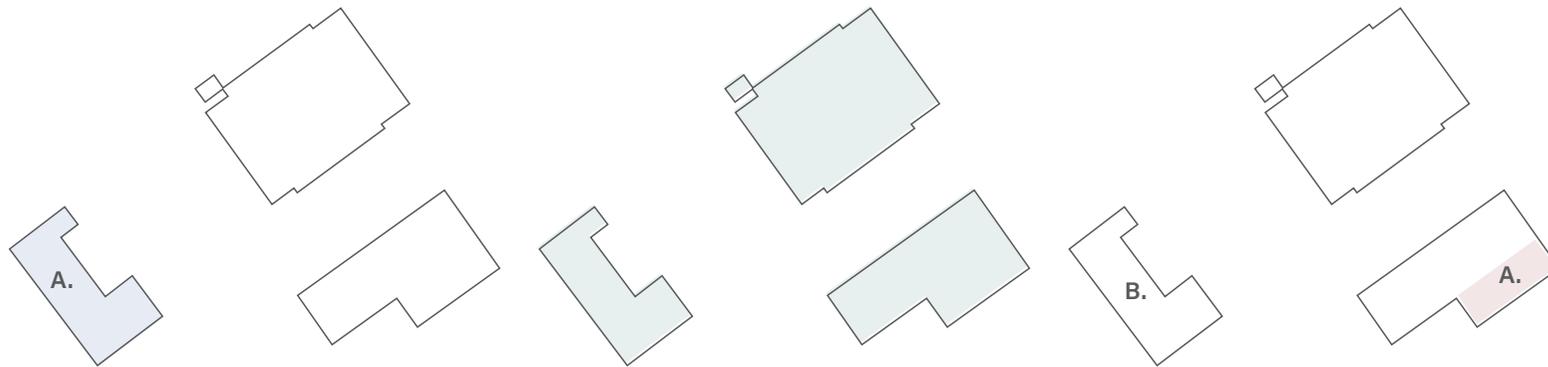
- A consolidated, climate-controlled (stable) storage facility is required to service the Precinct. This may be located at the LCC subject to final design requirements. If not able to be accommodated at the LCC a solution may be able to locate at rear of Hickey Street Cottages as indicated in planning overleaf.
- Upgrade cabinetry in back-of-house spaces.
- Develop technology to allow for the presentation of more contemporary exhibitions.
- Develop obvious and well-lit walking pathways between the Civic Centre, Library and Cultural Centre and the Hickey Street Cottages. Walkways/trails/green corridors and other landscaping to aid uniting these areas as a precinct and build connection, all through guidance of Cultural, Heritage and Biodiversity guidance.
- Improve signage on Canning Highway.
- Develop new facilities including cafe and multipurpose space.
  
- General works:  
Renewal of FF&E  
Restoration to rectify dilapidation as required.  
Renewal of Site Amenity.

### Rationale

- There is a lack of adequate storage on site. Material is currently being stored at various City of Melville assets and in non climate-controlled environments. Staff have indicated that while an off-site storage facility would be manageable, an on-site solution is preferred.
  
- Improve small storage capability on site.
  
- A new user group could be attracted through the design of technology based exhibitions, including flythroughs, audiovisual, interactive work, digital, augmented reality and VR mast. Improved technology will be required.
  
- Re-establish the historical entrance to create a stronger and more connected precinct. Improving access from Canning Highway, and generally improving visibility to the site, will improve visitation.
  
- Introducing a cafe would improve visitation and increase the length of time users stay.
  
- General renewal works based on age and condition of asset.

**Staging Diagram**

*Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.*



**Short Term**

A. Upgrade of FF&E including replacement of and additional space saving cabinetry.

**Medium Term**

Signage renewal.  
 Allowance for renewal of Site Amenity.  
 Restoration works to rectify dilapidation.

**Long Term**

A. New or expansion to toilets.  
 B. New facility for pop-up cafe.

*FF&E = Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment. For example, interior furniture, or an office fit-out.*

*Site Amenity = Items such as footpaths, car parks & bicycle racks.*

## Civic & Cultural Heart: Hickey Street Cottages

68 **The Hickey Street Cottages present an exciting and unique opportunity for the City of Melville. The overarching recommendation is that each cottage be returned to the City for use as accommodation and production space for artists and performers. With sensitive renovation the precinct would become a hub for visiting artists and a space for the community to experience professional art production and exhibitions. The cottages are in need of significant renovation to make them fit-for-purpose.**

### Recommendation

- Complete a Heritage Management Strategy across the area (including, investigation into condition of assets)
- Improve pedestrian access across Canning Highway
- Restoration and upgrade to cottage #8 (artist-in-residence)
- Restoration and upgrade to #6 (work spaces)
- New landscaping work surrounding # 6 and #8
- Advance retrieval of #2 and #4 from private lease and develop a realistic timeline for expedient return
- Restoration and upgrade to cottages #2 and #4 with new landscaping
- Restore the entrance to Wireless Hill.

### Rationale

- Detailed heritage building assessment including Heritage Council requirements for restoration and upgrade work.
- The 'Station Walk' trail runs past the cottages and across Canning Highway terminating at the river, however the pedestrian crossing over Canning Highway is informal and dangerous.
- The current Artist-in-Residence program has been successful in the early stages of the trial. Continue to develop the program alongside upgrade works to the cottages and landscaping.
- Underutilised and toilets in disrepair. To make suitable as a shared work space for artists, a maker space, and a place where the community can experience professional culture and artmaking in workshops of studios of practitioners.
- Currently not accessible, and the two buildings are divided by a fence. There is a lack of integration into the surrounding landscape, and the outside spaces are generally underutilised. Enhance connection with wider precinct.
- Activate and utilise #2 and #4 to create an arts precinct with additional artist-in-residences and/or potentially art centre/gallery/agency. Long term vision is to appeal to international artists. Accessible landscaping to connect all four buildings with each other and the site. A diverse range of artists that follow programming and create outputs and outcomes for the City of Melville (literature festival, sculptors, performance etc). Make it possible for more than one artist at the time.
- Consider the site as part of a larger precinct - Library and Culture Centre and Wireless Hill, but also as an arts trail between Atwell House and Heathcote. Refer also to existing Environmental and Heritage Management Plans.

**Staging Diagram**

*Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.*

**Short Term**

A. Investigate Back-of House and Storage facility behind Hickey St Cottages. *Refer also LCC / Wireless Hill.*

B. Pedestrian crossing at Canning Hwy.

C. Upgrade works #8.

D. Upgrade works #6.

E. Upgrade landscaping including Accessibility into and surrounding houses.

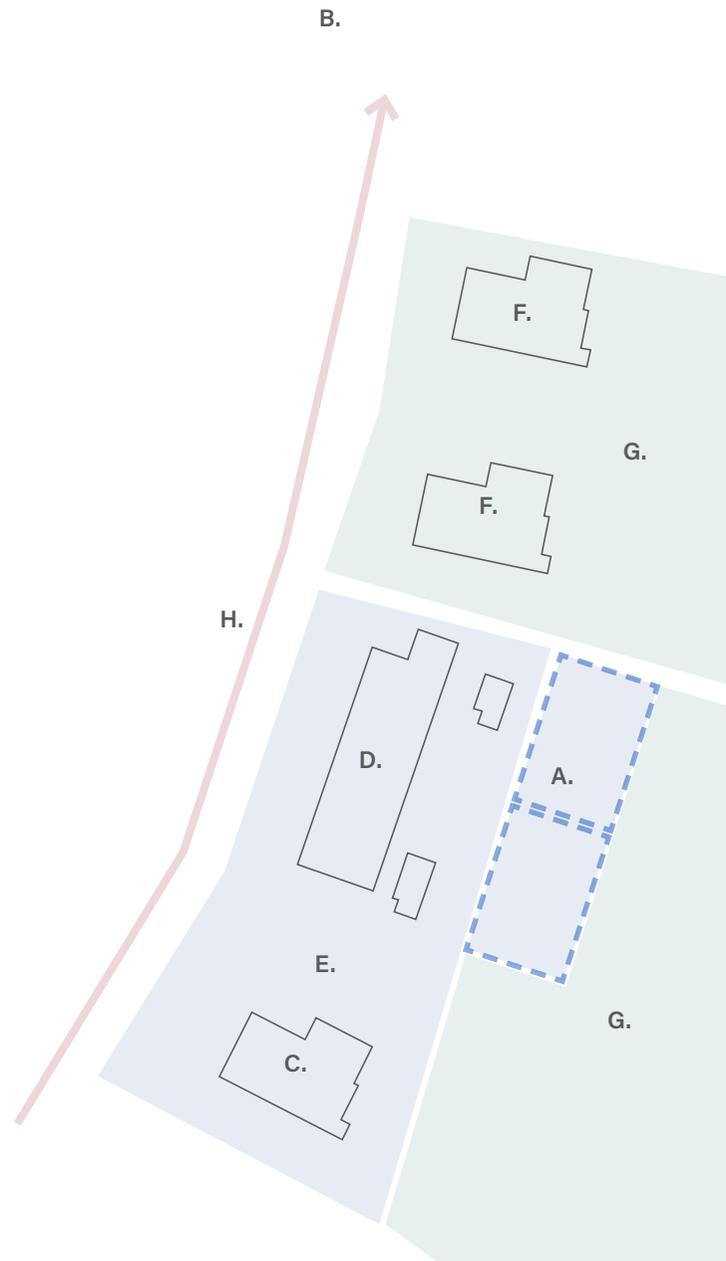
**Medium Term**

F. Upgrade works to #2 and #4.

G. Upgrade landscaping including Accessibility into and surrounding houses and up to Wireless Hill.

**Long Term**

H. Upgrade entrance road.



*Note: Back-of-house and Storage facility is based on providing an equal amount of storage to museum display space (130sq.m) and an equal amount of Back-of-house space to Artist Workshop space (110sq.m).*

**Precedents**

Gibbs Farm New Zealand

- artist residency with focus on creating sculptures for the farm

Storm King Art Centre, New Windsor, New York.

- contemporary outdoor sculpture
- open-air museum



# Canning Bridge Cultural Node: Overview



The proposed Canning Bridge Cultural node includes the following assets:

- Canning Bridge Library (existing)
- Canning Beach Road Library (proposed as part of the Edge development)
- Tivoli Theatre (Applecross District Hall)
- Car parking

## Context & Character

The site is opposite the Raffles Hotel and tower to the East and residential to the West. To the south is dominated by retail outlets. Additionally, the site is in close proximity to the Swan River, public transport along Canning Hwy, Kwinana Freeway and Canning Bridge public transport Station.

Geographically, the site is well connected and benefits from its position to major transport routes.

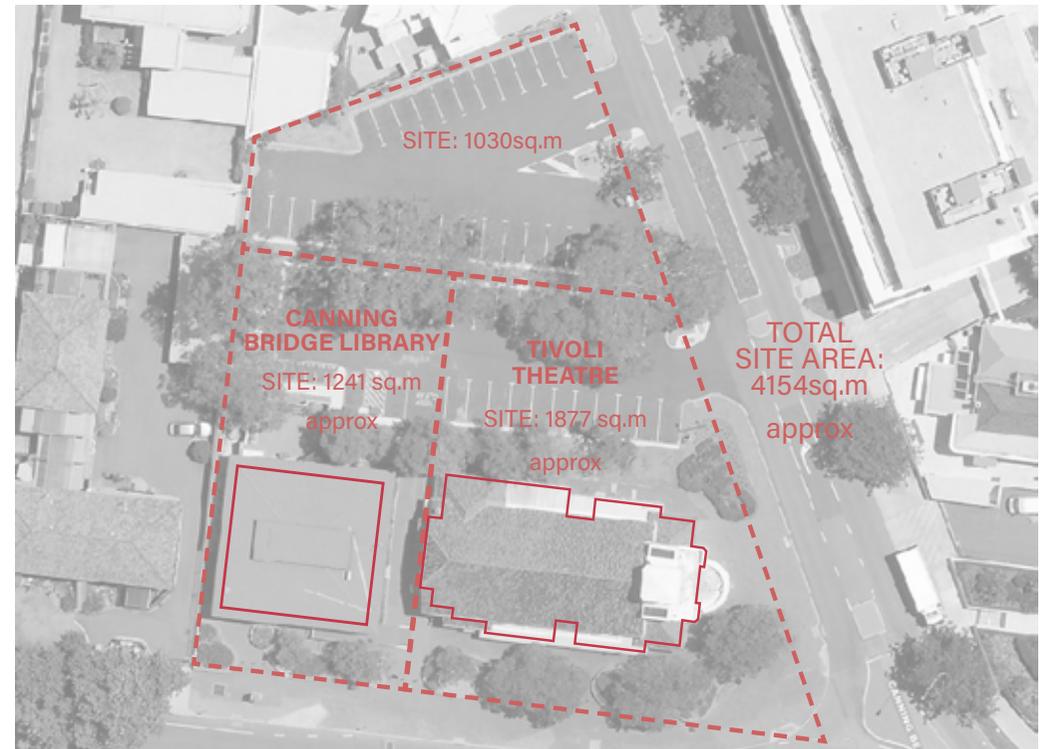
The cultural node is located in an area undergoing substantial changes with high rise buildings changing the scale and character of the area. The Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan nominates the surrounding areas for potentially 10-15 storey mixed use in the future.

As identified in the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan and the Community Development and Place Activation Plan at Canning Bridge the case is strong for the development of a cultural node at Canning Bridge, with the heritage Tivoli Theatre its focal point.

Backend processing and staff will move when the new Library and Cultural Centre opens in Booragoon.



Canning Bridge Cultural Node



Building footprints on aerial image



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

69 Canning Beach Road (Corner Kintail Road), Applecross.

### Use & Programs

- The Tivoli Club is the primary user group. They also manage and lease the facility out to various dance groups throughout the week (kindy dance, jungle dance and swing dancers).

### Current Users

- Older demographic 50+
- Nursing home – Sunday matinee
- Children Dance Users
- Youth (youth theatre play once a year)

### Capacity & Demand

- The Theatre has a capacity of 160 people. Currently shows are on Friday nights and Sunday matinees. Rehearsals and other groups use the facilities during the week. Saturday nights are only used once a month. The demand for the space is often on weekends and after working hours during the week.

### Equality of Access

- Good. In a location well serviced and accessed by various transport methods.

### Built history

- Built from 1934-1952.

- The building is a significant piece of Art Deco architecture and registered with the State Heritage Register.

### Land Use

- Zoned 'Centre'

### Precinct Plan

- Canning Bridge Activity Centre. Zoned Mixed Use and up to 15 storeys.

### Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Dilapidation including roof leakage and concrete cancer. Generally in need of restorative work.

### Universal Access

- No UA toilets.
- Main entry not accessible.
- Various steep stairs with no handrails in back of house areas.

### Fitness for Purpose

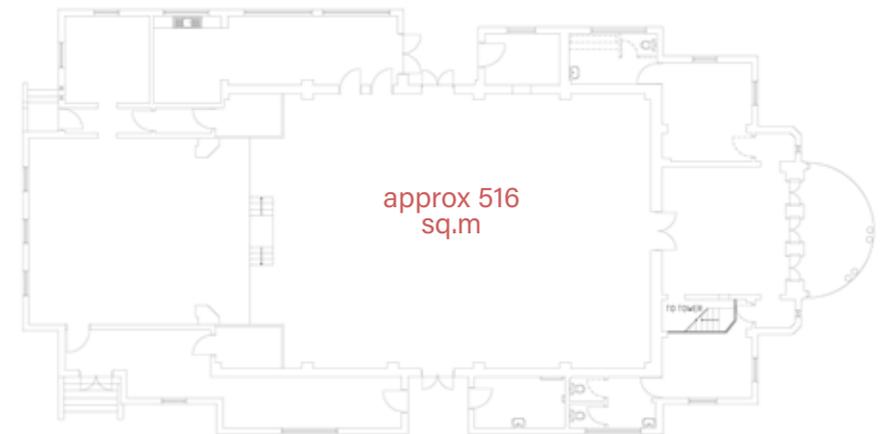
- Functions well for the Tivoli Club users and no additional stage or seating space is desired however accessibility and back-of-house areas, including toilets and store rooms, are not fit for purpose.

### Current Works

Currently renewal and upgrade works are planned, including:

- Upgrade of existing toilets to be 'ambulant' compliant, upgrade of store room, upgrade external pathway to car parking ticket machine.

- New auto-closers to entry doors, new step ramp to main entry.
- Modification to landscaped plant beds.



Tivoli floor plan (not to scale)



Tivoli main entry



Tivoli interior

# Canning Bridge Cultural Node: Canning Bridge Library

72



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

2 Kintail Road, Applecross.

### Use & Programs

- The library operates via a small 'express' public area. The back of house is taken up with library storage and operational staff. Backend processing and staff will move when the new Library and Cultural Centre opens in Booragoon.
- This is a largely unstaffed library model to increase the operating hours and accessibility to community

### Users

- Generally 40+ (if not older) new members are 60+
- Young parents (with young children)
- Affluent area and affluent primary users

### Non-users

- No school children
- The diversity in the area is not reflected in the library

### Capacity & Demand

- 600 visitors per month. Low usage.

### Built history

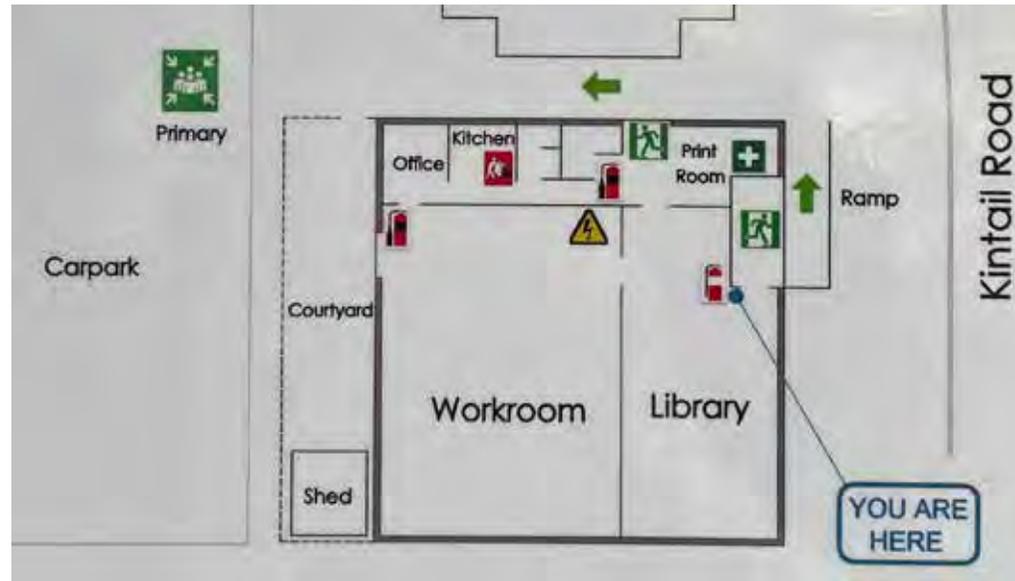
- Built somewhere between 1953 and 1965.

### Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Some dilapidation.

## Universal Access

- Poor.



Canning Bridge Library floor plan (not to scale)



Canning Bridge Library exterior



Canning Bridge Library interior



Canning Bridge Library exterior (north)

### Proposed Works

Designs are being progressed for a new Library on Canning Beach Road, on the ground floor of a multi-storey 'Edge' development. This is an unstaffed library model offering greater hours of access for community. The library will include:

- Large library 'lounge'
- Makerspace/ TechLab - creative space for making
- Children's space
- Alfresco library
- Study room
- Informal meeting or work spaces



*Visualisation of the Edge development*

## Canning Bridge Cultural Node

74

Once the Canning Bridge Library shifts to its new location, the opportunity is there to respond to the Activity Centre Plan and create a cultural node . The Tivoli Theatre is a much-loved and busy cultural asset, the audience is older and the space generates nostalgia and sense of belonging through its programming. However, it requires a contemporary sibling in order to provide for a younger and more diverse audience to participate in culture-making at this important cultural node. The Tivoli Theatre is heritage listed and should always remain a place for community performance and participation.

### Recommendation

#### Tivoli Club (Applecross District Hall)

→ Rectify dilapidation including concrete cancer and removal of asbestos. Improve access to upper level back-of-house.

→ Explore the potential for off-site storage.

#### Canning Bridge Library

→ The library is to continue 'as is' until the new library on Canning Beach Road is completed.

→ As soon as its empty, the library is to be transformed into an additional rehearsal and 'low key' performance space attached to the Tivoli Theatre.

→ This new space will require upgrades to transform it into a suitable environment for performance (eg. soundproofing, technology upgrades).

#### Cultural Node

→ The carpark could be partially transformed into a 'Testing Grounds' site for experimental and emerging performance and art.

→ Investigate the long term aspiration to create a Cultural Node.

### Rationale

→ There is a high priority to rectify hazardous areas in the immediate future, including falling concrete, water leaks and concrete cancer. Additionally, back-of-house areas in the upper level are accessed via a steep ladder. The Tivoli Club is run by volunteers who are most likely ageing or elderly, therefore these access issues must be resolved. The building is due for restoration works. Back-of-house areas are not fit for purpose.

→ Given the value of the land that these two assets occupy, any major storage requirements must be off-site.

→ The library operates via a small 'express' public area. The back of house is taken up with library storage and operational staff, which will move once the new library opens. Despite the dilapidation of some aspects of this building, no major works are to be undertaken until this occurs.

→ When the Canning Bridge Express Library is no longer required as a library or to house central library staff, it should become a supportive/supplementary space for the 'at capacity' Tivoli Theatre. The new space could be used for rehearsal and potentially 'low-key' performance, freeing up activity with the main hall and opening the site to a younger audience.

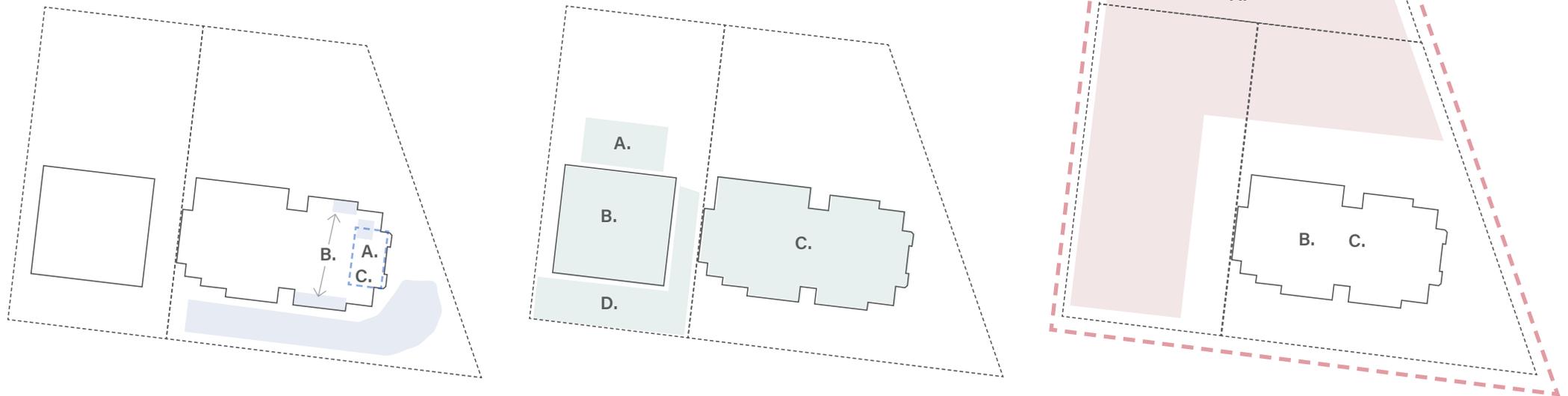
→ Realising the vision of the 'Cultural Node' requires detailed planning. The site is well suited for testing ideas and trialling cultural experiences. Doing this will help establish a clear vision for the site, and build audience in anticipation. An experimental 'Testing Grounds' intervention will attract a younger and more diverse audience.

→ New development should be strongly encouraged to include experimental theatre, performance and live music (similar to The Blue Room or the Fly By Night Theatre), with Tivoli Theatre remaining for community theatre use. Consider also that the number of high rise buildings in the area will increase, so retaining a pocket where the focus is at a more human scale is important.

→ In the long-term, the financial value of the site might need to be realised through major development. Any development proposals must include provision for an experimental music venue as part of the brief.

### Staging Diagram

Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale and coloured areas are not indicative of building footprints.



#### Short Term

- Allowance for renewal of FF&E\*.
- A. Rectify hazardous dilapidation including concrete cancer and removal of asbestos.
- B. Planned works
- C. Upgrade access to tower on upper level.

#### Medium Term

- A. Expansion and 'Testing Ground' to be developed in parts of the carpark to build audience and generate new dynamic performance stages. (up to 200sq.m)
- B. Expansion into neighbouring library building. Renewal work to make suitable.
- C. Allowance for renewal of FF&E\*.
- D. Allowance for renewal of Site Amenity\*.

#### Long Term

- A. New (performing arts) development within the 'Cultural Node' as part of broader re-development.
- B. Allowance for Restoration of heritage building.
- C. Allowance for renewal of FF&E\*.

FF&E = Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment. For example, interior furniture, or an office fit-out.

Site Amenity = Items such as footpaths, car parks & bicycle racks.

# Willagee Library

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## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

Corner Winnacott and Archibald Streets, Willagee.

### Context

Willagee Library sits in an activity centre, adjacent the Community Centre and George Humes Park, nearby the shopping village.

### Character

Willagee has a strong local character defined by a well connected community.

### Use & Programs

- 'Better beginnings' program
- Study rooms
- Wi-Fi & PCs
- Children's section
- Outside courtyard

### Users

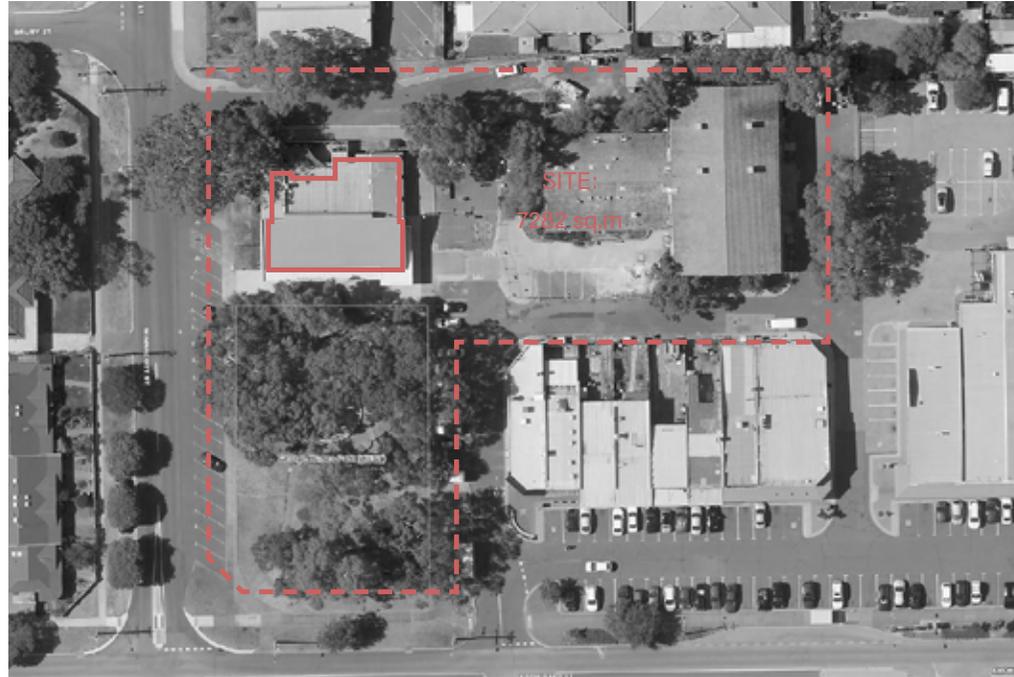
- Youth (primary & secondary school)
- Local audience
- Seniors
- Indigenous users
- Parents & bubs (program)

### Non-users

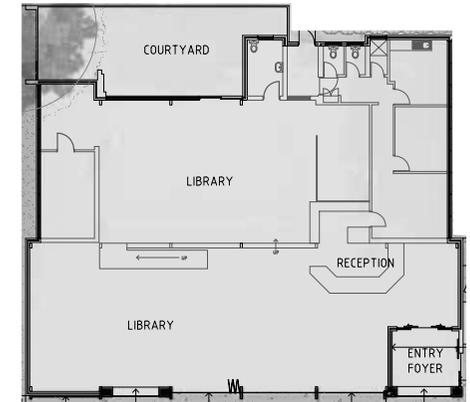
- Current library users may not be fully reflective of the diversity in the community.

### Visitation

65,966/year



Building footprint over aerial image



Willagee Library floor plan



Entrance to Willagee Library



Approach to Willagee Library



George Humes Park

**Built history**

- Built 1974.
- 2020 upgrade: refurbishment (removal of window tinting improved interaction with outside, resurfacing of verandah).

**Land Use**

- 'Centre'

**Universal Access**

- Good

**Equality of Access**

- Good

**Existing Condition (anecdotal)**

- Some roof leakage. Building is aged. Has had cosmetic refurbishments and is in good condition relative to its age.

**Capacity/Demand**

- Demand is outgrowing physical space.

**Fitness for purpose**

- More space is needed for children's programs.
- Shelving is not easily moved.
- Too many shared spaces.
- Willagee has specific literacy development and employability needs.

**Current Works**

Upgrade works are planned including:

- enclosed courtyard for kids wet area & after 3pm cooking program
- conversion study rooms to rehearsal/recording space
- Landscaping of corner park.

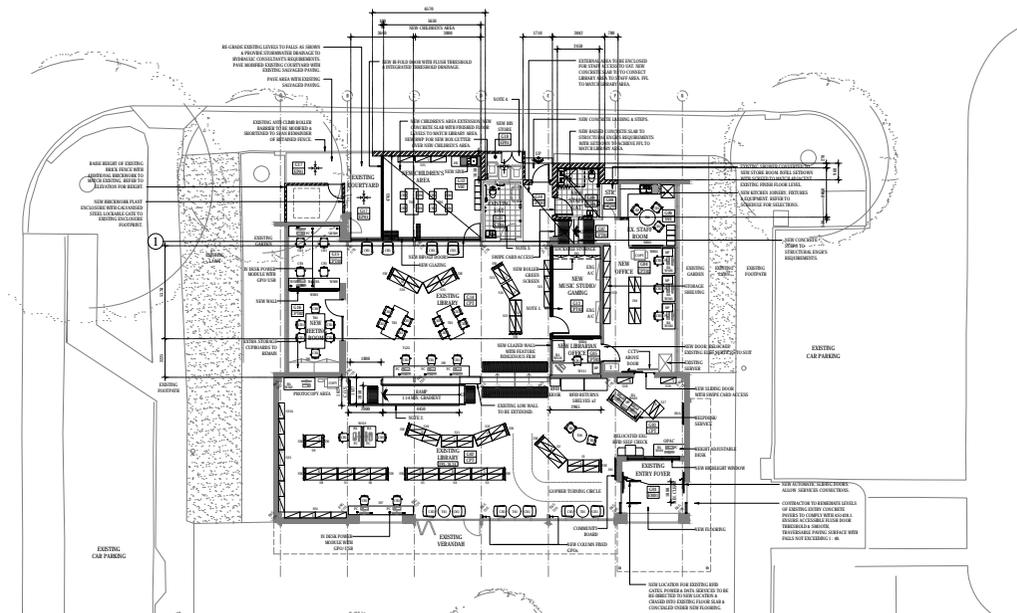
Additional approx.30sq.m added to internal area.



Carpark adjacent Willagee Library



Interior at Willagee Library



Proposed upgrade works to Willagee Library

## Willagee Library

78 **Willagee Library is a very important community asset, with programs that reflect community need, dedicated staff and a welcoming landscape. The building, however, is old, disconnected from the community centre and in need of further renovation. A key recommendation is not to proceed with these planned minor works but to expedite the replacement of this facility. The new facility should be a place where the library and community centre intertwine, and where the surrounding community are able to pursue activities and events specific to their needs. It should be delivered through a co-design process with the local community.**

### Recommendations

#### Quick Win (immediate)

→ Install a permanent recreation area including fixed basketball and ping-pong fixtures to replace the existing temporary installation.

→ Improve visual connection between library and community centre.

#### Short Term

→ 'Testing Grounds' dynamic spatial intervention.

#### Medium Term

→ Replace library and community centre with a new building/s with some shared amenities (toilets, reception/welcome space etc).

→ Ensure that the new facility is co-designed with the local community, in particular youth and representatives from the First Nations community.

### Rationale

→ The bitumised car-parking area between the Library and Community Centre is inaccessible to cars and used for basketball and ping-pong. The area is shaded by trees and has limited seating options however the basketball fixture is portable and easily damaged. The community has expressed a desire for a more permanent solution. These improvements will also fulfill the desire of the Library staff to have greater visual connection and activation to the surrounding activity centre.

→ There is a lack of cohesion and connection between the Library and Community Centre, and lack of utilisation of the Community Centre. A dynamic spatial intervention can encourage greater youth participation, generating access and interaction with culture and programming.

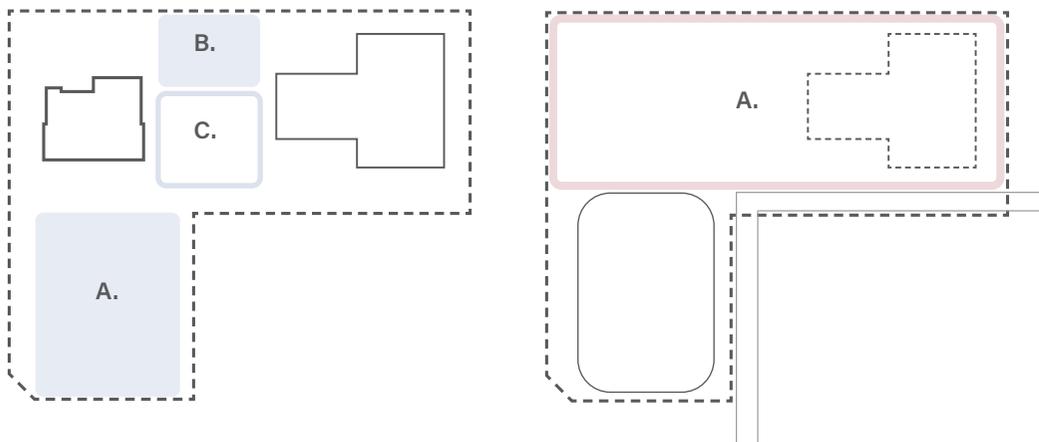
→ Library staff envisage the Library becoming a 'node' (as opposed to a 'hub' which has it all), that is, an instigator of opportunities and a connecting point to hubs. The connection to key partners, schools, community groups and Shopping Village is of interest. The new Library needs to reflect the diversity of the community, whilst strengthening youth and adult programs with dedicated staff resources.

→ Various challenges face communities within Willagee, including literacy, employment and the preservation of language and culture. The new facility must include a series of flexible spaces that can be used for programming to address these issues, including spaces for learning, reading, storytelling, and art-making.

→ The current building footprint is small and split across two levels, restricting usability. The age of both the Library and Community Centre is nearing 50 years, and while they have both received a number of renewals and upgrades, the buildings will soon reach end-of-life. A new facility would consolidate both assets and better reflect the global shift from libraries as distinct spaces to places of flexible use and community activity. The unique needs of each facility must be folded into the design of the new building.

### Staging Diagram

Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale and coloured areas are not indicative of building footprints.



### Quick Wins

- A. Planned upgrade works to George Humes Park.
- B. Retrofit existing carpark area with fixed basketball and ping pong fixtures (250sq.m).
- C. Spatial intervention (approx 200sq.m).

### Longer Term

- A. Option 1: New Library & Community Centre building.
- Option 2: Demolish Library, retain Community Centre, new Library extension (noting that the Library extension will need to be designed to accommodate any updated library / community access criteria)

### Precedents

Open Air Library - 2009 - Magdeburg - KARO Architects

- located in disadvantaged post-industrial area
- concept for the library began as a temporary social intervention project built with beer crates and funded by community donations
- library is completely open air, open all hours variety of informal spaces for socialising with no strict boundaries or rules which appeals to youth
- facilities include a stage for local bands, readings, shows



# Bull Creek Library

80



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

24 Leichhardt Street, Bull Creek.

### Context

- Located on the same block as a major shopping centre, opposite residential area to the West and North.
- This is the closest public library to Murdoch University.
- This area has Melville's highest proportion of residents of Asian descent.

### Character

- A suburban character with mature vegetation, however the shopping centre and large carpark dominates on the South-East.

### Use & Programs

- LOTE, technical help in Mandarin, English conversation
- PCs, printing, study areas
- Adjacent community centre run by Bluegum

### Users

- Women aged 60+
- Students (all ages)
- Asian/Multicultural families with younger children
- Very diverse with biggest users being from Chinese and Indian backgrounds
- Also servicing some of Willetton/City of Canning

### Non-users

- Young professionals 18-34
- Some youth cohorts
- Males 45-60

### Visitation

- 91,564 last recorded year
- 8000 people per month

### Capacity

- Capacity: 80 people



Approach to Bull Creek Library



Building footprint over aerial image

## Built history

- Built 1979
- 2017 upgraded: refreshed interior design and additional gathering spaces
- 2020 upgraded: staff area refurbished

## Land Use

- Centre C3

## Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Generally in good condition.
- Water leaks.
- Temperature control issue.

## Universal Access

- Good

## Equality of Access

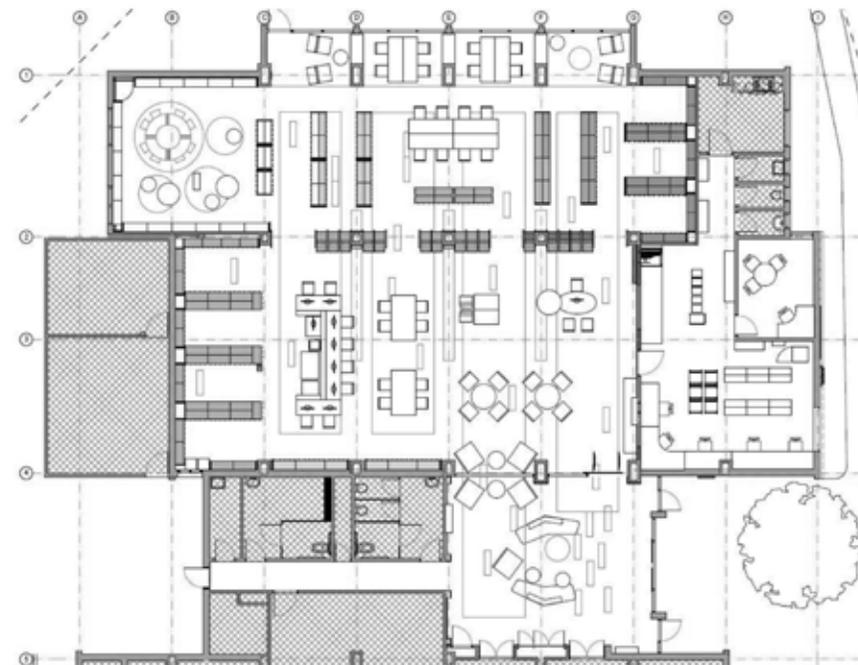
- No signage in languages other than English.

## Fitness for purpose

- More space required for collection
- Staff area works well but storage space is limited
- Study spaces are very popular, more are needed
- Lack of quiet areas
- Balancing the borrowing collection is a management issue
- Small children's area
- Not much to offer young professionals with no children.

## Current Works

- The Community Centre adjoined to the library is currently receiving renewal work, including shared toilets.
- The external water damage is due to be fixed and repainted.



Bull Creek Library floor plan (not to scale)



Northern approach to Bull Creek Library



Interior of Bull Creek Library



Interior of Bull Creek Library



Interior of Bull Creek Library

## Bull Creek Library

82 The Bull Creek Library is very well used and has the largest quantity of non-English resources within the City of Melville's library network. This is both a reflection of and a response to the surrounding community, which consists of a high proportion of people of Asian descent. The current library is in good condition and is well located, however poorly integrated into the adjacent shopping centre precinct. Lacking is a flexible space for social activity, for instance exhibitions or small-scale community events. This library is suggested to introduce a 'Testing Grounds' installation, that is a permanent, flexible space for experimental programming.

### Recommendation

#### Quick Wins (immediate)

→ Improve wayfinding between the library and adjacent shopping centre, including additional signage and landscaping treatments. This will need to be delivered in consultation with the shopping centre owners.

→ Replace static library shelving with movable options.

→ Shift some of the services that the Library can't accommodate into the Community Centre.

#### Short Term

→ The recommendation is to NOT relocate the Library to the Murdoch Knowledge Precinct but rather to leverage on the success of the library in its current location.

→ Add a 'Testing Grounds' installation to the forecourt, providing an alfresco space to test new ideas, including exhibitions, openings, artmaking, cultural celebrations.

→ Seek opportunities to improve integration and connectivity with the shopping centre and surrounds through wayfinding, signage and short term activations.

### Rationale

→ Use signage and better wayfinding to leverage on foot traffic at the adjacent shopping centre. The community should be encouraged to consider a library visit as part of their regular shopping trip.

→ The community would like to see signage in Chinese, particularly for the older generation whose English is poor.

→ Library staff have expressed their preference for staying in the existing building. They would like to attract more users at quiet periods during the week and have the ability to adapt the space without great effort.

→ To keep up with the demands of the community, more space will eventually be required. There is already a demand for more enclosed study spaces, individual study space, and quiet areas, which the library can't currently accommodate. There is no connection with the Community Centre beyond shared toilets and the entrance. There is a desire by the community to have access to a community space.

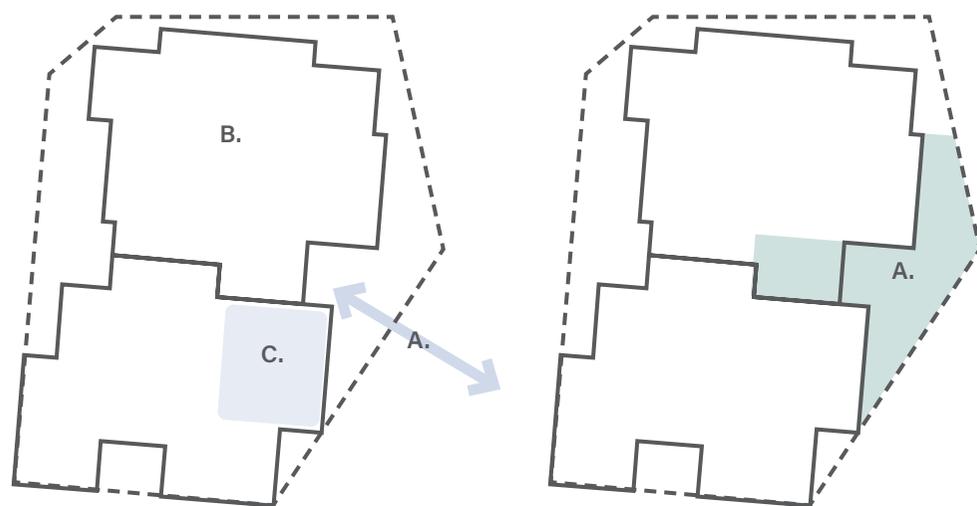
→ With minor adjustment, the current Library could comfortably service its community for the next 20 years. A shift to the Murdoch Knowledge Precinct might attract some younger people but it would do so at the detriment of the existing audience.

→ There is limited opportunity to expand anywhere else on site due to the location of site boundaries. A 'Testing Grounds' installation can test new ideas, including exhibitions, openings, artmaking, cultural celebrations.

→ An alfresco library experience with access to a coffee service could generate further interest.

## Staging Diagram

Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.



### Quick Wins

- A. Upgrade wayfinding between Library and shopping centre (signage in Chinese and landscape treatments).
- B. Replace shelving with movable option.
- C. Retrofit Community Centre to accommodate study spaces/quiet spaces.

### Short Term

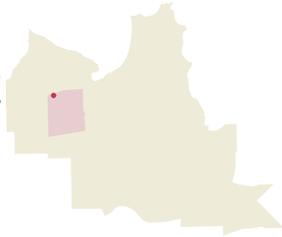
- A. Spatial intervention (Testing Grounds) to the forecourt area (approx. 150sq.m)

*Note: access to library and community centre to be maintained.*

### Longer Term

Investigate the development of new Library integrated into Shopping Centre precinct

# AH Bracks Library



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

431 Canning Highway (Corner Stock Road), Melville.

### Context

- Located within the Melville District Activity Centre and at the intersection of Stock Road and Canning Highway. Melville Reserve to the South and residential to the East.

### Character

- A hub, created through the connection to Leisurefit and community rooms.

### Use & Programs

- This library is effectively the defacto central library until the new Library & Cultural Centre comes to fruition.
- Spaces include a children's room, Creative Lab room, large bookable meeting rooms accessed after hours. Study pods/booths and PCs are popular.
- The focus of the library is in the integration of art, heritage and history.
- It provides a venue for social activity for people with disabilities and seniors.

## Users

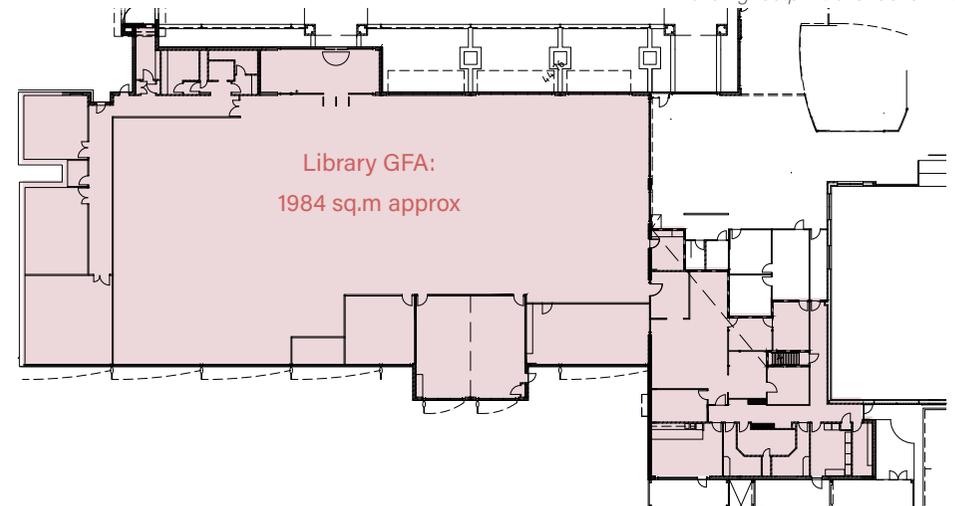
- Retired women
- Elderly and infirm
- Parents and bubs/children
- Primary & secondary school users.
- People with disabilities
- Note also lots of Fremantle/East Fremantle users

## Non-users

- Young adults
- Middle aged men



Building footprint over aerial image



AH Bracks floor plan (not to scale)

## Capacity & Demand

- Visitation of 186,000 people in 20/21
- Capacity of 200 people

## Equality of Access

- Good. In a location accessed by vehicular and public transport.

## Built history

- Built in 1996.
- Major refurbishment in 2018 that included the creation the children's room, creative lab and returns room.
- Staff office refurbished in 2021.

## Land Use

- Zoned Centre and Public Open Space.

## Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Generally in very good condition

## Universal Access & Equality of Access

- Good

## Fitness for Purpose

- The current amount of space is adequate however the arrangement/flow within the main space could be improved
- Acoustics poor
- Various small storage rooms/circulation spaces are underutilised
- Power floor box locations are restrictive
- Could do with more collaborative spaces
- Creative lab could be activated more
- Glare from windows can be an issue
- The info/staff desks (centrally located) are poorly designed

## Current Works

- Planned works include the refurbishment of the toilets, modifications to temperature control and upgraded way-finding/signage.



Courtyard



Main collection space



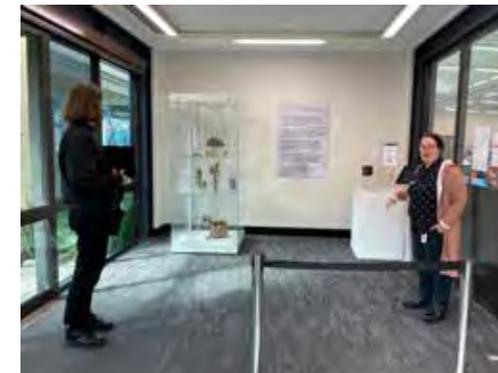
Childrens Room



Reception



Creative Lab



Foyer

## AH Bracks Library

86 The AH Bracks Library will act as the temporary central library until the new Library and Culture Centre in Booragoon is built. The current library is in good condition and is well-used by the community, attracting elderly and disabled people, young parents and children. The only tension is between people who want a more dynamic library experience and those who value the quiet. Staff have requested a series of easy-to-achieve changes to improve its functionality. Our recommendations consist of a series of 'Quick Wins'.

### Recommendation

#### Quick Wins

→ Renewal of the main library space, including reconfiguring the layout, reducing shelving height, reducing the number of books in the collection and improving window treatments.

→ Conduct minor repairs to the foyer to allow better display of the library's local history collection, art & museum collection.

#### Short Term

→ Introduce an alfresco library experience.

#### Medium Term

→ Investigate opportunity to utilise the Creche space in the short-term.

#### Long Term (Post LCC)

→ Opportunities include creating a local marketplace feel/bookshop frontage, or to have more events and unprogrammed events. Resolution of a cafe or hospitality option as part of wider Leisure Fit/library and precinct planning.

### Rationale

→ To improve functionality of the main library space, improving flow & delineation. Improve utilisation of storage spaces in staff area. Shelving is too high and reduces visibility across the space. Window treatment for sun glare. Modification to power boxes in floor with limit flexibility. Renovate staff/information desk (new cabinetry).

→ Support the development of the Library's point-of-difference.

→ Staff requested a secure library garden space (possibly extending out from the children's space/creative lab) to address the tension between those who want a more dynamic library, and those who value the quiet.

→ Library staff identified the creche as an underutilised space. The creche has amenities such as toilets and kitchen and is currently unused. Although it is not within the library purview, possible temporary uses could be explored that do not prevent it from being used as a creche in the future.

→ It is not completely clear how the new library will impact user groups and/or number of users. Once the Booragoon Library and Cultural Centre is complete, AH Bracks could re-focus to better address the needs and aspirations of its more immediate community.

### Staging Diagram

Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.

#### Quick Wins

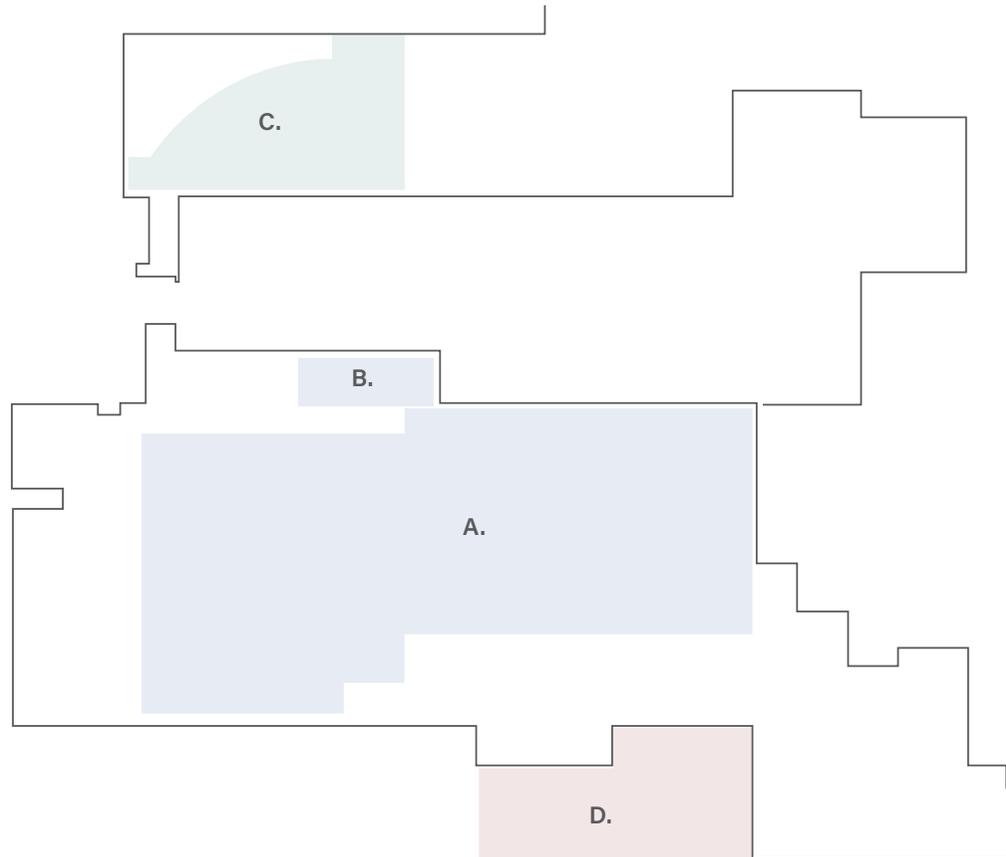
- A. Renewal of main space.
- B. Minor repairs to foyer.

#### Short Term

- C. Minor retrofit of creche.

#### Medium Term

- D. New alfresco library space.



## Spatial Interventions: Recommendations

**The following recommended interventions aim to enable the City to test, engage and provide ownership to residents currently under-served, by enabling experience exchange and contemporary dynamic culture-making. A permanent infrastructural intervention, or ‘Testing Grounds’, responds to international precedents but also to the local government document Creative Melville. These interventions are considered to respond to all three guiding strategies providing opportunity to test programming and formats to inform longer term planning and infrastructure based on successes.**

### Recommendation

→ Development of Testing Ground #1 at Bull Creek Library, integrated into the forecourt entrance and foyer space.

→ Development of Testing Ground #2 at Willagee Library, between the Library and Community Centre.

→ Assessing programming, participation and future spaces for additional Testing Grounds.

→ Development of Testing Ground #3 within the developing Murdoch Health & Knowledge Precinct

→ Development of Testing Ground #4 Canning Bridge Cultural Node

### Rationale

→ The existing Library has low agility and lacks spatial options for more creative-making with its established, multi-cultural audience. A focus on a space for cultural interaction, multicultural events and creative-making will create a stronger sense of representation and ownership.

→ There is a lack of cohesion and connection between the Library and Community Centre, and lack of utilisation of the Community Centre. A dynamic spatial intervention can encourage greater youth participation, generating access and interaction with culture and programming.

→ Testing Grounds are to be used for co-design, prototyping and new events that allow for more multi-cultural participation. An essential part of this process is the review and continuous assessment of best practice, to ensure programming and demographic re-balancing of access to Culture.

→ The future is digital/technological and requires democratic spaces for lifelong learning and intergenerational creative experiences. Youth engagement is low in the cultural facilities and generating experimental and immersive tech-forward spaces along with projectors, 3d printers, screens and digital fabrication will encourage participation. Allowance for cross programming with Murdoch University may also generate a stronger bond to the City and its culture.

→ Realising the vision of the ‘Cultural Node’ requires detailed planning. The site is well suited for testing ideas and trialling cultural experiences. It is well serviced by public transport making it accessible. Doing this will help establish a clear vision for the site, and build audience in anticipation. An experimental ‘Testing Grounds’ intervention will attract a younger and more diverse audience.

**Staging**

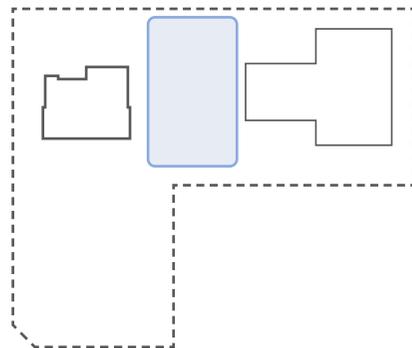
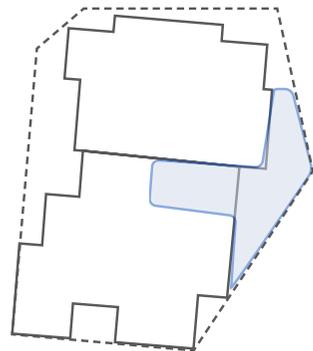
*Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.*



**Short Term**

A. Testing Ground #1 Bull Creek Library.

B. Testing Ground #2 at Willagee Library.

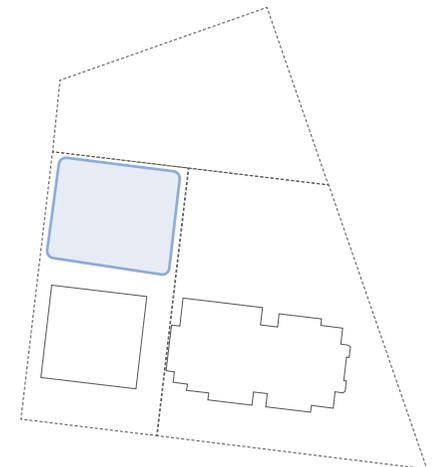


**Medium Term**

A. Testing Ground #3 Murdoch Health & Knowledge Precinct.

B. Testing Ground #4 Canning Bridge Cultural Node.

*Note: size based on Myaree Makerspace and Community Music Facility.*



# Atwell House & Gallery

90



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

586 Canning Hwy, Alfred Cove

### Context

- Between a busy highway and the Swan River.
- Adjacent residential and Sports and Recreation areas.

### Use & Programs

- Strong membership and attendance
- Mental Health + Art Therapy
- Painting, ceramics and other art classes
- School Holiday Programs
- Yoga and Tai Chi Classes
- Exhibitions space

### Users

- Melville Community Arts Association
- Older audience 60+
- Kids Classes
- Ceramics
- Age 5-97

### Limited-users

- Young Adults
- Out of Hours Users
- First Nations
- Weekend programming is limited

### Capacity & Demand

- Not meeting needs of MCAA (needs assessment and concept plans available).

### Equality of Access

- Good access via public transport.

### Built history

- House 1935 (Melville Council Heritage Listed)
- Gallery 1982

### Land Use

- Parks & Recreation
- Public Open Space along western edge (to access foreshore pathways).
- Alfred Cove Nature Reserve to the north.

### Universal Access

- Accessibility upgrades are planned. Toilets currently not accessible.

### Fitness for Purpose

- Not fit for purpose.

### Current Works

- Partial accessibility upgrades.
- Karlup Ceramics studio on site.



Building footprint over aerial image



Exterior of Atwell House



Between Atwell House and Gallery



Interior of Atwell Gallery

Atwell House and Gallery is one of the most important cultural facilities within the City, servicing a broad cross-section of the population with a range of community-focussed programs. The planned upgrades to the facility are supported by the objectives of the MCIS, and should be implemented in the short term. However it is important to ensure that the new spaces adequately serve current and future requirements. For instance, it is critical to ensure that gallery storage is 1/3 to 1/2 the footprint of the gallery itself.

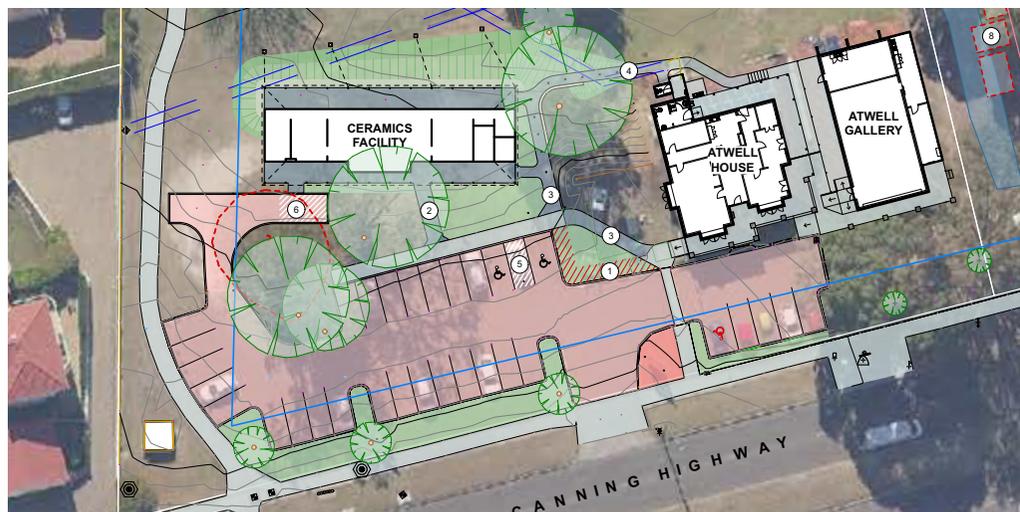
Melville Arts @ Atwell House is recognised as the leader in promoting emerging artists in Melville and as such could be considered as a potential location for Innovative Spatial Intervention program, particularly after the redevelopment allowing for new and expanded studio usage and spaces.

**Recommendation**

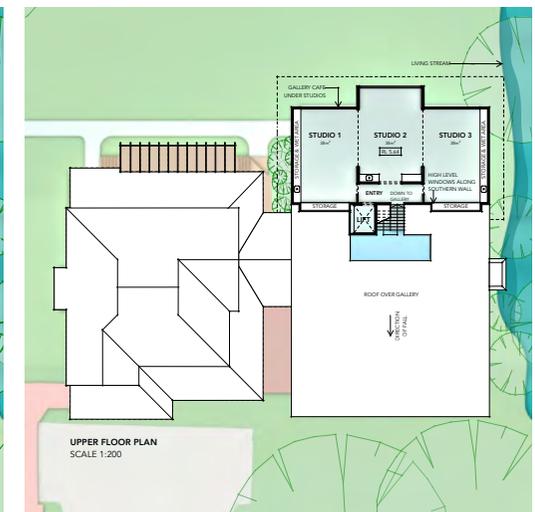
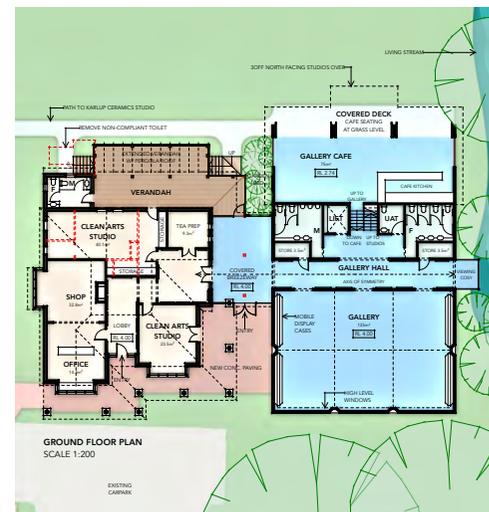
- Develop an integrated Site Master Plan
- Revise concept design to ensure adequate Gallery storage and optimised shop location.
- New Gallery building and upgrades to existing House.
- Review adequacy of car parking, access and landscaping once Karlung Ceramics Studio is operational.

**Rationale**

- Two small storage rooms totalling 7sq.m are provided near the proposed Gallery space of 135sq.m. Storage capability of 44-68sq.m is required.
- The facility services a broad cross-section of the population with a range of community-focussed programs.
- The new Karlung Ceramics building may impact parking and access.



Proposed Karlung Ceramics building



Proposed upgrades to Atwell House and Gallery

# Goolugatup Heathcote & Goolugatup Lowerlands



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

58/60 Duncraig Rd, Applecross.

### Context

- An elevated position, bordered by the Swan River, a yacht club and an affluent residential area.

### Character

- Swan River and bush
- View of city
- Affluent, mansions

### Use & Programs

- Co-working spaces.
- Goolugatup Sounds
- Perth Makers Market
- School Holiday Programmes
- Venue Hire
- Restaurant
- Playground
- Private tenants and artist hold workshops.

### Users

- Arts Community including creative businesses.
- Young families.
- Events e.g. Goolugatup Sounds - attract 18-25yo.
- Perth Makers Market - audience from all of Perth.

- The School Holiday programmes attract diverse users.
- ### Non-users
- Historically low levels of engagement and visitation by Indigenous visitors - (noting a number of tenants in the precinct are First Nations organisations, and this may change the usage patterns)



Building exterior (east)



Western playground



## Capacity & Demand

- Increasing visitation to gallery space
- Spaces that are for short term hire only can create a lot of unused space when not in use.

## Built history

- Buildings built between the 1920s and 1940s.

## Land Use

- Special Use Zone, Parks and Recreation

## Heritage

- Heathcote Hospital registered on the State Heritage register.

## Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Very good

## Universal Access

- Good

## Equality of Access

- No public transport
- Far removed, both in distance and perception, from suburbs south of Leach Highway.
- Desire for pedestrian only access in the centre.
- Not approachable, image is that it's not an inclusive space.

## Fitness for Purpose

- The site and place works well as a cultural precinct
- Restaurant has exclusive rights, which limits what can be done to further activate the precinct
- Numerous spaces work well, including Goolugatup Sounds, Perth Makers Market, School Holiday Programmes, 3 Gallery Structure
- The site and place works really well as a cultural precinct. Good size, cluster of buildings.

## Proposed Lowerlands

- The Goolugatup Lowerlands proposes the environmental restoration and introduction of new outdoor spaces, transforming a currently underutilised open space. The Lowerlands will connect to Heathcote uphill to the west.



Interior view



Proposed Goolugatup Lowerlands

## Goolugatup Heathcote

94 **Goolugatup Heathcote works exceptionally well as a cultural precinct and provides a space for professional artists and performers to share their work. In its current state, the venue is well on its way to becoming one of Perth's premiere arts and culture precincts. Improvements could be made in terms of access however this requires negotiation with the Department of Transport or considerable resource from the City of Melville. The current monopoly on Food and Beverage should also be reconsidered going forward. In the immediate term, effort should be made through programming and marketing to present this venue as inclusive and accommodating to all.**

### Recommendation

→ Although this is a management issue, the current lease agreement with the restaurant that gives them exclusive rights over the whole site must be renegotiated at the first available opportunity.

→ Pedestrian activation in the centre. Upgrade the kerbs and car-parking surface and replace with a shared vehicle/pedestrian surface.

→ Strengthen site identity as a place to be enjoyed by everyone, from everywhere.

→ Improve First Nations user engagement and experience.

→ Expand events, exhibitions and programme activation, and extend to nighttime activities.

→ Address inactive space and limit the amount of hireable space.

→ General works:  
Renewal and/or upgrade public toilets.  
Restoration as required.  
FF&E renewal.

### Rationale

→ The current restaurant does not adequately service all user groups (both existing and potential). The food and beverage options are high-end and the restaurant is closed on Monday and Tuesday. The precinct would greatly benefit from a broader range of F&B services.

→ The centre is currently a vehicle/service access point with some parking. This could be modified to create a shared vehicle/pedestrian area - with pedestrians being the priority. Doing this would build transparency and accessibility through the site.

→ Enhancing connections with lowerlands and improving interpretation across the whole site

→ Create an environment that is welcoming and open to a diverse range of users. Consideration must be given to how to offset the affluent nature of the surrounds.

→ Goolugatup occupies an elevated position on the Swan River and its original purpose was to provide a lookout, place for camping, fishing, and ceremony for Noongar people. In more recent times when the buildings were used as a mental health hospital, First Nations people were removed from their family and kept here without permission.

→ Night time activation via light installations, concerts and shelters. The programming of emerging contemporary artists as opposed to hobbyists would support the City's vision for Goolugatup to become a major destination.

→ While venues for hire is an important revenue stream, it can create a lot of dead space when the spaces are unused. All spaces for hire should be reviewed and opportunities identified to operate more efficiently.

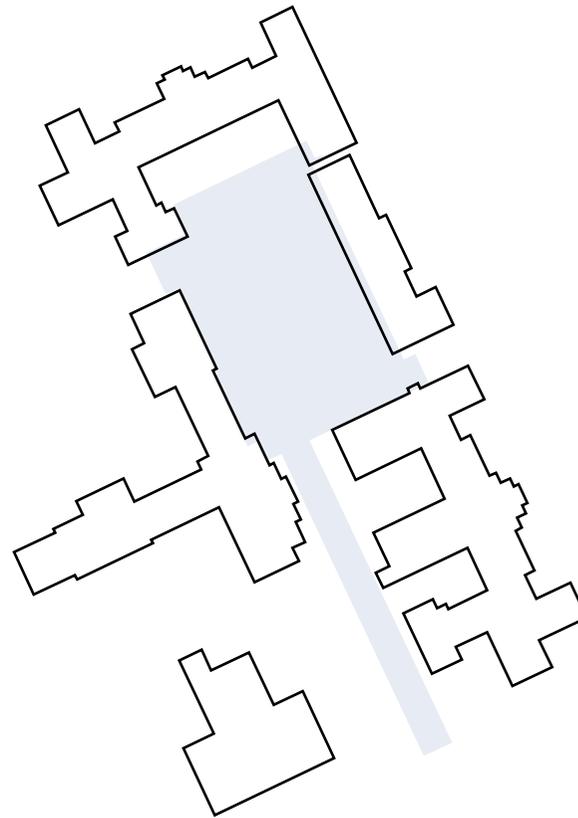
→ General renewal works based on age and condition of asset.

## Staging Diagram

*Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.*

### Medium Term

A. Shared vehicle/pedestrian surface (1715sq.m).

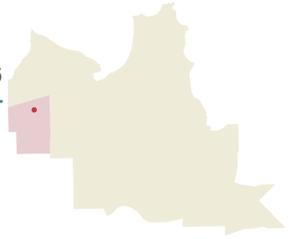


*FF&E = Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment. For example, interior furniture, or an office fit-out.*

*Site Amenity = Items such as footpaths, car parks & bicycle racks.*

# Miller Bakehouse Museum

96



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

7 Baal St, Palmyra

### Context

- The building sits within public open space and surrounded by a residential zone.

### Character

- The character of the area is suburban.
- The building sits within a public park with playground facilities.
- State Register of Heritage Places.

### Use & Programs

- Limited opening hours.
- Museum open every Sunday for 2.5 hours.
- Meeting room available for hire.
- Occasional events (e.g. night talks, Miller family picnics).

### Users

- Melville History Society
- Community groups hiring the meeting space (e.g. Melville U3A group)
- Small groups (e.g. primary school children, nursing home residents) visiting the museum.
- Limited individual users.



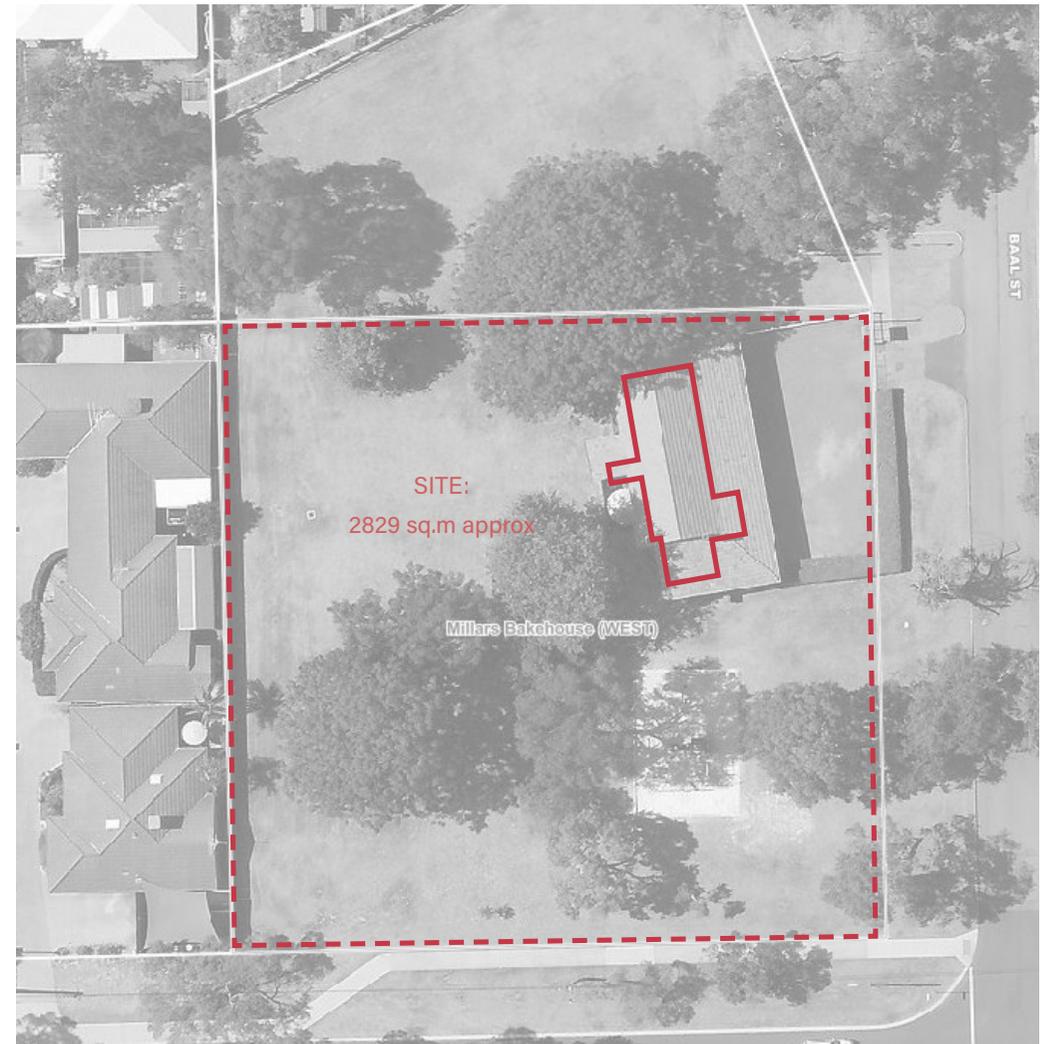
Approach to Miller Bakehouse



Adjacent playground



Building exterior (east)



Building footprint over aerial image

## Capacity & Demand

- Currently spaces have low utilisation rates.
- Meeting spaces are used by community groups.
- Capacity limited to 42 people due to public health restrictions.

## Universal Access (anecdotal)

- Poor

## Equality of Access

- In a suburban location, public transport 500m away on Canning Highway.

## Built history

- Built 1935 – the site is on the State Register of Heritage Places.
- Significant restoration works in 2019 (predominantly structural, also new toilet).

## Land Use

- Public Open Space

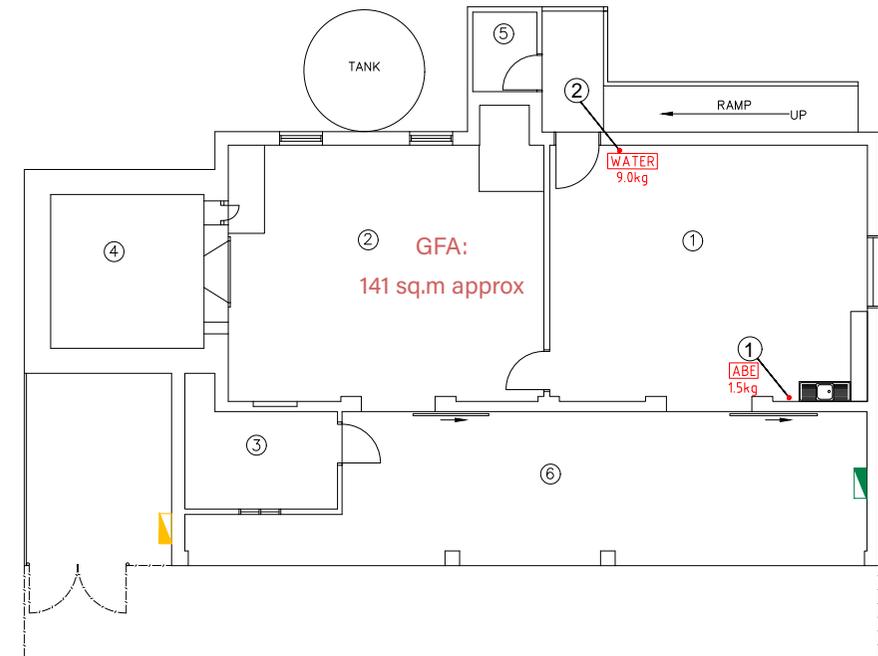
## Existing Condition (anecdotal)

- Major restoration works in 2019 (rectify foundation erosion issues and related cracking in walls, new toilet fixtures, restoration of roof).

- Asbestos ceiling.

## Fitness for Purpose

- Kitchenette lacks a fridge.
- No water available externally
- Toilet not accessible to playground users.



Floor Plan (not to scale)



Building exterior (west)



Building interior



Building interior



Building interior

## Miller Bakehouse Museum

98 **Miller Bakehouse is a unique cultural asset. The site has good amenity, and the buildings provide a unique insight into an important part of Palmyra's history. Opportunities exist to substantially improve the activation and utilisation of the site with greater levels of public interaction and access. In line with contemporary expectations around engaging with heritage content and places, there is considerable room to improve the display and engagement of the museum components to enhance users' engagement, interaction and understanding of the site's history. Any future management requirements should include clear objectives and indicators on activation and engagement sought by the City.**

### Recommendation

→ Improve activation and utilisation rates across the site, including opportunities for new uses on the site

→ Consider appropriate management settings to meet the City's broader community engagement objectives

→ Upgrade FF&E including kitchen, provide access point to water / power, and improve connection to surrounding park.

→ Enhance and improve the interpretation and physical infrastructure of museum displays, including consideration of AV, AR, VR and/or 'in-app' engagement models.

### Rationale

→ Hospitality operators have expressed an interest in setting up at the Bakehouse on weekends but have not had the basic services to support them, including water access and safe storage.

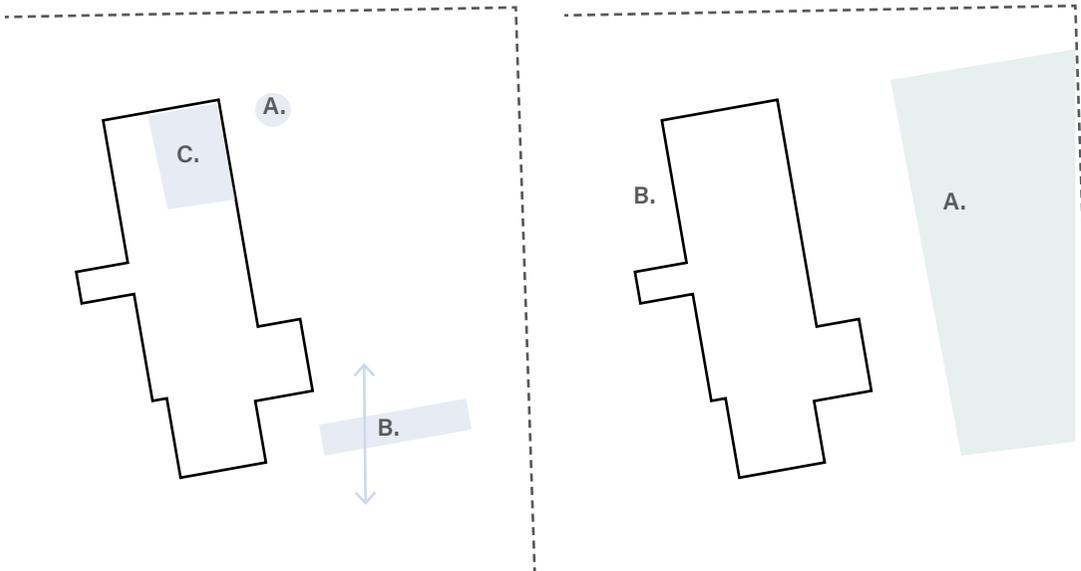
→ Management requirements for this site should ensure improvements to accessibility, activity, utilisation, and flexible programming in line with the Guiding Strategies of the MCIS. Leaseholders should demonstrate operational sustainability, capability and capacity to create an active space and outline measures to converge the heritage and commercial opportunities outlined within the MCIS.

→ Supports the activation of the area, for example, coffee-cart operators, or community markets held on weekends.

→ Preserve and protect the heritage and history of the site and ensure that the museum meets the diverse expectations of contemporary audiences and communities.

## Staging Diagram

Note: Staging diagrams are not-to-scale.



### Short Term

- A. Reinststate outdoor water access.
- B. New pedestrian connection to park.
- C. Upgrade FF&E including new kitchenette (8sq.m).

### Medium Term

- A. Landscape works (200sq.m).
- B. Upgrade toilet facilities (add 2x pans).

# Melville Woodturners

100



## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

Kardinya Lesser Hall

### Context

- Part of Kardinya Community Centre in the Morris Buzacott Reserve.

### Character

- Within a large sports and recreation area.

### Use & Programs

- Makers organisation, utilisation have areas for improvement, especially for non-members.

### Users

- Melville Woodturners Association
- Currently used primarily for members
- Primarily older men with a few older women. Out of 108 members 12 are under the age of 70.
- Within this groups there is some ethnic diversity.

### Non-users

- Different age groups

### Built history

- Somewhere between 1985-95

### Land Use

- Public Open Space

### Current Works

- Concept Design has been prepared for expansion.



Building footprint over aerial image



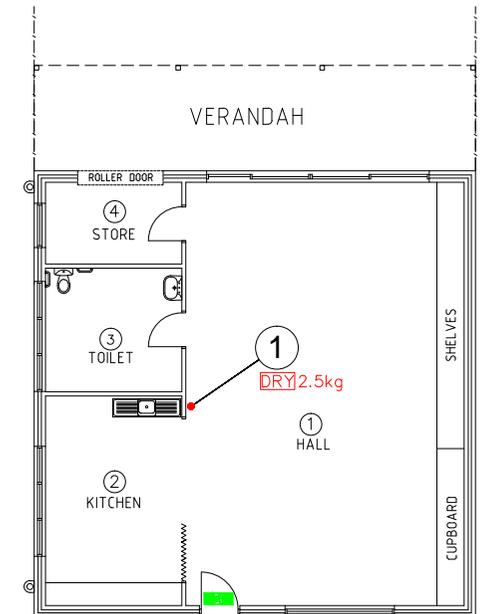
Location of proposed extension



Building interior (south)



Building interior



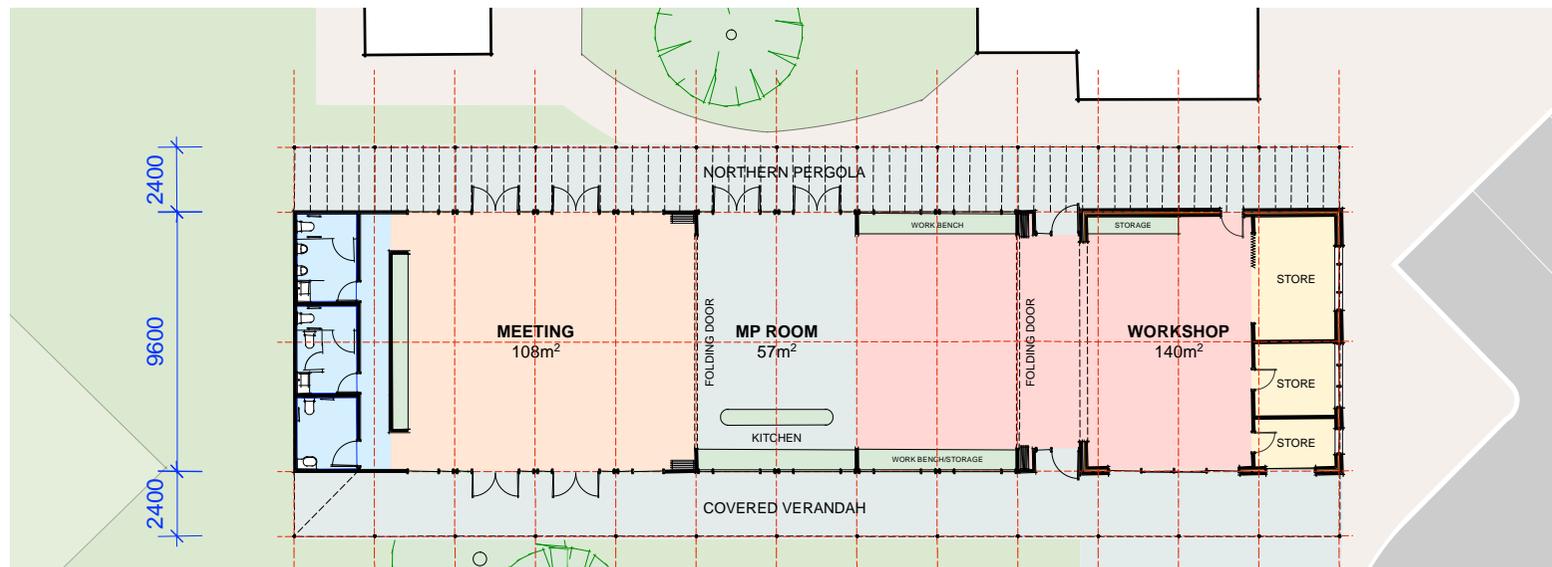
Existing floor plan

**Recommendation**

- Expand existing facility.
- Build audience diversity.
- Increase activation.

**Rationale**

- The existing space does not accommodate their needs. New space would accommodate more for the practice that they do and their needs will be met, enabling a bigger focus on workshops.
- More diversity is needed as there are currently only 10% of women users. They want to genuinely be recognised as a more inclusive space than a men's shed. They want to increase interest as they are open for everyone.
- Build audience numbers through activation, including workshops and training for new members. The expansion may also allow them to get a little bit more attention into younger crowds.
- Extra space will also include space for other community users and hire (noting that the community centre adjacent is well attended / booked)



Proposed floor plan

# Myaree Makerspace and Community Music Facility.

## Overview

The Myaree Makerspace and Community Music Facility is a relatively new asset for the City of Melville.

It has been included within the report for information. The City has advised that minor compliance upgrades and modifications to the mezzanine level have been planned for the facility.

The facility is intended to support local creative production and makerspace on one level, and music rehearsal and storage facilities on a second level, as identified from local community group needs.

From the Men's Shed's Facebook page:

***The Melville Community Men's Shed provides opportunities for men and women to work on their own projects, join a team working on Shed activities and tasks, or just share time, recreation and fellowship with other members.***

***Many of our activities include partners and family, so we celebrate the broader world of men as well as the uniqueness of men together.***

## ASSET SUMMARY

### Address

1/12 Haydn Court, Myaree

### Character

- Within an existing industrial facility and context

### Use & Programs

- Makers organisation, mens and womens craft and making activities, music rehearsal and storage spaces

### Users

- Currently planned for use by Melville Men's Shed and Community Music groups



Existing Makerspace



Existing Makerspace

## Opportunities:

- Possible opportunities for free (or subsidised) rehearsal space hire for a range of musical performers, bands, individuals, etc.





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