Performing Arts Reference Group
Canberra Theatre Redevelopment Project

Meeting One Notes

Meeting Date: Thursday 27 July 2023, 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: ACT Government Office, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City.

Acronyms:

MPC	Major Projects Canberra
CTC	Canberra Theatre Centre
CRA	City Renewal Authority
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services

Attendees

27 invitees (16 attended in person, 8 attended online, 3 apologies).

PARG members

Name	Present / apology
Tom Davis	Present online
Liz Lea	Present online
Lexi Sukless	Present in person
KG	Apology
Kojo (Citizen Kay)	Present in person
Cathy Adamek	Apology
Ian RT Colless	Present in person
Hanna Cormick	Present online
Sammy Moynihan	Present online
Luke Rogers	Present online
Christopher Carroll	Apology
PJ Williams	Present in person
David Whitney	Present in person
Aislinn King	Present in person
Michael White	Present online
Karen Vickery	Present in person
Alison Plevey	Present - online
Elizabeth Little	Present in person
Disa Swifte	Present in person
Kat Hughan	Present online

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Non-member attendees

Organisation / title	PARG role	Name	Attendance
MPC, Canberra Theatre Redevelopment Project Director	Presenting	Julia Pucci	Present in person
Independent	PARG Facilitator	Jade Lillie	Present in person
MPC Senior Director Design	Observer	Stephanie Donnelly	Present in person
MPC Senior Director Communications	Observer	Tania Navarro	Present online
MPC Director Communications and Engagement	Logistics, assistance	Melanie Clarke	Present in person
MPC Assistant Director Communications and Engagement	Logistics, Minute taking	Sophie Peer	Present in person
CTC	Presenting	Alex Budd	Present in person
CTC	Observer	Dan Clarke	Present in person
Architectus	Presenting	Dr Stephen Long	Present in person
Minister for Arts	Presenting	Tara Cheyne	Present in person (20minutes)

Meeting Item	Discussion notes
Introductions and housekeeping	• Jade Lillie opened meeting with an *Acknowledgement of Country* and an overview of housekeeping items. • Individual introductions by each member, commencing with online participants.
Minister Cheyne	• Minister Cheyne provided an overview of the Canberra Theatre Centre transformation and the opportunities it will provide in supporting the arts and the growth of the sector. • Outlined the Economic opportunities for growing regional and local populations. • Answered questions relating to the Statement of Ambition and the benefit of arts to well-being. • Invited members to share how the message of the Canberra Theatre Redevelopment is being heard by the sector.
Julia Pucci – Project Director	Julia Pucci provided a project overview: • Role of MPC in delivering infrastructure and the stages of work, business case process and tenders that led to the point of the project we are at in July 2023. • MPC is working in partnership with CTC and CRA on the project. • Currently working towards business case for construction funding to Cabinet for the July 2024 Budget. • Construction will take a staged approach, whereby options remain available for artists and audiences.

	• Project scope is constrained by the site location and size. • There is a need for efficient back of house loading as well as pedestrian prioritisation. • Equitable and inclusive design outcomes are central to the project. • The theatre will be located in the CRA led, Canberra Civic and Culture District (CCCD). • PARG input is the first stage of consultation. Broader community consultation will commence later in 2023. **Question** on parking. • Parking is being considered and a plan is being prepared as part of the project. The Government is also considering a broader district parking plan.
Alex Budd, Director, Canberra Theatre Centre	• Alex spoke about the CTC vision which is currently still in draft form. • Emphasised importance of the CTC relationship to Civic Square with entrance points from north and south. • Many large-scale touring shows currently cannot perform at CTC. • CTC wants to ensure a space that is a magnet for creatives, somewhere artists can gather and connect with one another whether they are watching a show or not.
Dr Stephen Long, Architectus	• Stephen Long provided information on the design journey, challenges, constraints and priorities. He also shared examples of concept designs, renders, maps and their previous national and international work. • Design Team is taking a First Nations approach to place. • Consideration is being given to spaces outside of the traditional performance rooms as options for performance.
Housekeeping	• A reminder to return all forms before minutes can be distributed. • Future meetings will be more interactive and allow for more participation / question time. • PARG members have been appointed as individuals with no expectation that any singular person represent an entire community, discipline or group. • The group is diverse but may not be wholly representative of all performing arts workers or patrons – Jade invited members to consider who is not in the room and how we might ensure their perspectives are heard.
Follow up items	• Courtyard Studio: rationale, design, plans. The PARG will have the opportunity to input their ideas. • Food and beverage options / integration.
Action items	• MPC to share project key messages. • MPC to share overall project 'vision'. • Online survey distributed pertaining to meeting day, location, time.