Minister for the Arts
Question Time Briefs
September 2021

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio/s: Arts

ISSUE: What action has been taken to support the arts through COVID?

- **HOMEFRONT**
- **KEY ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND PROGRAM ORGANISATIONS**
- **CREATIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM**
- **OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES**

Communications, media and engagement implications

- *Homefront 3*
  - 'Homefront is back' - https://www.miragenews.com/homefront-is-back-621715/
  - 'Homefront reboot makes lockdown grants available for ACT artists' – *https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7405817/lockdown-grants-boost-for-canberras-isolated-artists/*
  - 'The COVID lockdown is challenging for the ACT arts community' - https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7400344/the-clever-art-of-coping-creatively/
  - 'Government drags back controversial arts rescue package' - https://citynews.com.au/2021/government-drags-back-controversial-arts-rescue-package/

Talking points:

- The ACT Government has announced a third round of HOMEFRONT funding worth $350,000 in the wake of the COVID-19 public health measures in August-September 2021, adding to the support currently available which includes:
  - six projects under the earlier announced Creative Recovery and Resilience Program for 2021-22.
  - 25 arts organisations (17 funded as Key Arts Organisations and eight funded as Program Organisations) have had their funding – which was due to end at the conclusion of 2021 – extended through to the end of 2022.
  - This has been done to provide these organisations with a degree of confidence and certainty during the difficult COVID-19 lockdown, enabling them to plan for 2022 as we approach the end of 2021.

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- In 2020-21, in addition to the over $10 million provided annually to the arts sector, the ACT Government provided more than $8.3 million in COVID-19-related support.
- More than $8 million of this funding was new and included a series of grants for both individual artists (HOMEFRONT) and arts organisations (emergency funding), as well as rent relief, new online events offerings, and fast tracked infrastructure projects.

HOMEFRONT 3

- On Saturday 29 August, the ACT Government announced a third round of the successful HOMEFRONT grants program, worth $350,000.
- ACT-based artists and small arts groups can apply for up to $10,000 to support their ongoing arts practice during the pandemic.
- Applications opened on Thursday 2 September 2021 and will close on 23 September 2021.
- The focus of the grants round will be on promoting growth and sustainability in practice through supporting:
    - projects which increase access to the arts;
    - projects which enhance an artist's capability or capacity or artistic skills development; and/or
    - initiatives which promote/market artistic practice or creation, or promotion/marketing skills development.
- Feedback from the sector has been overwhelmingy positive.

KEY ARTS ORGANISATIONS AND PROGRAM ORGANISATIONS

- On 24 August 2021, 17 Key Arts Organisations were advised that their funding would be extended through to the end of 2022 at 2021 levels plus CPI.
- On 25 August 2021, eight Program organisations were advised the same.
- This funding extension provides funded arts organisations with a degree of confidence and certainty during the difficult COVID-19 lockdown, enabling them to plan for 2022 as we approach the end of 2021.
- Organisations have also been advised that the ACT Government remains committed to designing and implementing a new model of arts organisation. The ACT Government will commence consultation on this model at the end of the current lockdown.

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- Organisations will be able to submit an application for funding under the new model in 2022, with funding under the new model to begin from the 2023 calendar year.

CREATIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

- The Creative Recovery and Resilience Program has been designed to provide more income opportunities for artists, raise the profile of the arts, build skills and networks with other sectors, engage with the community, and enhance pride in our city. The initiatives to be delivered include:
- A Creative Recovery and Resilience Forum with University of Canberra.
    - The forum will connect disciplines, practitioners across career stages and contexts to contribute to the ongoing growth of a well networked, more resilient sector.
- Residencies with University of Canberra and Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres.
    - Eight residencies will be offered, giving artists the opportunity to spend focused time developing their practice, new ideas, and directions across four diverse settings including digital technology and community cultural development
- City Commissions with Contour 556.
    - Three new works will be commissioned from local artists to explore the identity and diversity of the city.
- Communicating the Arts Project with Paper Giant.
    - A six-month program that will connect up to ten artists with marketing and communications professionals to share knowledge and skills.
- Art in Place with You Are Here.
    - A streamlined grants program to support small live events to take place in venues and businesses across the ACT.
- The delivery of the ACT Government Creative-in-Residence Project.
    - An opportunity for two local artists to join the ACT Government and provide new perspectives and explore how their creative skills can foster innovation and new approaches within government. The residents will be announced in the coming weeks.

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- The Creative Recovery and Resilience Forum, City Commissions, and Art in Place are joint initiatives of the ACT Government and Regional Arts Australia. These projects are supported by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund Recovery Boost of $98,000.

OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES

- **The *Amp It Up!*** Fund was developed to assist small to medium live music venues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic by offsetting costs associated with programming and promotion, and to provide opportunities for musicians and other performance artists to pursue present their work.
    - The program will see a total of $790,747 allocated to 23 live venues, supporting a range of gigs and performances from June to 30 November 2021.
- **The Pop Up** arts events and and activities in Gungahlin and Woden is supported through funding of $270,000 per year to the Belconnen and Tuggeranong Arts Centres as a joint partnership (each receiving $135,000 per year to employ a community arts officer at each centre to deliver programs in Gungahlin and Woden).
- The program is supporting and developing strong participation and engagement in the arts specifically for these communities, which has seen a range of exhibitions, events, performances and workshops, resulting in over 10,000 attendees in Gungahlin, and over 6,500 attendees in Woden participating in the programs to date.
- For artists and community groups in the Molonglo Valley, they can apply for funding through the Arts Activities funding and can also connect with activities at the Belconnen and Tuggernaong Arts Centres. artsACT met with representativevs from the Molonglo Valley Community Forum on 19 July 2021 and provided advice on funding opportunities.

Key Information

- Funding of $375,000 for initiatives under the Creative Recovery and Resilience program was agreed in the August 2020 budget. The program budget has been supplemented from other sources within the arts budget – including from arts residencies – with the total now available at $711,849.
- Applications for the *Amp It Up!* fund opened on 3 May and closed on 17 May 2021. The fund received 35 aplications. 23 applications were funded
- The arts sector has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2019, the ACT Government has provided grants to individuals, support for arts organisations, rent relief and additional capital works at arts facilities.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Additional funding of $2.5 million was provided to the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) to support the ongoing employment for the CFC's large number of casual staff, especially at the Canberra Theatre Centre.
- Business as usual grants activity continues.
- The **$5-50k Arts Activities funding grants** open twice a year with set dates.
    - Round One opens 1 December, closes 28 February and is announced by 30 May.
    - Round Two opens 1 June, closes 31 July and is announced by 31 October.
- Applications are assessed assessed against the funding aims and criteria by two expert peer panels drawn from the local arts sector. There is a budget of $350,000 for each round in 2021-22.
- In the 1 June 2020 round, artsACT received 74 eligible applications requesting a total of $1,568,428. Fourteen successful applications for $324,000 were announced in November 2020.
- In the 1 December 2020 round, artsACT received 57 eligible applications requesting a total of $1,280,223. Seventeen successful applications for $345,000 were announced on 3 June 2021.
- In the 1 June 2021 round, artsACT received 68 eligible applications requesting a total of $1,708,775, which are currently being assessed. The outcome is proposed to be announced on 31 October 2021.
- artsACT has approved 12 applications for the **Up to $5k Arts Activities grants** since 1 July 2021, at a total of $55,500.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: How is the ACT Government monitoring the activities of Music for Canberra?

Communications, media and engagement implications

- There have been media reports about the dismissal of a music conductor and music manager by the new General Manager of Music for Canberra Inc.

  https://citynews.com.au/2021/choir-president-defends-sacked-conductor/
  https://citynews.com.au/2021/star-conductor-sacked-days-before-youth-concert/

- The article includes the following quote:

Ms Roben said: "We have received a number of concerns raised by some parents about some orchestra staff behaviour which is not aligned to our values and they are very serious concerns. Our compliance with the relevant protection laws and regulations is very important. We have to protect the safety and well-being of our children. As a result, Rowan Harvey-Martin will no longer be a part of Music For Canberra."

Talking Points

- The ACT Government has a deed of grant with Music for Canberra to 31 December 2021. The deed specifies a number of reporting requriements, which Music for Canberra has met.
- It is not a matter for the ACT Government to involve itself in the day to day operations and decisions of an independent community organisation.
- The ACT Government is monitoring Music for Canberra, through artsACT, who regularly meets with all funded arts organisations including Music for Canberra.
- Music for Canberra has since appointed a new music conductor.

Key Information

- Music for Canberra receives key arts organisation funding from artsACT of $287,000 per year, and operates from the Ainslie Arts Centre.
- Minister Cheyne and Ms Lee MLA have been sent correspondence from a 'sacked' staff member with attached letters from Snedden Hall & Gallop Lawyers regarding pending legal action against Music for Canberra.

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- artsACT met with Music For Canberra board and general manager about its governance and operations after concerns were raised by members and ex staff of the organisation.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: What is being done for the Arts Activity Funding Round for 2021?

Communications, media and engagement implications

- On 3 June, I announced the outcome of 17 successful applications for the first round of Arts Activity Funding for 2021.
- Round Two opened on 1 June and closed on 31 July. The recipients will be announced by 31 October.

Talking points:

- I can advise the Assembly that a total of $920,000 is available through both *Up to $5k Arts Activities* and the *$5k to $50k Arts Activities* funding each year. An additional $100,000 is provided to Screen Canberra for screen activities funding.
- The first round of $5-50k Arts Activities funding for 2021 opened on 1 December 2020 and closed on 28 February 2021. artsACT received 57 eligible applications for 2021 Round One of $5-50k Arts Activities funding, requesting a total of $1,280,223.
- For the second round, which opened on 1 June and closed on 31 July 2021, artsACT received 68 eligible applications for a total request of $1,708,775 (there were 74 total applications with six deemed ineligible).
- Arts Activities funding rounds are always highly competitive. There were 14 successful applications in the second *$5k to $50k* round for 2020 across a range of artforms, from 74 applications.
- Applicants who are not successful are encouraged to seek feedback on their applications and apply again.
- Information for successful applicants is available on the artsACT website, www.arts.act.gov.au
- The *Up to $5k Arts Activities* funding is available all year round with a budget of $220,000.

Key Information

- Arts Activities Funding is made up of two categories. The *Up to $5k* funding category and the *$5k to $50k* funding category. The Up to $5k category has budget of some

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$220,000 for the year, while the $5 to $50k has budget of some $350,000 per round. The final expenditure amount for each category is dependent on demand and can change through the year.

- An additional $100,000 of Arts Activities funding is also provided to Screen Canberra for the ACT Screen Arts Fund, for screen arts activities through one round per year, which is open in October/November each year.
- Applications to Arts Activities funding are open to Canberra based artists and arts groups for one-off projects across dance, literature, music, theatre and visual arts. For screen projects, applications are managed through Screen Canberra.
- Arts Activities funding supports the funding aims of arts development, participation and access and arts opportunities. Projects are diverse and can include creating and presenting new work, community engagement activities, attendance at residencies, and skills development.

<u>$5k to $50k Arts Activities</u>

- *$5-50k Arts Activities* funding is open twice a year with set dates.
    - Round One opens 1 December, closes 28 February and is announced by 30 May.
    - Round Two opens 1 June, closes 31 July and is announced by 31 October.
- Applications are assessed against the funding aims and criteria by two expert peer panels drawn from the local arts sector.

<u>Up To $5k Arts Activities</u>

- Since 1 July 2021, artsACT has approved 12 applications in the *Up To $5k Arts Activities* round at a total of $55,500. artsACT normally receives about 8 to 10 applications per month and has a budget to approve about 3-4 per month.
- *Up To $5k Arts Activities* funding operates on a rolling, year-round basis.
- Applications for the *Up to $5k* funding category are assessed by artsACT staff against the funding aims and criteria. Each application is assessed by two staff members and reviewed by the Director of Arts Programs, who makes a recommendation for approval by the Executive Branch Manager, artsACT. This ensures a fair and transparent process.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: **What is being done to rectify the lead dust found at Former Transport Depot, Kingston?**

Communications, media and engagement

- The Canberra Times published an article on 2 June 2021 following your statement to the Legislative Assembly on the same day. The article noted that reimbursements would be provided to stakeholders, and that remediation was tracking to be completed in July 2021. https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7279929/old-bus-depot-stallholders-to-be-reimbursed-for-lost-equipment/?cs=14264

  An additional story was published by the City News on 3 June 2021: https://the-riotact.com/kingston-old-bus-depot-markets-to-remain-shut-until-at-least-july/466102?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=daily&utm_campaign=2021-06-03

- A media enquiry was received on 21 May 2021 from The Canberra Times. The enquiry was in response to a Freedom of Information released on 13 May about lead dust at the Former Transport Depot, Kingston. The questions related to the project program, blood test levels of workers and the project cost. The resulting article is here: https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7263165/high-levels-of-lead-dust-found-across-kingston-bus-depot/

  Additional stories were aired on WIN news on 26 May and in City News - https://citynews.com.au/2021/high-levels-of-lead-dust-found-at-kingstons-old-bus-depot/

- Old Bus Depot Market (OBDM) communicates with its stallholders via a digital newsletter sent by email. Written updates to stallholders have been distributed by OBDM to stallholders on 11 and 25 Feburary, and 19 April 2021. It is understood OBDM has not communicated a date for reopening the markets to stallholders since a date for completion of remediation works has not been available.

Talking points:

- Lead dust at the Former Transport Depot was disturbed during construction works as part of a $6.5 million project including for roof replacement works, electrical system upgrades, and toilet facility and accessibility upgrades.
- Expert advice is that when left undisturbed and good personal hygiene is practiced, the dust would not have posed a significant risk to building users including market operators and visitors. The dust at the Former Transport Depot was undisturbed prior to the construction activities.

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- The completion date for building remediation was anticipated to be late August 2021. However, due to recent COVID-19 public health restrictions that came into effect on 12 August 2021, the works have not been completed. The building remediation is now scheduled to recommence on Monday 13 September 2021 in accordance with public health restrictions and be completed by Friday 24 September 2021.
- We acknowledge that the uncertainty in timeframes has been difficult for the market operators and stallholders especially given that stallholder stock and/or equipment stored in the building has also been impacted by lead dust.
- ACT Government is working with the market operators and stallholders to confirm privately owned property in the building for cleaning or disposal. The strong preference of stallholders so far has been to have their items disposed of and to receive reimbursement, rather than to have their items cleaned and returned. Of a total of 80 stallholders:
    - Only eight stallholders have requested that some of their items be cleaned and returned, while no stallholders have requested that all of their items be cleaned and returned.
    - So far, 30 stallholders have received their reimbursement for items which are being disposed of, with a further three having had recommendations for reimbursement approved.
- The Old Bus Depot Markets will reopen as soon as possible and will be the first community event to be held in the newly refurbished building.

Key Information

- In the 2019-20 Budget, $6.5 million (GST incl) was allocated over three years for roof replacement works, electrical system upgrade, toilet facility and accessibility upgrades at the Former Transport Depot, home of the Old Bus Depot Markets.
- The Markets have been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The construction works were scheduled prior to the pandemic.
- Works were on track for completion in March 2021. However, in late January 2021 dust containing lead particulates was found in the building. The lead dust must be remediated before the building reopens to the public.
- Worksafe were notified of the situation on 20 January 2021 and have provided advice to Major Projects Canberra.

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- As a precautionary measure voluntary blood tests have been offered to people who have been on-site during the construction period. To date a total of twenty-eight people have had tests, and all have returned results within a normal range.
- The results of three individuals were initially reported as being elevated, but were subsequently found not to be indicative of high levels of exposure to lead.
- A specialist cleaning contractor started in early April 2021 and cleaning of the building is underway. Progressive clearance testing is being undertaken during each stage of work and will inform the need for additional remediation activities which may be required in order to meet the adopted clearance thresholds.

  artsACT is the building custodian, ACT Property Group provides building management (repairs and maintenance) and Major Projects Canberra (MPC), Infrastructure Delivery Partners is the contract manager and delivery agency for the capital works project.

- The contractor, Monarch Building Solutions, is coordinating an appropriate response to this in accordance with the construction contract and the relevant legislation.
- Timeline to project completion (scheduled) as follows:
  - Final clearance from Robsons Environmental 17 September 2021
  - Access for Old Bus Depot Markets (office & foodcourt) 20 September 2021
  - Defects rectification completed by site contractor 24 September 2021
  - Site contractor demobilises and project completed 27 September 2021
  - Old Bus Depot Markets reopened (not yet known) TBC
- The above timeline is based on public health directions at 9 September 2021 and is dependent on test samples meeting required thresholds for building use. The schedule is subject to change depending on public health directions.
- The total reimbursement amount committed (as at 9 September 2021) is $228,267.71 meaning the average committed claim is $6,917.20.
- There are minor works to be completed once the contractor leaves site which will be managed by ACT Property Group and coordinated around other building use as required and permitted. The works have been staged in this manner to facilitate building access for the market operator.
- There will also be a number of storage containers kept on site until the equipment stored in them and owned by market stallholders is approved for disposal. The owners of this remaining equipment have not yet contacted artsACT to initiate the reimbursement process with the Territory. artsACT is working with the market owners to contact these stallholders who have not responded to communications to date.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: What action has been taken in response to lead dust findings at Gorman House?

Communications, media and engagement implications

- There has not been any media specifically related to lead dust findings at Gorman House Arts Centre.
- There is, however, strong media interest in hazardous materials in ACT Government owned buildings. Recent focus has been on lead dust in Canberra schools and at the Former Transport Depot, Kingston:

https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7170894/lead-dust-recently-found-in-11-schools-as-list-of-affected-campuses-is-revealed/

https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7165339/workers-tested-after-lead-dust-exposure/

Talking points

- I understand that lead dust particles were found in two vacant artist studios at Gorman House Arts Centre during the recent refurbishment of these rooms. The presence of lead particles is understood to be the result of lead paint on the timber window frames being disturbed over time by window operation.
- The test report was received on 18 March 2021 and showed that no airborne lead dust or floor surface lead dust was present, but that high levels of lead dust were found on two window sills that were tested. All rooms tested have been deemed safe to occupy by qualified environmental consultants.
- Cleaning to remove the lead dust particles in the two studio spaces is complete. Clearance testing is also complete and the spaces are safe to occupy.
- Lead paint is present throughout Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres and is managed in accordance with the Arts Centres' Hazardous Materials Registers. A detailed management plan to guide the ongoing monitoring and management of lead paint is also being prepared for both sites.
- Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres were built in the 1920s. Just like homes and businesses built at this time, these facilities were painted with lead paint, which was commonly used before 1992.

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- Lead paint is typically found on timber surfaces including window frames, eaves, and handrails, but it has also been found in storage, plant and equipment rooms. Expert advice has been provided that when left undisturbed and good personal hygiene practised, dust does not pose a significant risk to building users.
- After a risk assessment process to determine the highest priority spaces for cleaning and clearance testing throughout Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres, testing is complete in all the high risk locations at both centres. Lead paint is being removed from the windows in Room 1 at Ainslie Arts Centre because it is a room used by small children. All the spaces tested have been cleared for occupation and the lead paint remaining insitu will be monitored in accordance with the lead paint management plan. Further lead paint remediation works are progressing at Ainslie Arts Centre during lockdown while the facility is unoccupied. All works are in accordance with health directions.

Key Information

- While artsACT is the building custodian, Arts Capital Limited occupies and operates Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres under a licence agreement with the Territory.
- Various spaces at each facility are exclusively occupied by sublicence holders including QL2 Dance, Canberra Youth Theatre and Music for Everyone. Other spaces are hired to the community on a casual basis.
- Worksafe ACT was notified of the test results on 19 March 2021. The presence of lead dust is not a notifiable incident in the ACT. Robson Environmental provided expert advice on this matter.
- Verbal advice was provided to the your Office on 16 March 2021.
- Arts Capital Limited (operators of Ainslie and Gorman House Arts Centres) received rent relief from the ACT Government during the pandemic closure due to the significant economic impact on its business operations.
- Arts Capital provided advice about the lead dust to its tenants (sublicence holders) on 19 March 2021: https://mailchi.mp/90f537d47d43/lead-paint-at-ainslie-and-gorman-arts-centres?e=bf6b5cf019
- ACT Health has recently released a fact sheet about lead exposure: https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/fact-sheets

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: What is the status of the Kingston Arts Precinct Project?

Communications, media and engagement implications:

- Inner south launches new bid to ward off further densification dated 5 September 2021
- Fears grow for Kingston Arts Precinct plans as community shut out dated 24 July 2021
- Government needs to break silence over Kingston Arts Precinct dated 26 July 2021.
- The March issue of *Heritage in Trust*, published by the National Trust of Australia (ACT), included an article on the Kingston Arts Precinct (KAP) criticising the successful tender's departure from the 2014 Master Plan and the changes made following community consultation.

Talking Points

- The Inner South Canberra Community Council has prepared a draft district plan, which calls for all heritage requirements to be met in the Kingston Arts Precinct development. The ACT Heritage Council is being consulted regularly throughout the development of this project and the development proposal will need to comply with ACT Government planning requirements under the Territory Plan and the *Heritage Act*. An updated Conservation Management Plan for the Kingston Powerhouse Historic Precinct is being developed, giving appropriate protection to this important site. Importantly, all heritage registered assets and trees within the precinct will be retained, including the 1948 Switch Room ("Chapel").
- A RiotACT article, dated 26 July 2021, called on the Arts Minister and the ACT Government to update the community about the project. The article expanded on themes explored in the 24 July 2021 article in the same publication.
- Phase 3 of the design development process is nearing completion. In February 2021, Geocon submitted updated Tender Concepts Estate Development Plan drawings, articulating amendments to earlier versions.
- The Suburban Land Agency (SLA) is reviewing the Tender Concepts Estate Development Plan to ensure it meets engagement outcomes, identify risks and confirm the design elements to resolve in the next phase of the project.
- Further design development is on hold while the TCEDP is being reviewed.
- Once approved by the SLA, the Tender Concepts Estate Development Plan will be made public, and the community will have a chance to provide feedback on the design.

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- artsACT meets monthly with the arts organisations relocating to the precinct. Between April – August 2021, the organisations participated in a series of workshops to develop a new vision for the precinct.
- The focus of these meetings over the next few months will be to finalise the operational strategy, develop a marketing and communications strategy and plan pre-launch activations.
- In July 2021, artsACT hosted a series of workshops, and conducted an online survey, with individual practitioners, artworkers and other stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the sector's needs and how the arts community might use the future precinct. Key themes from the workshops were around ensuring the precinct is inclusive, affordable and accessible for artists.

If asked how has the community been engaged?

- Since July 2019, the design team has met with a range of community and project stakeholders who have provided input into the Tender Concepts Estate Development Plan.
- In total there have been four sessions with the National Capital Design Review Panel, the most recent was in November 2020. The proponets last met with the ACT Heritage Council in December 2020 and the most recent session with the project's Community Panel was in November 2020.
- No meetings have been held with these stakeholders since the Tender Concepts Estate Development Plan was submitted but the SLA and artsACT have engaged ACT Heritage, community members and arts organisations.
- The following changes have been made to the masterplan based on feedback from stakeholders: retention of the 1948 Switch Room (the Chapel); widening views to the Powerhouse from Wentworth Avenue; introduction of a green forecourt and retention of heritage trees on Wentworth Avenue; and improved views of the Powerhouse to and from Eastlake Parade and Bowen Park.

If asked how the site's heritage is being considered?

- The ACT Heritage Council (Council) will consider the proposed development as part of its role in the approval process for the Estate Development Plan Development Application.
- In December 2019, Council requested an updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Kingston Powerhouse Historic Precinct. artsACT engaged Philip Leeson Architects (PLA) to update the CMP. The draft CMP was submitted to Council in November 2020. Feedback was provided to PLA in January 2021 and the revised draft was resubmitted to Council in April 2021.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The SLA has commissioned PLA to write a Statement of Heritag Effects (SHE), for submission to the Council, for works which may diminish the heritage significance of the place. The draft SHE was submitted to Council in May 2021.
- In a Canberra Times article dated 7 March 2021, the Chair of the ACT Heritage Council praised proponents for their early and regular engagement with Council.

If asked which arts organisations are relocating?

- A new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art space, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Craft ACT, M16 and PhotoAccess will join Canberra Glassworks and Megalo Print Studio as the precinct's founding resident organisations.
- artsACT is consulting with Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about the function, structure and design of this space.
- Organisations are not limited in discussing their involvement in the project or information that is publicly available.
- Organisations will have a peppercorn rental arrangement, consistent with other existing arrangements for arts facilities. Organisations will pay a sub-licence fee to cover operational costs including security, cleaning & waste.

If asked who will own and manage the precinct?

- The ACT Government assets will include purpose-built arts facilitites, residential accommodation for visiting artists, a multi-storey carpark, retail activation, and outdoor event space for up to 5,000 people.
- artsACT will be the precinct manager for a period of 5 years in the first instance.
- artsACT is liaising with ACT Property Group about the future management and maintenance of territory assets.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

CM2021/2988

Portfolio: Arts

ISSUE: Is the ACT Government addressing the lack of representation of women artists and subject in Public Art?

Communications, media and engagement implications:

- Recent Media attention has highlighted a lack of representation of women in public art works including a petition by Jasiri International. See, for example:
  - https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7054881/civic-gets-statue-of-constitutions-founding-father/
  - https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7056503/it-is-appropriate-nca-chief-defends-new-civic-statue/
  - https://m.facebook.com/abccanberra/posts/what-do-you-think-of-canberras-newest-statueandrew-inglis-clark-helped-draft-the/10159440003087125/
  - https://canberraweekly.com.au/monumental-women-petition-aims-to-smash-the-bronze-ceiling/

Talking points:

- Historically, male artists have dominated the practice of sculpture in Australia. This is reflected in the make-up of the ACT Government's public art collection. Of the 117 artworks in the collection managed by artsACT, 83 artworks are by male artists, 24 works by female artists and 11 by male and female artists working together.
- The issue of women's representation in public art in Canberra (as both artists and subjects) has recently been brought to the attention of the community with the commissioning of the Andrew Inglis Clark artwork commissioned by the developers of the Constitution Place site, Capital Airport Group (CAG).
- Andrew Inglis Clark was the preferred artwork subject for the Constitution Avenue location because of his co-authorship of the Australian Constitution. The commission for the Andrew Inglis Clark work, Windswept, went to an emerging Australian female artist, April Pine.
- A petition to celebrate the accomplishments of women through sculpture and place names in the ACT has been lodged with the ACT Assembly and is being sponsored by Suzanne Orr MLA. The petition closed on 1 June 2021 with 223 signatories.
- There is a proposal for women to be recognised in public art as part of the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement 2020. The proposal is for a co-designed

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Women's Walk of artwork by, for and about women located at the Acton Waterfront, West Basin.

- As a step towards addressing the imbalance in gender representation in the public art collection, the ACT Government Public Art Guidelines are being reviewed and updated to reflect a new requirement related to gender representation as a consideration in artwork commissioining. Although the Guidelines are not mandatory, those commissioning artworks for donation to the ACT Government will need to show the Guidelines have been applied to artwork development before works are accepted into the collection for long term care.

Key Information

- Public art owned and managed by the ACT Government has been commissioned or acquired by the Territory or gifted by an individual or private entity. Work that is commissioned or acquired is funded via the ACT Budget process. There is no funding currently available for new public art commissions or acquisitions to be managed by artsACT although other ACT Government agencies do commission works on occasion as part of capital works projects.
- Women artists make up 20 per cent of the public art collection managed by artsACT. This is below state galleries and museums nationally, which recorded 34 per cent representation of women artists in collections, and below the 51 per cent representation at 48 public galleries across Australia (Countess Report, 2019).
- The Women's Walk proposal is listed as an initiative under the ACT Greens' Policy Platform for the 10th ACT Legislative Assembly (Appendix 5, Parliamentary and Governing Agreement). Item 2.6 states: 'Fund a co-designed 'Women's Walk' of artwork by, for and about women at the West Basin precinct'.
- Should the Women's Walk be supported by the ACT Government, a co-design process could be employed to determine what form the project would take. That is, who should be represented in the Women's Walk, why and in what form (at a general principle level). Findings from the co-design process would inform an artist brief for the Women's Walk.
- The suggested location for a Women's Walk is the Acton Waterfront. The planning and development of the Acton Waterfront is the responsibility of the City Renewal Authority and includes a proposed four-hectare urban park as shown in the revised Acton Waterfront Masterplan. This could be a possible location for the Women's Walk.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- **BUDGET-IN-CONFIDENCE:** The 2021-22 Budget will include $200,000 capital funding offset by $102,000 from the Percent-For-Art Scheme for a public art commission. The funding is for an artwork by a female or non-binary artist celebrating women and/or non-binary individuals.
- Men are subjects in 17 public artworks and women in eight public artworks commissioned by artsACT. Furthermore, of the six figurative artworks (commemorative) in the collection managed by artsACT, one is of a woman (a bust of the poet Judith Wright by artist Cathy Weiszmann) and the others are male subjects – three former Prime Ministers and two local poets.
- The petition to celebrate the accomplishments of women has been lodged with the ACT Assembly by Jasiri Australia (social enterprise supporting young women future leaders). It was posted on 22 February 2021 and closed on 1 June 2021. The petition, 'Monumental Women', requests to: promote equality and diversity in the people recognised through public commemoration; increase the prominence of women in place naming conventions across the territory; and identify opportunities to increase the representation of women, especially of diverse backgrounds and First Nations leaders in our public statues.
- In response to the Monumental Women petition, an inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration has been launched by the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality. The inquiry's Terms of Reference include reporting on the promotion of equality and diversity in the people recognised through public commemoration, and opportunities to increase the representation of women and non-binary people, especially of diverse backgrounds and First Nations leaders in places, monuments, streets, and suburbs in the ACT. Submissions are being received until 30 November 2021:

  https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/committees/egee/inquiry-into-memorialisation-through-public-commemoration

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