

Kingston Arts Precinct Stakeholder Engagement Plan



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Introduction

About this plan

This plan has been developed by Communication Link and outlines the stakeholder engagement activities to be delivered from January 2022 to December 2022 for the Kingston Arts Precinct.

Background

The ACT Government's Arts Facilities Strategy, developed in 2003, outlined the Kingston Foreshore as "leading visual arts production and activity".

From its inception, the Arts Precinct has been a key element in the planning of the Kingston Foreshore and is a leading destination for contemporary arts and culture in the ACT region. The ACT Government has made a commitment to delivering a precinct of value to the highest standards, that is sensitive to its surroundings, its cultural heritage and future sustainable living.

The Kingston Arts Precinct is the final stage in the ongoing development of the Kingston Foreshore. It will celebrate existing heritage values and deliver a dedicated arts hub for Canberra and the wider region. It brings together geographically dispersed arts groups and their venues into one precinct and deliver outdoor event and activation spaces.

The ACT Government, artsACT and the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) are now moving forward with the development of the Kingston Arts Precinct (Arts Precinct), with completion planned for end of 2025. Communication Link has been appointed to provide community engagement to support the development and delivery of the Kingston Arts Precinct over the next 12 months.

Project and precinct details

The Arts Precinct is located in Section 49 Kingston (bound by Eastlake Parade and Wentworth Avenue and on the eastern edge of Telopea Park). The Arts Precinct will be the main visual entry point to the greater Kingston Foreshore area. It is home to some of Canberra's oldest buildings including the Kingston Powerhouse (now home to Canberra Glassworks), The Fitters' Workshop (now a community facility) and Former Transport Depot. The site is significant for its association with Canberra's early industrial history and its proximity to the Molonglo flood plains, an important Ngunnawal meeting place. See Figure 1 below for a site map.



Figure 1. Site map

Engagement to date

Community and stakeholder engagement on the site has occurred over many years. In 2019 engagement was undertaken the proposed Arts Precinct design and as part of this process a community panel was formed and met a number of times throughout the project.

Building on previous engagement, the SLA is now seeking to undertake further community and stakeholder engagement to progress the design work for the Arts Precinct. This will include providing input into the development of a Place Brief and inform pre-development application work, in particular the Concept Estate Development Plan.

artsACT, as the ACT Government's art agency, is working closely with founding resident arts organisations, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network, and the arts sector to ensure the Arts Precinct meets the growing needs of Canberra's arts community.

Engagement aims and objectives

Engagement purpose

Targeted, innovative and well executed stakeholder engagement is critical to the successful delivery of the realisation of the Arts Precinct as a thriving, sustainable urban environment.

The purpose of this stage of engagement is to gather meaningful input from the community, arts organisations and key stakeholders to inform the development of the Arts Precinct. This will include reestablishing contact and consultation with the existing Community Panel along with delivering broader engagement activities for the general community and other key project stakeholders.

Engagement objectives

The aim of stakeholder and community engagement is to:

- progress the design work for the Arts Precinct with broad and diverse participation by the community and other stakeholders
- establish channels and opportunities for stakeholders to provide input into the development of a Place Brief
- provide opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the SLA to inform and provide input into Development Application (DA) documentation including the Concept Estate Development Plan
- provide clear information about the parts of the project that can or cannot be influenced by the community and others involved in engagement activities
- keep the broader community informed with up-to-date and accessible information about the project throughout all stages of design and development
- generate public interest and enthusiasm for the project and encourage exploration once the precinct is complete

Engagement scope and design

Scope

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been drafted with consideration of the project program for delivery of the Arts Precinct. The engagement activities are designed to align with the relevant key precinct milestones of the project that relate specifically to the precinct design stages through to DA approval. The Plan anticipates that community engagement will continue through to construction and considers the potential for engagement actions through these phases. However, a detailed Engagement Plan will be developed to support the project through its construction phase.

The Plan acknowledges the public consultation already undertaken in relation to the Arts Precinct. Engagement activities through the next phase of design development will not seek to revisit previous areas of engagement.

Stakeholder engagement through the next phase of the project will:

- establish channels and opportunities for stakeholders to provide input into the development of a Place Brief
- outline the elements of the design that are negotiable and those things that cannot be changed,
- create opportunities to seek public input into the design of the public realm, landscape design, heritage conservation, precinct character and potential for ongoing place activation (to inform the Place Brief), and the 'look and feel' of buildings
- outline any amendments to the precinct design as its progressed, and the reason for changes
- facilitate public input into and feedback on options for traffic management and parking.

Program design

Table 1. Engagement program, milestones and objectives

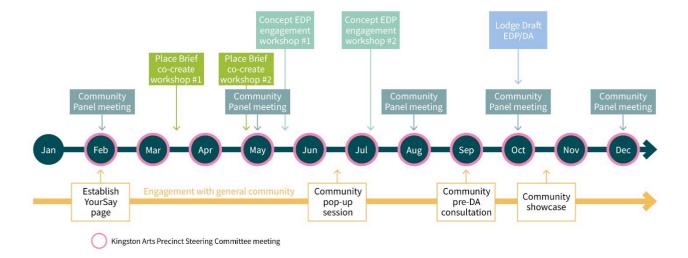
Phase	Objective	Engagement tools and channels
Development of stakeholder engagement plan	 Re-establish Community Panel Generate interest in the precinct Announce community engagement program / opportunity for input or feedback 	 Kingston Arts Precinct webpage on Suburban Land Agency website Re-engage with Community Panel members Hold introductory community panel meeting
Place Brief design process	 Introduce the meaning of 'places for people' and identify place propositions and opportunities for the site Develop a draft and final Kingston Arts Precinct Place Brief 	 Community survey on YourSay Community Panel meetings Place Brief co-create workshops First Nations engagement

Phase	Objective	Engagement tools and channels
Concept EDP	 Confirm user requirements for purpose-built arts facilities Develop a stakeholder-informed design, Keep public informed about consultation process, design changes, and how feedback has been incorporated Seek input on aspirations for precinct character and place activation, to be shared with ACT Government. Maintain public enthusiasm about project 	 Concept EDP engagement workshops Community panel meetings Community Pop up event First Nations engagement
Pre – DA	 Seek feedback on proposed design / pre-DA Inform public of project progress Maintain public enthusiasm about project 	Community Panel meetingsYourSay consultationWebsite updates
EDP / DA lodgement	 Inform public of project progress Support application with summary of pre-DA community engagement Notify key stakeholders and broader Canberra community of application lodgement and approval Maintain public enthusiasm Manage expectations about construction 	 Community Panel meeting YourSay consultation and engagement Community showcase

Engagement program timeline

Figure 2 below shows an overview of the key stakeholder engagement activities from January 2022 through to November 2022.

Figure 2. Engagement program timeline



Stakeholder analysis

The table below provides an overview of project stakeholders, their likely interests and tools to engage them. The stakeholder list will continue to grow as the program progresses and additional stakeholder identify themselves. Engagement tools are explained in more detail in section 8 of this plan.

Table 2. Stakeholder categories

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDERS	LIKELY INTEREST	
Internal stakeholders	Suburban Land Agency artsACT (representative of arts organisations) Heritage ACT TCCS	 Successful implementation of design project Successful implementation of stakeholder engagement plan Achieving desired outcomes for stakeholders Ensuring other government stakeholders are adequately briefed Potential impacts on, benefits to and interfaces with other major projects Design/provision of community accessible facilities 	
External stakeholders Government bodies and other referral agencies	National Capital Authority Evoenergy Events ACT VisitCanberra	 Protection of national capital interests and implementation of National Capital Plan Protection of the environment consistent with national obligations Protection of existing infrastructure and assets Potential impacts on, benefits to and interfaces with other major projects in the area Events and tourism opportunities 	
Resident Arts Organisations	Megalo Print Studio Canberra Contemporary Art Space Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Space Craft ACT M16 Artspace Photo Access	 Place Brief design process and final design Opportunities for arts organisations Construction impacts and timing Future development Stakeholder and community engagement opportunities 	

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDERS	LIKELY INTEREST
	Canberra Glassworks	
First Nations stakeholders	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee United Ngunnawal Elders Council and Aboriginal Community (UNEC) ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Network (artsACT) Indigenous arts groups eg Aboriginal Dreamings Gallery Burrunju Aboriginal Corporation Kemarre Arts Indigenous Womens Group	 Protection and celebration of First Nations cultural heritage, including its interpretation and inclusion within the precinct design Ensure the traditional significance of the land is acknowledged.
Artists/Arts Community	Canberra Arts organisation (non-resident) Individual practitioners Arts workers Art students Art teachers	 Opportunities for artists and performers Access to arts organisations and facilities Activation of both formal and informal spaces in the precinct Engagement opportunities
Peak and community organisations	Pedal Power ACT National Trust of Australia Property Council of Australia Australian Institute of Architects ACT Australian Institute of Landscape Architects ACT Planning Institute of Australia ACT Canberra Convention Bureau Canberra Business Chamber Capital Region Heritage Rail	 Ensuring precinct accommodates cycling and active travel need Construction impacts and timing Traffic management measures Extent of future development Potential commercial opportunities onsite Events capabilities included in precinct design Status and ongoing progress of project
Educational institutions	Universities and CIT Nearby schools and childcare (Narrabundah College)	 Access to arts organisations and facilities Provision of facilities proximate to campuses and potential benefits for use and or of interest to young people

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDERS	LIKELY INTEREST
		 Provision of facilities relevant to current and previous arts/creative industries students Public and active transport benefits Construction impacts and timing Design/provision of facilities within the precinct
Community	Kingston and Barton Residents Group Griffith Narrabundah Community Association Inner South Canberra Community Council Youth Reference Group Youth Advisory Council Foreshore Owners Corporation Association Near-neighbours All Canberra residents	 Precinct design is consistent with feedback previously provided Construction impacts and timing Prospective works and inclusions within the precinct Connections to and accessibility during construction and once open to the public, include transport connections and traffic impacts Environmental impacts, considerations and protection measures Visual amenity Extent of future development Opportunities to provide input Open and transparent communication and project updates Sharing information and feedback with members
Business and commercial	Kingston Traders Group Manuka Business Association Old Bus Depot Markets Bean and Table Brodburger Fyshwick Business Association Inner South Canberra Business Council Property Council of Australia (ACT) Canberra Glassworks Kingston Foreshore businesses	 Potential commercial offerings Construction impacts and timing Extent of future development Prospective works and inclusions within the precinct Opportunities to provide input Connections to and accessibility during construction and once open to the public, include transport connections and traffic impacts Open and transparent communication and project updates

STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY	STAKEHOLDERS	LIKELY INTEREST
		• Impact on electricity infrastructure
Media	Canberra Weekly City News RiotACT Canberra Times	 Design process and final design Construction impacts and timing Future development Engagement opportunities

Issues and sensitivities

This section outlines potential engagement issues and sensitivities and the proposed measures to manage these.

Key issues and management measures Table 3.

KEYISSUES	MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Perceived gap in engagement, communication, project involvement	 Provide key messages to clearly explain the engagement and design and delivery processes and timeline so that the community knows what to expect. Provide multiple feedback channels to ensure that all interested community members and stakeholders can easily provide feedback on the project and ask questions.
Engagement fatigue	 What has been heard from previous rounds of consultation will be referenced in communication materials. Engagement activities will be streamlined and efficient wherever possible to allow easy participation for those who are time poor.
Confusion between adjacent development at Eastlake / Causeway	 Provide clear project information on website and YourSay Develop an infographic detailing the linkages and synergies Maintain communication with other projects to foster cooperation and avoid unintended confusion or conflict
Lack of broad engagement activities	• Establish multiple channels and opportunities for community engagement throughout the development of the precinct. Eg public events and open invitation to workshops
Community Panel could be perceived as not representative of community demographics	 Encourage broad and diverse community participation in other engagement channels and activities. Capture demographic details where possible to better understand representative nature of entire engagement program

KEY ISSUES	MANAGEMENT MEASURES
Community Panel process is not well integrated into general engagement activities, in particular the community workshops.	Community Panel members to be actively encouraged to participate in Place Brief and EDP workshops
COVID-19 restrictions and general concerns about face to face meetings	 Meetings to be held virtually or to include a virtual option to participate. Materials and resources to be easily accessible online.
Perception that the current round of engagement is linked to a statutory government process	 Provide clear information to stakeholders that the current engagement is a voluntary process aimed to inform the precinct design process prior to formal statutory consultation.
Perception that Suburban Land Agency is a compliance or regulatory body	 Provide clear information about the Suburban Land Agency's involvement in this project. The Suburban Land Agency is unable to represent compliance or referral bodies and cannot provide advice or information on their behalf.

Stakeholder engagement approach

Engagement will be focused on ensuring the community and other stakeholders are easily able to access clear information about the Kingston Arts Precinct design process and can participate by providing input and feedback.

Informing our approach

This plan is informed by the ACT Government's Communication and Engagement approach which aims to work across all areas of government to make sure our public information campaigns and engagements are targeted, effective and meet the needs and expectations of Canberrans.

This plan also aligns with the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum (table 1), which underpins the variety of activities outlined in this plan. The spectrum is used internationally and is designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process.

We use the IAP2 framework to guide stakeholder engagement. This framework builds a common understanding within the project delivery team about how different stakeholders are being engaged and what will be achieved through the engagement.

Table 4. IAP2 spectrum for public participation

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Goal	To provide stakeholders with balanced objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and solutions.	To obtain stakeholder feedback on analysis, alternatives, or decisions.	To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that stakeholder concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partners with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision or change including the development of alternatives and the identification of solutions.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public or stakeholders.
Promise	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influenced the strategy. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how stakeholder input influences the decisions/ strategy.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations unto the strategy as much as possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Engagement principles

The engagement principles outlined below will guide the delivery of all communication and stakeholder engagement activities during the delivery of this Plan.

Engagement Principles Table 5.

PRINCIPLE	IMPLEMENTATION	OUTCOME
Two-way	Listen to the stakeholders as well as provide information. Use effective facilitation and listening activities to ensure meaningful feedback is received from stakeholders.	Better understanding of stakeholder views and ideas making it easier to reflect and respond to feedback in designing future plans.
Genuine	Ensure the final project elements truly reflect the feedback received.	Stakeholders will have greater support for client's initiatives if they can see where their feedback has been reflected.
Clear and accurate information	Non-technical, simple language. Use of maps, diagrams and pictures to increase clarity. Work closely with subject matter experts to ensure accuracy. Include timeframe clarity.	Increases stakeholder engagement. Builds trust in the outputs. Minimises potential for confusion or rumour.
Accessible and inclusive	Digitally and physically accessible. Weekend and evening engagements as required. Meeting the stakeholders when it suits them.	Fosters increased participation. Supports the broad delivery of information and strengthens understanding by all stakeholders.
Sustainable	Continue engagement as project continues. Provide additional opportunities to acknowledge input and how it has been used. Be consistent and regular in delivery.	Facilitates delivery of final project outcomes and contributes to activities that are more reflective of the values of the broader community.
Build ownership	Create a sense of ownership among stakeholders as long-term partners in the project.	A long-term partnership that lasts beyond individual projects and helps to shape the future of the organisation.

Community and stakeholder engagement

There is significant community interest in the Arts Precinct. A well-informed community understanding of the project history, the project milestones, timelines but also negotiables and non-negotiables will be key to a successful engagement.

Engagement with key stakeholders and members of the public will focus on providing as many channels and opportunities as possible to view project information, participate in engagement activities such as workshops or pop-ups, ask questions about the project and the design process and to provide their feedback.

Targeted engagement with internal and external stakeholders through workshops and direct correspondence at key milestones is a critical element of this plan and the overall success of the project.

The key stages and elements of the engagement plan are detailed below.

Community panel

The Community Panel is made up of community representatives who are participating on behalf of a number of community-based groups who have an interest in the development and design of the Arts Precinct. The panel was initially formed in 2019 during an earlier phase of the project.

The role of the Community Panel is to contribute to the project design development reaching Development Approval and co-create a Place Brief by defining what the future public space could bring to the Canberra community.

The Community Panel will also work with the SLA to inform and provide input into documentation for all future Development Applications (DA) - initially the Estate Development Plan (EDP) followed by all Built Form DAs for the arts building and the carpark.

In its deliberations, the Community Panel will:

- consider how the space will interact with the heritage and existing infrastructure on the site
- recognise the existing opportunities and constraints of the site and that there is no scope to change the Territory Plan, building heights etc
- provide insights to guide future private sector development through the Place Brief.

Place Brief process

A consultant has been appointed to develop a visually attractive and highly creative Place Brief for the Arts Precinct. The place consultant will provide technical advice via a series of public co-create workshops throughout March and April, with the overall process finalised in May/June 2022.

The key community and stakeholder engagement activity during this phase will be two Place Brief cocreate workshops. Members of the Community Panel and arts organisations will be invited to attend. Attendance to the workshops will also be open to the broader community to attend and provide input and feedback.

Estate Development Plan (EDP) workshops

The Estate Development Plan (EDP) phase will confirm user requirements for purpose-built arts facilities. As part of this process, two workshops will be held to inform the Concept Estate Development Brief. These workshops will help to keep stakeholders informed about consultation process, design changes, and how feedback has been incorporated.

Statutory Consultation

A number of statutory consultation processes including pre-DA community consultation will be undertaken. Developers of the Kingston Arts Precinct will be required to undertake meaningful engagement with the community prior to submitting a DA. This process will seek feedback on key project milestones including proposed design / pre-DA and keep stakeholder informed public of project progress

Engagement tools and channels

The table below provides an overview of the tools and engagement activities from January 2022 through to November 2022.

Engagement tools and channels Table 6.

TOOL OR CHANNEL	HOW IT IS USED	STAKEHOLDERS
Community Panel	To contribute to the project design development reaching Development Approval and co-create a Place Brief by defining what the future public space could bring to the Canberra community.	Community Panel artsACT SLA
Workshops	A number of workshops will be held to engage with and inform key stakeholders and the community about the development. These will include two Place Brief co-create workshops and two Concept Estate Development Plan engagement workshops	All Stakeholders
YourSay	A project page will be set up on the YourSay Community Conversations page to enable interested stakeholders to find out more about the project and opportunities to get involved or ask questions	All Stakeholders
Letter box drops	Targeted letterbox drops to local residents to enable interested stakeholders to find out more about the project and opportunities to get involved or ask questions	Local Kingston residents
Suburban Land Agency (SLA) Website	The SLA website will feature a page dedicated to the Kingston Arts Precinct. The website will be used to house all project information including maps, FAQs and any other relevant project information.	All Stakeholders
artsACT website	artsACT have developed a webpage focusing on the arts elements of the project. The website provides details of the arts organisations involved and supporting documents such as the precinct Vision Statement	All Stakeholders
Community pop up	A community pop up event will be held at the Kingston foreshore to provide the community with an update on the Place Brief design process	All Stakeholders

TOOL OR CHANNEL	HOW IT IS USED	STAKEHOLDERS
Community showcase	A community showcase event will be held to provide an update on the concept EDP process	All Stakeholders
Survey	A survey will be undertaken via YourSay to seek community views and aspirations for the precinct. The feedback will be used to guide Community Panel sessions.	All Stakeholders
Site signage	Site signage will be used to provide project and engagement updates as well as provide call to action and contact details for the general public to seek further information or to ask questions. This could potentially be developed by a local artist.	All Stakeholders
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	FAQs about the project and engagement activities will be developed to answer any stakeholder or community questions to provide clear information about the scope of the project and the engagement stages.	All Stakeholders
Social Media	Social media platforms can be used to provide project and engagement updates. Social media posts can also be used to promote the public workshops and public events.	All Stakeholders

Project narrative

The Minister for the Art's Statement of Ambition 2021-26 states an ambition for Canberra to be recognised as Australia's arts capital. An effective, open and reciprocal community engagement process for the Arts Precinct will provide the basis of a central precinct to help realise this vision.

Engagement messaging during design development for the Arts Precinct will be developed to align with specific stakeholder areas of interest to encourage active participation and facilitate feedback from these stakeholders.

Key Messages

- The ACT Government, artsACT and the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) are moving forward with the development of the Kingston Arts Precinct (Arts Precinct), with completion planned for end of 2025.
- The Arts Precinct will be a leading destination for visitors and locals to explore contemporary visual arts and culture in the ACT. It will attract new audiences to enjoy arts practices, activities and content from Canberra's local artists, the region and beyond.
- From its inception, the Arts Precinct has been a key element in the planning of the Kingston Foreshore and is a leading destination for contemporary arts and culture in the ACT region.
- The ACT Government continues its commitment to delivering a precinct of value to the highest standards, that is sensitive to its surroundings, its cultural heritage and future sustainable living.
- Community and stakeholder engagement is vital to the success of this project. Engagement has taken place over many years and it is important that previous feedback be considered in addition to new contributions received as part of this further engagement.
- We have developed a stakeholder engagement plan that will guide our work with both the community and our stakeholders.
- We look forward to building on the relationships established to date and will prioritise engagement with Ngunnuwal Peoples to ensure we capture and celebrate the cultural heritage of this place.
- We are looking forward to working with the community, progressing our shared goals and bringing the Kingston Arts Precinct to life.

Community Panel

- We have re-established the Community Panel (formed in 2019) and look forward to working with them to create this destination precinct.
- The role of the Community Panel is to contribute to the project design development reaching Development Approval and co-create a Place Brief by defining what the future public space could bring to the Canberra community.
- The Community Panel is an important key feature of broader communication and engagement on this project which will include community workshops, pop-up feedback sessions and an online survey.

Place Brief

- The Suburban Land Agency is adopting a place-led approach to developing the Kingston Arts Precinct. The development of a Place Brief is an important step in this approach. The Place Brief will be generated by the community and arts organisations.
- The Place Brief will integrate the ideas and ambitions of the diverse Kingston Arts Precinct of arts organisations and community - the people who live, work and play in the precinct - in a way that brings the future public spaces of the precinct to life.
- The place brief will be used by arts organisations and others as a guide for ongoing space activation, curation and management recommendations of the precinct for at least 5 years post occupation (from 2026 onwards).
- It is the ultimate goal that the Place Brief is 'owned' by stakeholders and the community groups. It will articulate the multiple users' aspired place experience and guide the detailed design of the public outdoor areas and built form interfaces. It will describe the overarching vision for making great places and place propositions for aspired user experiences that will form a brief and guide decision-making through the design, construction, and precinct management phases of this integrated development.
- Key stakeholders and the general public will have an opportunity to contribute to discussions around the Place Brief through two public workshops in March / May 2022.

Concept EDP and Pre-DA

- The Concept EDP will be shared in public consultation with key stakeholders, arts organisation, the community and regulatory authorities before progressing to EDP for statutory DA lodgement.
- There will be opportunities for stakeholders and members of the public to engage with the Suburban Land Agency to inform and provide input into Development Application documentation including the Concept Estate Development Plan.

First Nations engagement

• We look forward to building on the relationships established to date and will prioritise engagement with Ngunnawal Peoples to ensure we capture and celebrate the cultural heritage of this place.