



Kingston Arts Precinct – Place Brief Co-Create Workshop

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

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.

THE CONVERSATION

Place Brief co-create workshop 1 – March 31, 2022

The objective of the Place Brief co-create workshop # 1 was to gather input from the broader community and community stakeholders to inform the development of a Place Brief for the Precinct. The session sought feedback on:

- Vision for the precinct
- Place Pillars

It also gathered initial feedback on the experiences people value in places like the Kingston Arts Precinct.

WHO WE ENGAGED

The first of two co-create place brief workshops was held on March 31. The workshop was a public event and members of the broader community were encouraged to attend and provide input, Members of the Kingston Arts Precinct Community Panel, key stakeholder groups and arts organisations were also invited to attend



Key insights from the community

The Vision for the precinct

- Referencing a 'word wall' where outcomes of previous consultations and vision statement of key stakeholders were displayed, workshop participants were asked to consider their vision for the future.
- The key terms and words used to define the precinct vision were **accessible, creative, vibrant, integrated with the existing community and connected with surrounds**.

Identifying precinct pillars

- Workshop participants were asked to complete a pillars exercise to develop 3-4 pillars that could form the foundation for the Kingston Arts Precinct as fundamental to this place.
- There were a number of consistent themes and priorities identified as part of this activity with the key draft pillars focussing on the following areas:
 - Arts/Creative
 - Connection/Community
 - Cultural/Heritage – a place of shared stories
 - Integrated/Mixed use

Discussion on the precinct 'front door'

- There was agreement in identifying the unofficial 'front door' to the precinct as being from Wentworth Avenue, through the Powerhouse.

Place experiences

- Workshop participants were asked to consider other places they have visited that have a range of integrated uses and share the details and characteristics of these places and what makes them great.
- Themes and experiences that were **integrated, exciting, interesting and having an element of discovery**.
- Themes and experiences around **food and wine, celebrating the arts and creativity and a vibrant location** were consistent responses in terms of what participants would like to see at the Kingston Arts Precinct.
- Popular locations included **New Acton, Dairy Road, Brisbane Southbank** were highlighted as popular or aspirational spaces, along with a range of international examples.

Integration of development with surrounding neighbourhood

- There was a clear preference to focus on the arts and community elements of the precinct and applying an arts-led approach as the priority compared with residential developments.
- Participants highlighted the need to recognise and connect well with existing uses, connecting through to the wider precinct and surrounding neighbourhood.



WHAT'S NEXT?

May 7, Rydges Canberra, 17 Canberra Avenue

- **Creative Panel Discussion – 10.00am – 11.30am**
- **Co-create meeting 2 – 11.45am – 1.00pm**

To register for these events or to find out more information about the Kingston Arts Precinct visit <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/kingston-arts-precinct>

If you have any enquiries regarding the Kingston Arts Precinct, please contact the Suburban Land Agency at suburbanland@act.gov.au or by calling **(02) 6205 0600**