



Kingston Arts Precinct

Place Brief Community Survey November 2022: Report on What We Heard

Introduction

The Kingston Arts Precinct Place Brief will guide future design and development of the Precinct and provide guidance on the future management and activation of the Precinct. It is informed by the aspirations of our diverse Canberra community, integrating ideas, connections and place values in a way that will bring the Precinct to life.

Once finalised this Place Brief will bring together the aspirations of our diverse Canberra community so that all future development within the Kingston Arts Precinct aligns with your aspirations. It will integrate ideas, connections and values in a way that will bring the precinct to life.

Extensive community engagement was undertaken from February to June 2022 to build the draft Place Brief. The Place Brief includes:

- **The Place Vision** – A leading arts destination, celebrating a rich living history and vibrant community life, through discovery, connection, and collaboration.
- **Six Place Pillars** identify what is fundamental for this place vision, and the ways we can achieve these themes in the Precinct:
 - Integrated offering
 - Creatively led
 - Inclusive and accessible
 - Culture – past, present, and future
 - Connected
 - Dynamic and sustainable
- Community and stakeholders explored possible activities and experiences for people who will work, live, and play in the Arts Precinct. This informed the development of **Place Experience** layers – a high level view of different types of place experiences that will activate the Precinct.



- **Place Design Principles** have been identified to reflect the types of activities and experience that will activate the precinct and guide the precinct retail and commercial offering, design of buildings, landscaping and public amenity as well as planning for activities and events within the Precinct. The Place Design Principles are:
 - Connection to Place and Country
 - Recognising Heritage Values
 - Precinct Activity
 - Multifunctional Outdoor Spaces
 - Movement Experience and Convenience
 - Arrival and Legibility
 - Vehicular Access and Circulation

To further articulate the desirable and undesirable outcomes for each of the Place Design Principles, community feedback was sought in August through a community survey. To demonstrate how the Place Design Principles could be reflected in the precinct we provided some example images and descriptions for each. Our examples reflected what we heard through discussions and activities undertaken with the community and stakeholders to date. These images are not a reflection of what will be developed but were used to highlight how it has been achieved in other places, both locally and internationally.

The community survey sought views on which images and statements best capture the appreciation of the opportunities that can be created within the Precinct development. The survey was available to complete from 16 August 2022 until 5 September 2022. These images and statements have now been reflected in the Place Brief as desirable and highly desirable criteria for successful development.

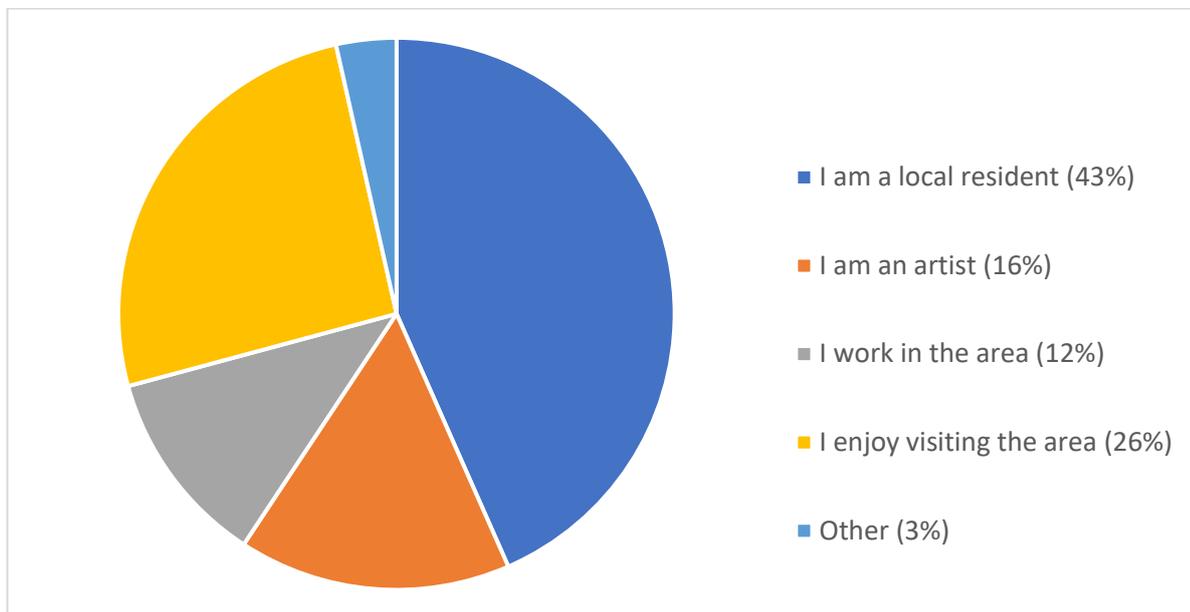


Who we engaged

- The survey received a strong response rate, collecting feedback from 481 people.
- We heard from a significant number of local residents, a large proportion of responses from people under 35 years of age and a strong response from people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

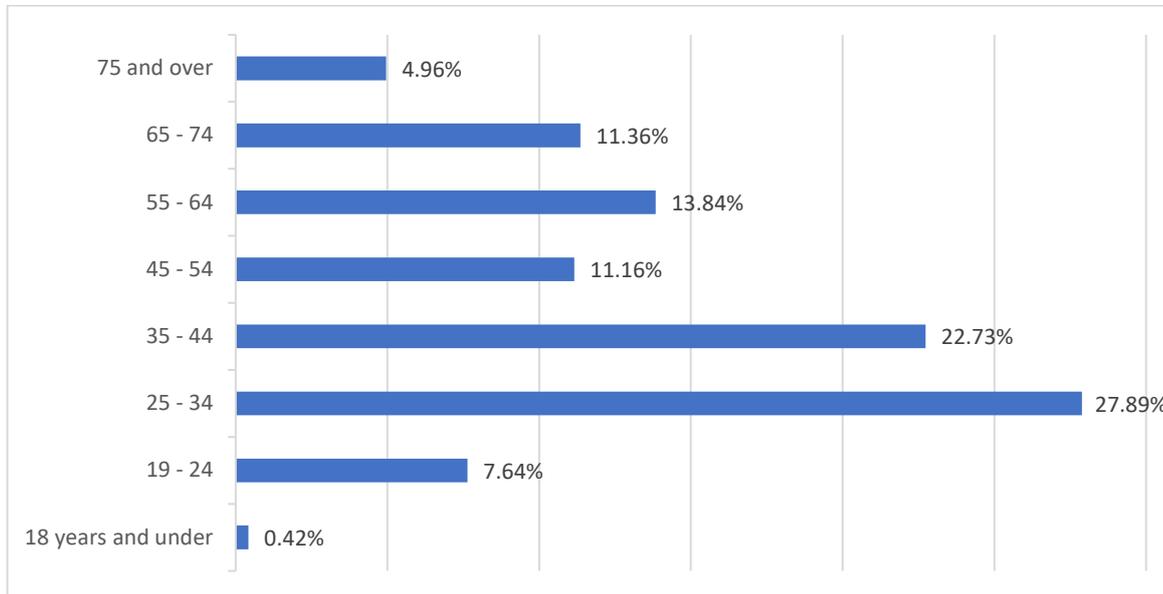
The following tables provide a break down of who we heard from:

Graph 1: How are you connected with the Kingston Arts Precinct?

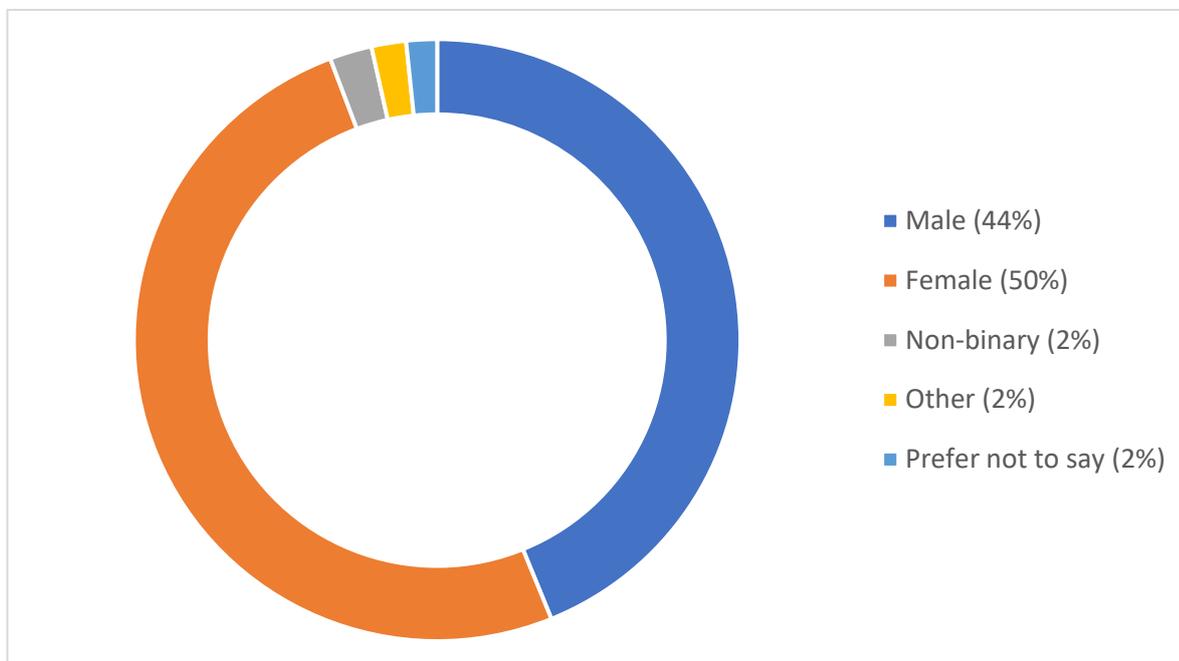




Graph 2: What is your age?

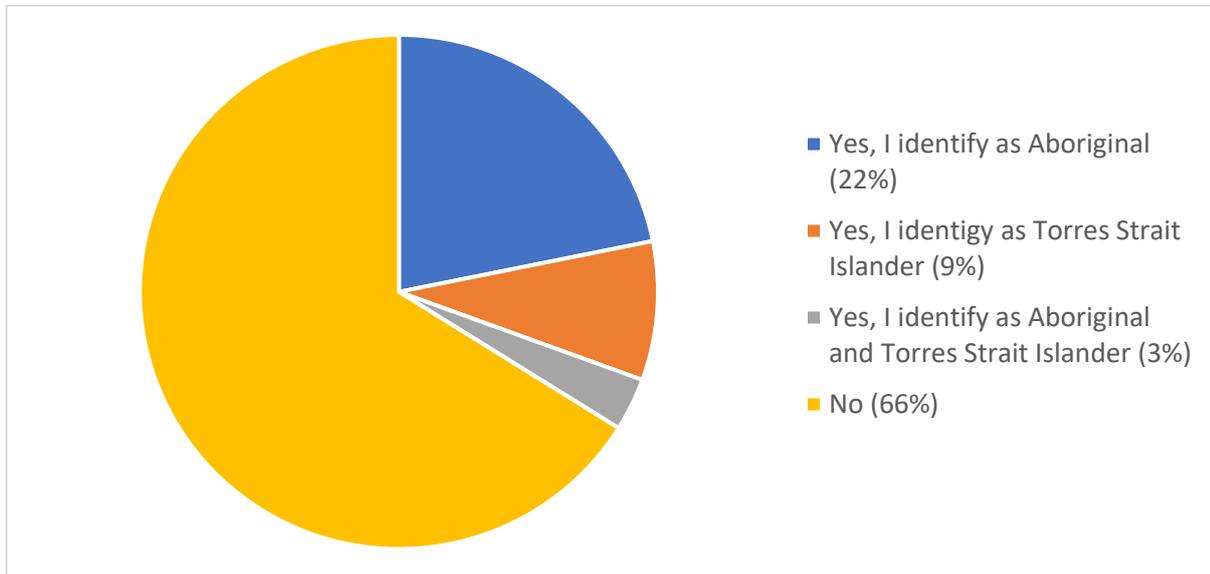


Graph 3: Which of the following best describes your gender?





Graph 4: Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?





What we heard?

Overview of key themes we heard

- First Nations input is important – the project provides an opportunity for genuine co-design with the First Nations people and importantly the Ngunnawal people.
 - The parking experience was a key theme and brought up with a diverse spectrum of comments and thoughts. There was a strong desire for parking to be well integrated into the design of the precinct. Others called for reduced parking and a strong stronger focus on public and active travel. The majority agree on minimising negative impacts from parking and vehicles from a safety, environmental and sense of place perspective. Overall, there was a call for an improved parking experience.
 - Heritage buildings need to be preserved and incorporated into the new development. It was felt these need to be centred within the precinct and maintain visibility.
 - Accessibility was commented on across the design principles – every sense of the meaning of ‘accessible’
 - Safety and comfort were important. Travel mode separation was a common theme, pedestrian safety and enjoyment, climate-appropriate spaces and well-planned greenery/landscaping and sustainability elements.
- The scale of the development was important to community members. We received comments relating to apartment buildings, overshadowing and minimising impact on open space. Prioritising the arts and artists themselves in this precinct, balanced with residential was seen as important.



Place Design Principle 1 - Connection to Place and Country

Question 1 - Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the connection to place and country design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Responses
1.5	Share the importance of landscape in sustaining life and cultural practice through incorporating local plants, including species traditionally used for medicinal, culinary, and cultural purposes.		n=221 46%
1.3	Provide inclusive places for reflection and contemplation that can facilitate learning and knowledge exchange.		n=196 41%
1.8	Visual connections to sacred and significant sites including the sky, mountains, and waterways are retained (e.g. vistas of mountains are not blocked by new structures).		n=203 41%



	Statement	Image	Responses
1.1	Reflect the Ngunnawal People's deep and ongoing connection to Country through landscape and urban design.		n=161 33%
1.2	Empower community members to participate or engage in cultural arts practices.		n= 150 31%
1.7	Building design celebrates aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, in particular Ngunnawal culture.		n=138 29%
1.4	Celebrate Ngunnawal language through place naming, signage, and wayfinding.		n=134 28%
1.6	The Precinct's public art reflects a range of lived experiences through integrating and showcasing works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.		n=121 25%



Question 2: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about connection to place and country?

- 63 people responded to this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included *inclusion, integration, and signage*
- The theme with the highest number of comments (11) featured queries about the *scope and focus* on the Ngunnawal people and whether other First Nation Peoples should be recognised
- A number of comments (9) highlighted the need to *meaningfully integrate the connection* across the Arts Precinct, beyond signage and wayfinding.



Place Design Principle 2: Recognising Heritage Values

Question 3 - Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the recognising heritage values design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
2.4	Building form and scale respects significant features including the heritage buildings		n=207 43%
2.7	Broad views of the heritage buildings are maintained from outside the precinct		n=172 36%
2.3	Environment and social history themes relating to the former industrial area are captured in the new Precinct		n=169 35%
2.2	Interpretation allows visitors to discover and understand the site's industrial heritage		n=162 34%



	Statement	Image	Response
2.5	Memorable architecture of the heritage buildings is reflected through materials, shapes and forms of future buildings		n=159 33%
2.9	Views to the heritage buildings are framed by new works and become more expansive on approach to encourage exploration		n=152 32%
2.6	New architecture is distinct from significant heritage buildings		n=119 25%
2.1	New works improve wayfinding and help to direct people to the heritage buildings.		n=118 25%
2.8	Heritage buildings support their new arts precinct surroundings		n=117 24%



Question 4: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about recognising heritage values?

- 55 people responded to this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included *framing*, *interpretation*, and *preservation*
- A range of comments (14) mentioned the *framing of the heritage buildings* in the context of surrounding space, and the *design of surrounding buildings*.
- There was a call to ensure *interpretation of the heritage features* of the precinct were shared through stories, signage, and artwork.



Place Design Principle 3 - Precinct Activity

Question 5 - Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the precinct activity design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
3.3	Precinct to encourage a range of day and night activity		n=294 61%
3.2	Gallery and exhibition spaces are available throughout the Precinct		n=224 47%
3.5	Art and play are integral to the Precinct's activation, offering a wide range of activities to suit all ages.		n=222 46%
3.6	Opportunities to gather and celebrate in different ways		n=165 34%



	Statement	Image	Response
3.4	Street art is part of neighbourhood identity		n=121 25%
3.1	Cultural tours and bush tucker gardens support visitors to understand our shared responsibility of caring for Country.		n=122 25%
3.8	New residential development is close to Precinct activity and public domain		n=109 23%
3.7	Regular planned activities are confined day time hours only		n=89 19%

Question 6: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about precinct activity?

- 64 people answered this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included *activities*, *distinct identity*, *night events*, and *residential buildings*
- Many of the comments aligned with previous engagement considerations. These included the last four desirable traits in the document including themes across *diversity of space*, *transport*, and *safety*
- The theme with the highest number of comments (14) were around *night events*, with 7 comments positive, 4 neutral, and 3 against.



Place Design Principle 4- Multifunctional outdoor space

Question 7 - Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the multifunctional outdoor spaces' design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
4.7	Public space and the edges of buildings provide opportunities for nature and greenery.		n=194 40%
4.2	Shared garden spaces for neighbourhood connections		n=186 39%
4.1	Public spaces and corridors are flexible, allowing for installation of temporary exhibitions and events		n=181 38%
4.6	Intimate public spaces are of scale and character memorable for visitors of all ages		n=161 33%



	Statement	Image	Response
4.4	Large open spaces to suit a wide variety of formal/informal events		n=142 30%
4.5	Public art installations are extended beyond the new Precinct fostering connections with surrounding open spaces		n=134 28%
4.8	Public spaces help reclaim history		n=133 28%
4.3	Temporary structures for precinct activation in all weather conditions		n=123 26%
4.9	Bespoke architecture of different scale and style contributes to diversity and theme of public spaces		n=117 24%



Question 8: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about Multifunctional Outdoor Space?

- 43 people answered this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included *all season*, *flexible space*, *all weather conditions* and *green*
- The concept of having spaces that could be *flexible* and utilised for both *private and/or public use* was consistently captured in the comments.



Place Design Principle 5 - Movement experience and convenience

Question 9: Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the movement experience and convenience design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
5.3	Pedestrian prioritised 'shared zones' that are low speed and feel safe day or night		n=250 52%
5.8	Create opportunities for pop-up retail, food stores and artists		n=199 42%
5.6	Green pedestrian- and cyclist-only laneways that can be used for kid's play or small events		n=193 40%
5.4	Connect to existing active transport networks		n=181 38%



	Statement	Image	Response
5.1	Connection to surrounding precincts by continues the landscape character, lights and seating from the Kingston Foreshore design		n=171 36%
5.5	Extend the Precinct character and design to public movement and transport drop off zones		n=139 29%
5.2	Connection between the Lake and Powerhouse precinct is for active travel only		n=126 26%
5.7	Continue the shopfront and retail character along Eastlake Parade		n=117 24%

Question 10: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about movement experience and convenience?

- 52 people responded to this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included active pathways, connection to surrounds, and parking
- The theme with the highest number of comments (18) was active pathways, with 5 relating to a low-speed environment, and 9 relating to the preference to separate pedestrian activity from cyclists.
- The parking comments were grouped for consideration under the Vehicular Access + Circulation Design Principle



Place Design Principle 6 - Arrival and Legibility

Question 11: Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the arrival and legibility design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
6.8	Enhance the function and experience of existing uses including arts organisations and weekend markets		n=211 44%
6.6	Arrival points provide drop off and pick up zones to enhance accessibility for all		n=202 42%
6.2	A major arrival experience is created on Wentworth Avenue that considers views to the heritage buildings		n=200 42%
6.1	The Precinct's function as a home for the visual arts is expressed through iconic architecture.		n=178 37%



	Statement	Image	Response
6.3	Precinct arrival points are visually expressed and offer navigation and signage to guide visitors through and around the Precinct, day and night		n=165 34%
6.7	Feature elements of culture, heritage and the arts at arrival points through public art		n=154 32%
6.5	Space for bicycles and share transport is integrated with parking to minimise pedestrian conflict or visual impacts at arrival points		n=144 30%
6.4	Access points for vehicle entry and exit should align with Precinct arrival points.		n=110 23%

Question 12: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about arrival and legibility?

- 41 people responded to this question
- Consistent themes that were included in the comments included parking and transport options
- A number of comments noted the need for consideration of EV charging spaces.
- The parking comments were grouped for consideration under the Vehicular Access + Circulation Design Principle
- The theme with the highest number of comments (6) was transport options. Many of these related to connectivity for signage and arrival.



Place Design Principle 7 - Vehicular Access and Circulation

Question 13: Looking through the images and statements below - which of these best describes for you how the 'Vehicular Access and Circulation' design principle might be brought to life?

- Respondents were asked to select the top 3 images and statements
- 481 people responded to this question

	Statement	Image	Response
7.8	Integrated and discrete public and visitor parking		n=224 47%
7.4	Readily accessible car parking that is designed to minimise pedestrian, cycling and vehicle conflict		n=225 47%
7.1	Residential parking to be separate and discrete from public access		n=178 37%
7.7	Maximise opportunity for creative visual arts design on public (utility/parking) buildings		n=169 35%



	Statement	Image	Response
7.3	Pedestrian and delivery drop off zones to consider wet weather requirements		n=152 32%
7.5	The residents to have a clear definition of access points for pedestrian movement within the Precinct.		n=146 30%
7.6	Themed and curated street art to form part of the precinct signage		n=133 28%
7.2	Vehicles that support the needs of precinct arts groups as well as emergency and service vehicles can be publicly visible		n=130 27%

Question 12: Do you have any other thoughts or ideas about vehicular access and circulation?

- 36 people responded to this question
- The consistent theme that was included in the comments was parking (25 mentions – with 13 noted in the survey under Vehicular Access + Circulation, 7 under Arrival + Legibility, and 5 in Movement + Experience)
- 6 of these related to a desire for underground parking.
- 10 of the parking comments related to having greater capacity.



What's Next?

We are currently finalising the Place Brief that will be available on the YourSay page in the coming months.

To find out more about the Kingston Arts Precinct and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au.