

HAIG PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT



In November 2020, community members were invited to review and give feedback on a proposed design concept for a new community centre and landscaping in Haig Park, Braddon.

We sought feedback on the suitability of the designs and to discover any potential issues. We also sought to envision how the centre might be used by community groups, and what kind of sustainability, landscaping and fit-out features would be needed to support those uses.

Feedback received was largely positive, with 79 per cent of survey respondents supportive of the proposed designs. Unsupportive respondents generally encouraged integration with the surrounding park through an open façade and soft landscaping.



THE CONVERSATION

This consultation built on 2019 Haig Park community engagement, when we heard that people would like to see the former Haig Park depot converted into a flexible community centre that can host a variety of activities.

Feedback on the community centre was received via an online survey, pop-up session and workshop from 10-26 November 2020. The engagement was promoted through local media and newsletters (nine articles), social media (20,500 views), direct emails (64 sent) and signage in the park.

WHO ENGAGED

Engagement with key stakeholders included the Haig Park Experiments participants, Braddon traders, adjacent residents, park users and local community groups such as playgroups, schools, performers and community services and associations.

Of the 60 online survey respondents, 52 per cent were aged 25-44 years old, 40 per cent were aged 45-64, and the remaining 9 per cent were aged under 25 or over 64. The majority of respondents were women.

The North Canberra Community Council and local Aboriginal elders were contacted.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

1414

1414 people viewed the plans online via YourSay

70+

We spoke to 70+ individuals through a pop-up, workshop and phone calls

15

15 community organisations joined a workshop on the centre's future usage

64

We notified over 64 organisations and previously-involved stakeholders

20,500

We reached a social media audience of approximately 20,500

65

We received 65 items of written feedback

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Key insights from the community

Sustainability

- Consider environmentally sustainable building that is cost effective to run and is an example of good practice.
- Consider 'sharing economy' activities such as a 'Thingery' (like a tool library), community composting and community gardens, with rainwater harvesting for lawn and plant irrigation, encouraging ongoing social connection
- Encourage use of passive heating and cooling principles, and trial solar lighting if possible.

Accessibility

- Ensure a thoroughly accessible community centre building and surrounds that allows people with differing abilities at all stages of life to equitably use the facilities.
- Ensure facilities such as toilets, accessible parking and drop-off areas are equitable, convenient and sufficient.

Integration of indoors and outdoors

- Ensure the buildings bring the outdoors in, and vice-versa.
- Consider opening the southeast side of the proposed new southern building with bifold doors or similar.
- Consider a weather-protected area outdoors for activities such as storytelling and cultural practices.

Respecting heritage of Haig Park

- Ensure the initiative is aligned with the Haig Park Conservation Management Plan.
- Ensure the design of the building complements the park such as through the use of natural materials, integration with the outdoors, and views into and from the park.

Indigenous cultural heritage

- Engage further with local Aboriginal groups to identify opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation in the site, such as the potential incorporation of Indigenous artworks and edible native plants.

Landscaping and nature play

- Ensure the nature play is for toddlers (under 5yo) and prioritise more adventurous play elsewhere in Haig Park.
- Consider barbecues, bubblers, nature play for toddlers, bicycle parking, picnic tables and shade.
- More greenery and diverse range of plantings to be included on plans and in landscape plans.

Internal fit-out

- Consider benches and running water in the workshop space to support 'messy' activities such as gardening and painting.
- Consider a sprung floor to make the space suitable for performance, rehearsals and standing for long periods.
- Provide kitchen equipment for small-scale catering and food warming.
- Provide 3-phase power outlets to support small to medium-sized events in the park.
- Provide lockable storage/cupboards for regular users, and consider making some of these shared assets.

Safety and security

- Positive feedback regarding the role of this centre in activating the park.
- Concerns regarding antisocial behaviour between the buildings. Consider CCTV.
- Provide good warm white lighting at night to make the centre attractive and safe.

Future management

- Prevent noise and disruption to local dwellings, such as through restricted booking times.
- Consider some commercial usage by local traders for workshops, but ensure primary usage is community groups.
- Provide Canberra Free WiFi to support bookings and activation of this area of the park.

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WHAT'S NEXT?

We will use the insights from this engagement to prepare the landscaping and internal fit out specifications, with consideration of budget and site limitations.

We have reviewed the feedback regarding the building design, which was largely positive, and submitted the development application (DA). The DA exhibition is expected to occur in early 2021.

You can register to receive project updates by using the 'Follow' function on yoursay.act.gov.au/haig-park

To find out more about the Haig Park renewal program and other City Renewal Authority projects, visit CityRenewalCBR.com.au

Key timings

2017-2019

Haig Park Experiments

From 2017-2019 you shared your views on the future of Haig Park. This informed the decision to adapt and reuse the depot as a community space.

2020

Concept designs

During 2020 we worked with design consultants to create a building that meets the aspirations of community and needs of the site.

10-26 November 2020

Public feedback period

From 10-26 November we asked you for feedback on the building designs and landscaping.

Early 2021 [We are here]

DA exhibition and finalise landscaping and construction designs

In early 2021 we will use the insights from this engagement to prepare the landscaping and internal fit out specifications.

2021-2022

Construction

Construction of the community centre and associated landscaping will occur from mid-2021 and the centre is expected to open in 2022.