

Date: 8 December 2020**Location:** Shire Hall, 350 High Street, Preston**Chair:** Vicky Guglielmo, Manager Creative Culture and Events **Minutes:** Anna O'Brien, Team Leader Intercultural Centre**Apologies:** Aunty Diane Kerr (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation), Charles Solomon (Garawana Creative)**Attendees:** Nicholas Braun (Sibling Architecture), John Tanner (Sibling Architecture), Vicky Guglielmo (City of Darebin), Lizzy Skinner (City of Darebin), Anna O'Brien (City of Darebin), and CRG members – Charles Pakana, Meg Rosse, Taylor Tran, Sharmila Kaul, Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Suriyan), Kate Tempany, Ramona Barry, Jamuna Parajuli

ITEM	DISCUSSION
Site tour, Vicky and Nick	CRG members shown around the future site for the Intercultural Centre including external spaces.
Garawana Creative	Indigenous landscaping – will work with Sibling. Charles Solomon.
Recap of meeting 1, including principles for decision making, Nick	<p>Be: Inclusive and culturally dynamic Unify: The space between cultures Create: Transformative spaces Enable: Light, warmth & transparency</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you mean by transformative spaces? - Transformative – owned by all cultures, operative walls, spaces transform for many event types. - Generate openness, willingness to take risks and move towards the future. - You yourself can be transformed by the things you experience here. - Racially intolerant society. In order to achieve unity, we need to appreciate different cultures and what they can each bring to us. - People want to do something physical. - I'm going to talk to people and risk saying the wrong thing. Because someone has to. You are going to have to break eggs, having confronting conversations, awkward silences. And be ok with it. Feel safe to do so. Work through the discomfort. - Have the space to feel safe and even get it wrong. - Cultural appropriation. We need to deal with this. Is it bad?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural appropriation is a bad thing in terms of the Aboriginal population. Avant guard – challenge things in a culturally appropriate manner. - Aboriginal peoples are happy to share their culture and for other cultures to share as well. But here are the politics of it. Cultural safety is important. The feel of the place must be safe. - Blending the external landscape in to the building will help make the place known to be safe. - Animal rights – Hindi – sacred. All species are equally valued as living beings. Let's be enhanced by each other's cultures. Ways of viewing the world. - A place of learning. - We need features and landscaping that is easily maintained. - When students visit, their brain opens up. A place of learning. - Sometimes new residents to Darebin are new residents to Australia. - Local experiences, some people can't access. This IC need to serve as this place where we can connect people to their new place, their new home. Build bridges for newly arrived citizens.
Site analysis, Nick	<p>Key statistics of local population explained.</p> <p>Key landmarks and uses of spaces around the site detailed.</p> <p>Existing considerations in landscaping: Stolen generation garker, war memorial, gum trees, public sculpture.</p> <p>Intercultural spaces – the space in between cultures. Different than multiculturalism.</p> <p>Existing program explained. Spaces, capacity, staffing, program.</p> <p>Future program and space requirements explained.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will the programming be the same as the old centre? - The renewed vision, mission and approach works to a more contemporary, expanded understanding of culture. - We will welcome anyone who faces discrimination in our community. - It is the objective of the program to combat discrimination at a local level. - We will do this through invitation, outreach/partnerships and by application.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The renewed vision, mission and approach has been Council endorsed. We are moving away from a venue-for-hire model. - The programming control will enable intersection.
Site options 1 to 3, Nick	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with what we already have with minimal interior modification. <p>Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing footpath ground level to the edge of the building - Bleeding edge 'fingers'; street bleeds into IC & IC bleeds into community - A large single access ramp to Intercultural Centre entrances <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium interior modification, allowing increased transformative spaces - Circular connective pathway loop to hall space, toilets and exterior landscape - Intercultural Centre becomes self-contained operating independently of the shire hall & council offices <p>Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single large space, at same level as Intercultural Centre interior - Key access ramps from the footpath ground level - Users are guided along a curated pathway to the Intercultural Centre entrance <p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Interior:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum Interior modification, allowing maximum transformative spaces - Larger interior footprint with minimal circulation space <p>Landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slow rising landscape, accessible from every edge of footpath - Users find their own path to the Intercultural Centre entrance

Discussion:

- Prayer room should be called reflection room or meditation room
- Removing the internal stairs is expensive but gives you more programmable space
- Do you see the external spaces being used for purposes outside of Intercultural uses?
- External space be used as both Intercultural programmed space, but also non-program uses – public meetings, lunch breaks, civic space.
- Can we have time to absorb this and provide feedback later? Members given until next Tuesday to provide feedback for Sibling. Anna to send around presentation. Members informed they can directly contact Lizzy Skinner who has an engineering background and will be able to help talk through the concept drawings and answer questions.
- Plans are abstract at this stage – they will evolve and become more three dimensional as we progress.
- Option 1 no good, doesn't provide cultural safety.
- Agreed. Original structure is not appropriate for the purposes of IC. Option 1 was really to show what we are working with from a starting point. We are working with a strong heritage space, but there is so much opportunity within that.
- We need good acoustics.
- An acoustics specialist will be engaged to support the project.
- We don't want basic curtains as room dividing systems. Not basic stuff.
- You can get them acoustically treated – very good quality these days.
- Need kitchen to be more accessible.
- Access to kitchen is limited if an event happening in Shire hall space. We had thought about putting a kitchenette in another space in centre. We need to think about how we manage that.
- Creating a loop/path – between the 2 large spaces. I am mindful of the all abilities access trial throughout the whole space. By losing the corridor space in option 3, will that be problematic? No. It will be accessible.
- A shower would be good.
- A change room – green room.
- We need to stop thinking about dedicated spaces. We are in the prime location of Preston – every square metre is valuable. We need space that is transformative.
- Nick, what is your favourite option and why? Option 2 internally and option 1 for landscape. Option 2 addresses a lot of space and toilet access issues and option 1 landscaping bleeds the intercultural program into the community.
- Can we have each 'finger' in the option 1 landscape have a different theme – one child friendly, one grassy, one with water, fire, etc.
- And the landscaping options – Charles Solomon will be involved? Yes
- Outdoor performance space. Having a space that works as a little stage would be great, with an even surface.
- Lighting important too – external

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Way finding and signage – Sibling will engage someone for that. Different languages, is it digital? Announce events and so forth. - Flexible signage. Homework for group – explore signage examples around the world. - Darebin have a signage strategy that will need to be considered. - Screens are not environmentally friendly. - What about laser technology? The building itself becomes dynamic. - It needs to be projected from quite a distance, needs to be accessed. Expensive, maybe good for a festival. - Let's not print banners like 20 years ago. - Lighting – branding, accessible, safety. We will make sure we get the full picture to ensure it is in line with stolen gen marker and the war memorial. - Can we have other decorations like Christmas trees but with different cultures. - Where is the DECC office space? We can't designate space, working spaces are the same for Council staff as they are for DECC. - Natural light – where is it? Can we create more? Heritage overlays may limit us. - Can we explore options about external light coming through? Yes, options will be provided.
Sticky note Notes!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communal spaces where different groups can come together - Children's space? - Shared spaces designed with dialogue in mind - Programming needs to have breathing space for spontaneous collaborations - Spaces should be neutral enough to maximise the number of groups that are comfortable - Usability at different times of the day - Access gallery space - Make the stolen generation marker more visible - Water element outside – space for reflection - Up-to-date IT equipment - Properly equipped classrooms - Search engine – Intercultural hub/directory - Have an archway permanently installed that can be decorated for different events, different cultures – transform the space - Language classes, Arabic, Somali - Stage with an accessible ramp - The Centre needs to think off campus too - The IC needs a logo or typeface

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exercise as an Intercultural activity, equitable access- Transgender exercise classes- Use Australian timbers
Meeting close: 8pm	Next meeting: Tuesday 19 January 2021, 6pm to 8pm Location: Shire Hall, 350 High Street, Preston