

Date: 19 January 2021 **Location:** Shire Hall, 350 High Street, Preston

Chair: Anna O'Brien, Team Leader Intercultural Centre

Minutes: Anna O'Brien, Team Leader Intercultural Centre

Apologies: Aunty Diane Kerr (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation), Vicky Guglielmo (City of Darebin), and CRG members - Ramona Barry & Jamuna Parajuli

Attendees: Nicholas Braun (Sibling Architecture), John Tanner (Sibling Architecture), Charles Solomon (Garawana Creative) – via Zoom, Lizzy Skinner (City of Darebin), Anna O'Brien (City of Darebin), Suzana Wilson (City of Darebin) and CRG members – Charles Pakana, Meg Rosse, Taylor Tran, Sharmila Kaul, Kate Tempny and from 6.45pm, Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Suriyan)

ITEM	DISCUSSION
Guiding Principles	Guiding principles recap:
Where we left off and feedback received, Sibling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be, Inclusive while Culturally Dynamic - Unify, The Space Between Cultures - Create, Transformative Spaces - Enable, Light, Warmth & Transparency
	What we have heard:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main floor space must be flexible space; transformative spaces - Signage to include a digital screen that educates the Darebin community - Singular distinct entrance experience; welcoming and safe - Circular Path of IC; symbolic circulation path - Shared rituals i.e.. eating - to be at the centre; Kitchenette at centre - Expression of natural elements i.e. water, fire; Open fire pit - Facilities to get changed & cleaned; Showers - Create more natural light to interior - A performance space to the exterior - Projections & lighting to the exterior

<p>Final Masterplan Presentation, Sibling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-colonise existing detail - Neutral space, all feel safe - Interior can be changed - Landscape option 1, interior option 3 – merged - 2 ramps are non-negotiable, Disability Discrimination Act - Glass entrance - Welcome mat - Different floor treatments to create different spaces - Informal reception area (personal, 1 on 1, welcoming atmosphere), opposite is a kitchenette area - Shared workspaces for staff, community organisations, community groups and individuals - Private meeting room, glazed - Amphitheatre (lounging, upholstered, tactility of surfaces) - Intercultural lounge, flexible furniture - Curtaining elements – informal green room or other, transformative spaces - Joinery/box seating across windows – seated facing in and out to connect the outside to the inside <p>Question: What about staff? If they need to concentrate?</p> <p>Answer: We're here to work with community rather than for. Open workstations allow for serendipitous meetings, banter with community, creative ideas can flow. If we need to concentrate, there are options – move into an event space, work from home, hot desk at another location, use noise cancelling headphones. Shared spaces are the way of the future.</p>
<p>Landscape Presentation, Charles Solomon, Garawana Creative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garawana – to dream creative - Kangaroo paw, plants that come from Kulin nation, water fountain - Will engage Wurundjeri to advise on plant species. - Add cultural elements, naming of the plants, stories about the plants. - Small trees, native grasses, shrubs - Staged area - Seating <p>Question: Will all pathways will be accessible?</p> <p>Answer: Yes</p> <p>Question: Can you integrate bike ramps?</p> <p>Answer: Yes</p>

Question: Staged performance area – what size, material, usability?

Answer: Exposed aggregate or wooden decking style – all flat.

Question: Will there be power and lighting for stage area?

Answer: Yes there will be power and some lighting also.

Question: How many people would it fit?

Answer: It is approximately 5 & ½ m in diameter.

Question: What about barefooted dancers. Aggregate may not be good.

Answer: I am leaning more towards a wooden stage. Softer on foot and easier to manage ongoing.

Question: With the naming or name plates for native plants. Will this be all over?

Answer: I would love for it to be embedded throughout the space. It will depend on how much Wurundjeri would like us to share. I will seek cultural dialogue on plant species.

Question: Rubbish bins?

Answer: Near the smaller seating areas. Near entrance points.

Question: At the library they have spongey, rubbery ground. Inviting for kids to come and use. Is this an option? Is it sustainable?

Answer: It is an option for the stage area. Harder type of rubber. Around trees rubber might be an option. Limited by tree protection zones though.

Question: Could community help with planting? Learn about the plants on the day.

Answer: Larger plants will need to be done by professionals. The smaller grass type plants – absolutely. Educative, celebratory, stories, dance etc.

Question: Advocating for green space. Aggregate – why you have chosen it?

Answer: Fire pit needs a harder surface. Around entrances need harder surfaces for handrails etc. to be installed. We can bring out green elements with more garden beds. Reason for seeded pebble, when you look at it across the landscape, it is more aesthetically pleasing than other hard surfaces. Beautiful colours pop out. Seeded pebble and exposed aggregate are the most aesthetically pleasing. We want as much seating around as possible because it's multi-functional.

Budgets & Staging, Sibling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing budget and cost estimates explained - Staged approach explained <p>Question: Is the staged thing a dream? Where do we get the money?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding strategy explained. - It will depend on when and how we can secure funding. Hard to quantify how long that would take. Realising the full master plan is a 5-10-year vision. Maybe it will be quicker than that. It all depends on when we can secure funding. - In theory, we have \$Xm committed by council. What do we want to do first? That's what we need to decide.
Discussion to focus on priorities for the project, Sibling	<p>Sibling's thoughts on stage 1 explained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you agree with the staging strategy we are proposing or not? - Priorities exercise explained <p>Question: Why is landscaping last?</p> <p>Answer: It doesn't have to be but prioritising the internal makes the building space operable</p> <p>Question: Staging landscaping – what is best?</p> <p>Answer: Garden space and then seating</p> <p>Statement: interior and landscaping – both are exciting. As far as users go, exciting that previous centre was considered. This is such a step forward. Stage one – bring the excitement for the evolution of the project. Bring the community along on the journey.</p> <p>Question: What can be achieved interior within budget now?</p> <p>Answer: The majority. Public art – how long is a piece of string? Av – we need to figure out more detailed costings but the backbone can be there. Majority of internal (without the hall inclusions). A version of this within budget.</p> <p>Question: Doing more internal works – will we need to shut building?</p> <p>Answer: For things like installing a projector, that can be done on the weekend. We will aim to minimise disruption to the community.</p> <p>Question: What would Sibling recommend having least disruption to public?</p>

Answer: It would be good to prioritise the structural elements, air con, services first. Come up with your list of priorities. The hall has been recently renovated, maybe we can hold off on any further works until a later stage. Showers – maybe we can use existing facilities in another area close by and use that space for storage instead. Scale of public art, we might be able to spend a little now and more at a later stage.

Statement: It feels too open.

Statement: Shared workstations – they need to be ergonomic for staff. Different needs for a community member popping in.

Statement: Heartened by walls being functional/operative. Ability to close the separate space is important.

Statement: Amphitheatre – I’ve seen them in universities – they don’t get used that much. People want tables.

Statement: Don’t want large spaces. Want more intimate settings. 15 – 20 people, feel together.

Response: Open, connected, informal interactions. Opportunity for cross-pollination.

Statement: We need to build these things and people will find a use for them. We don’t want things segregated. We want people to be together. It can be closed off but it can also be open.

Response: The current Centre is closed off. Do you want interconnection?

Statement: Connecting spaces but also have activities to bring people together. The program activities bring people together. Migrant communities live in silos. Need activities to bring them together.

Response: Transform spaces through activities, feel more connected.

Statement: Libraries are great community spaces. Usability of the space – Amphitheatre, maybe a child would tumble down. Maybe not a child friendly space in Centre but a child enticing space so young parents can stay at the centre for more than half an hour.

Statement: Open space – intercultural space. Identity is not just individual or community identity. It is multi-layered, intersectionality. Our interaction btw communities is just as important as the flag raising moments. ‘Community’ is important, but it is also a social definition. Let the space flow. If people want to close off spaces, they can, but let it flow.

	<p>Statement: Preston market, Northland – they are intercultural spaces but the depth of engagement is not there. Openness is good for superficial engagement, not serious engagement. Community engagement – create harmonious community – through meaningful engagement.</p> <p>Question: What do we want? Multifunctional, flexibility, transformative.</p> <p>Statement: Library – different communities still sit in their silos.</p> <p>Statement: We need to distinguish in our minds the difference between the architecture and the program. Those two elements need to interact.</p> <p>Response: The Centre is about the people and the program. We want to create a space where the people interact.</p> <p>Statement: Openness provides an opportunity to observe other cultures first then interact.</p> <p>Create a safe space and trusting environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What we heard: focus on interior functionality of space as stage 1 as well as accessibility. <p>Statement: It is critical that we mix with other cultures. There is the need for truth telling. What we want as a people is for the rest of the people – the country and the world to know this. We don't want this segregated rooms. We need to interact with each other. Future focused.</p>
Meeting close: 8.15pm	Next meeting: Tuesday 2 March 2021, 6pm to 8pm Location: Shire Hall, 350 High Street, Preston