

**Date:** 9 February 2021 **Location:** Keon Park Children's Hub, 7 Dole Ave, Reservoir

**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), and CRG member, Charles Pakana

**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 – Meg Rosse, Taylor Tran, Sharmila Kaul, Jamuna Parajuli, Ramona Barry, Kate Tempny and Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Suriyan)

| ITEM   | DISCUSSION   |
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| Design Presentation, Masterplan and Design narrative - Sibling | <p>This is what you've told us, this is how we listened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More natural light: capitalise on the window space through seating design, and open floor space to allow for maximum natural light</li> <li>- Flexible floor space / open plan: flexible spaces that can be connected but also closed off to be discreet spaces</li> <li>- Distinct entrance/welcoming: informal reception and kitchenette, distinct entrance that contrasts with the rest of the building</li> <li>- Circular path of intercultural: internal and exterior path of connection</li> <li>- Narrative that the Centre is on the land of the First Nations: Native flora and fauna, Indigenous names and stories. Weaved through interior and landscape.</li> <li>- Eating and kitchenette at the centre: at entrance, welcoming, social heart, inviting</li> <li>- Expressing nature: water at entrance, rain garden at top, native grass area, fire pit, sun dial</li> <li>- Accessibility, inclusive: accessible entrances, universal access bathrooms, reflection space, showers and baby change facilities, places for breastfeeding, space to sit on floor</li> </ul> |
| Program and Flexibility - Sibling                              | Current program recap and demonstration of how the masterplan design can accommodate the existing and future program/s.  |
| Stage 1 - Sibling  | <p>Stage 1 concept design explained – what can we complete now in Stage 1, within the current budget? What has changed from the initial stage 1 concept drawings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal spaces, an entrance and minor external works will be completed in Stage 1.</li> <li>- Changes from the initial Stage 1 concept drawings include the addition of a baby change area and the removal of the amphitheatre space which will now have no structural changes and will instead accommodate storage needs.</li> </ul>  |

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|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Landscaping will not be included in Stage 1 except for the following elements: DDA compliant ramps and some minor landscaping around the entrance spaces.</li> </ul>   |
| Group discussion | <p>Naming the rooms would be good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Darebin have a naming policy – First Nations. Wurundjeri have stated they would like names about the values of the Centre</li> <li>- That's good. It's very respectful to the landowners – so everyone knows the meaning of it</li> </ul> <p>Second entrance – any reception area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Portable bench, table that you dress - portable, flexible</li> </ul> <p>Can the amphitheatre be revisited in another stage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It could be but it would disrupt the Centre for weeks, possibly months.</li> <li>- Council have committed to deliver Stage 1. Everything after that, is up to us to find the investment to realise the full masterplan. Things like the amphitheatre, funding may come up with an infrastructure grant that enables us to do it. That may not happen to 2028 but that's ok. Stage 1 – get the functional and cultural aspects right and then we start building the Centre from there.</li> </ul> <p>Signage – where will it be? How will people know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will work with Darebin's officers, signage strategy.</li> <li>- The main entrance will be on high street.</li> <li>- Compliant ramp that leads to an entrance and front door.</li> <li>- People might stumble into the Centre and learn about it by happenstance.</li> <li>- Any logo or symbols that reflects something different and unique?</li> <li>- What we are hearing is that you want to renew the brand/logo/connection to community. How does it connect with the community it serves?</li> </ul> <p>Noise management: how will that happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We will work with acoustic engineers. Operable walls have an acoustic element in them.</li> <li>- That is programming – we coordinate the management of that.</li> </ul> <p>Lighting design. Will that be designed to create distinct space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>Entrance – community ownership. Council does not own; the community owns this space. Décor has to create that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of our aspirations is to remove those old doors and create something that is glass, that you can see in, is welcoming. Remove colonial aesthetic inside to create a more welcoming, inviting space.</li> <li>- Inviting from street presence point of view but also through programming.</li> <li>- A space that invites people to come in and feel welcome. A counter creates a power imbalance between the provider and the public.</li> </ul> <p>Detailed design is next. At our next and final session, you will get a greater idea of how these concept designs will feel. The materials that will be used. Large scale colonial building with a beautiful, distinct door, cosy, homely, welcoming. Distinct. Domestic style spaces so that you feel you are in a living room.</p> <p>Programming tetras – groups passing through others, meeting each other. 2 groups programmed – do you want the walls closed or open? Conversations occur that otherwise may not happen.</p>  |
| <p>Workshop: CRG Recommendations</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What works well? What do we like?</li> <li>b) What are some of the challenges?</li> <li>c) What are some recommendations to take to Council?</li> </ul> | <p>Group had some quiet time to reflect on individual thoughts then gathered in 2 small groups to discuss.</p> <p>What works well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flexibility of space is impressive. Endless combination of how you use the space. Serves individuals, people, groups. Fluidity of space important. Programming will sprout connection. Creating spaces for community to come together, art and culture, many spaces where that can be done. The open, flexible spaces embody the cultural values that we are trying to promote. Flexibility of space celebrates agency.</li> <li>- Curtains are good for smaller spaces, meetings etc. Curtains, fabric, womb like, embrace you – it creates different conversations than that in a board room. Everyone but one enjoys the curtaining element. Fluid, it's how we approach things, people can connect in different ways, metaphor.</li> <li>- Ownership of the moment. Walls, curtains are moveable by people – they control the physical aspect of the place – how it happens to them. How they use it. Provides several options – maximises participation, creates agency, many more groups can participate.</li> <li>- Welcoming entrance.</li> </ul> <p>What are the challenges?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do we realise it? How do we make sure it is welcoming? How do we create the feeling of welcome? We want people who are poor, marginalised, we want them to feel welcome. Not just the middle class. I want people to come</li> </ul> |

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|   | <p>spontaneously. Not just those who sign up to the classes, they are easy to reach. We need to make sure its welcome for the spontaneous visit. A place where people feel comfortable to go in and move around.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question about entrance on Gower street. Difficult for staff to welcome, not know someone is coming in. Can't replicate front entrance. Most buildings, the staff are responsible for and know when people come in. Gower street entrance – will need to be more controlled. Wayfinding externally – to show people the main entrance.</li> <li>- Tetras – use of spaces. Managing sound, people traffic, catering and so forth. How would that work? It a programming responsibility. Programming, timing of events, transit and pedestrian traffic will need to be managed. It will be challenging but we don't want to create silos. We need to learn how to share space together. Create shared spaces that encourage intercultural connections.</li> </ul>  |
| Collective discussion - as a whole group share these thoughts and comments and create a set of recommendations that will be taken to Council relating to the masterplan design of the Intercultural Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All agreed on an entrance that is welcoming. The entrance must reflect invitation, welcoming. It doesn't state it, it just is, it feels welcoming.</li> <li>- Welcoming space for those who are using the space but also for those just passing. Not customer service like, inviting.</li> <li>- Circular path.</li> <li>- Flexible use of space should be incorporated into the design.</li> <li>- Ownership in the moment, no lockable cupboard for one group. The space transforms. The moment you are gone, that space is gone, and the next group can come in and own it.</li> <li>- The spirit of the centre is the heart of Darebin. These values should be practiced everywhere throughout Darebin. The process, the openness and creativity – we want to emanate throughout Council. We want the centre to create systemic change. Not build it and they will come, but co-design it together with community over time.</li> <li>- The intercultural centre project and the processes that have been applied should be applied across all Council projects. Culturally sensitivity needs to be considered in all projects. Have respect and learn from each other.</li> <li>- Project underpinned by 'making a difference', Council values.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations to take to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcoming entrance, for IC users and community. Signage – location and logo – it should spark curiosity. It should speak to the user.</li> <li>- Flexibility of space is celebrated, shared spaces that encourage intercultural interactions.</li> <li>- The Intercultural Centre can be the seed for systemic change for Darebin Council. Codesign over time between community and Council. Openness/creativity across other projects. Improves the cultural literacy of staff.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Meeting close:</b> 8.05pm  | <b>Next meeting:</b> Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 6pm to 8pm, Shire Hall, 350 High Street, Preston   |