

Date: 2 March 2021 **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)

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, Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Suriyan) and Charles Pakana for part of the meeting (via Zoom)

ITEM	DISCUSSION
Open meeting - Vicky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledgement to Country - Stakeholder engagement - Charles – Acknowledgement to Country in Woi Wurrung
Concept design presentation - Nick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wholistic precinct approach recap - Concept design for the project - External works will be limited to access ramps, entrance and minimal landscaping around entrances - No amphitheatre - No shower
Materials strategy presentation - John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guiding principles recap - Materials strategy explained - Undulating form responds to the existing hard edge off the building
Group discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walls for flex a & b – where do they stack? They fold. - Kitchenette – how does that work? Where do you put your microwave and fridge? Solid unit underneath. - What do you see the kitchenette being used for? It is up to staff to manage it. Yoga can be in flex A and events with food can be programmed in the hall so they have closer access to kitchen. VSO can support events with catering. There is alternative access to the kitchen that staff can access.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zip tap kitchenette at entrance, welcoming, inviting - Limitation of cooking facilities – kitchenette - Would be good to frame entrances with a colour too, circular path – colour – defined. - Natural floor treatment – timber – will act as the pathway flowing through - Reflective element on roof – it supports the acoustics - Softer materials like carpets and billowed wall treatment – support acoustics. - When I first saw the finger design, I didn't warm to it. I gradually did but now I really like the way the flow of shapes compliments the outdoor landscape. Makes the space feel organic and connected to culture. The design responds very sensitively to the outdoors and to nature. Feels alive. - I don't like the green – I find it very institutional. I like the concept and the play of the colours but not that green. Can we match the colour from something from nature – respond to the environment? Maybe something from the plant species that Charles is going to use. - Community artwork on ceiling – exciting. Use of projection. Might be possible to project something on the ceiling – not fixed, accessible over time. Many people over time. Digital screen – also can act like that. Beautiful sketches that various cultures have can be reflected over time. Projected into space. Educative component to it as well. Screen, projection, installation – possibilities on entrance roof - Sound scapes – within the centre. Sounds systems throughout so we can play different types of music. Av specialist will provide advice
CRG Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recap on the recommendations provided by the CRG at the last meeting <p>Group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The design of the CRG cycles with Wurundjeri, Your Say, project team, CRG again. This CRG process – cyclical – this is useful. - Systemic change – combating racism and discrimination - People often say we should all respect each other. It is quite effortful. Time consuming. It must be a fundamental priority for that trust to be developed. It must be equally weighted with everything else. Things are going to take longer and be more effortful. But we need to do it. - Decision making – codesigning things take time. It needs to be prioritised. - Consultation in this cycle - Process of codesign of CRG and Traditional Owners worked well when in sync together - Effort to build the relationships - where respectful relationships are developed, where everyone has time to reflect their views. I feel like it has been a genuinely open process. I don't feel like we have been corralled. I don't think we have box ticked. I feel it's been genuine.

	<p>Anything missing from recommendations? Or that needs rewording?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nb 3, add in functionality of space - Nb 4, facilitate and strengthen and engages participants. More active language. - Maximise flexibility of space. Breathes life into centre to create cultural change in Darebin. - The landscaping is equally important to the project. It speaks to the indigenous ownership. - We have thought about this holistically. This is the blueprint. - The landscaping is an integral half of the design. Fundamental. To leave out landscaping may offend Indigenous people who have been involved.
Final reflections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very useful process – learnt a lot – takes a lot of time but is useful. - I felt we missed Muslim representation. - I learnt so much. What is my role. I feel I belong to it. Valued member within the group. Have my voice heard. - I wondered how this building was going to convert to an Intercultural Centre. Now it is so exciting. - Amazing process – design from conversations – new ideas. So many questions at the beginning. Define the ideas – so many voices – meshing things together. Privilege to have these conversations in parallel with design. - First thing I bought in was a cookbook of families. I organised it, ticked a good box at the time. This process has taught me to unravel – there are a whole lot of possibilities that I can't impart on it – takes a whole lot of people to do that. This has been rewarding – lots of philosophical questions. - The labour involved – intensity – is it worth it for the architects, staff? - Privilege – at the start I was nervous about where it could lead, this many people may be challenging. It has enhanced it – led us in paths that we didn't think we would go down. Things that we could improve on. Lots of information. All in all, it has been enriching. - Fragrance stick – interculturalism. Fragrance, create a space – that fragrance overcomes the nasty smell. Interculturalism will overcome the anxieties. Process was positive – one thing to create the space. Next is the program. Sense of belonging, participation. Responding to the challenges the community faces. Harmonious existence. - I was not confident – young, inexperienced, new to the country. I feel I was heard. Enriched my confidence. Very impressed at how you can translate the ideas into the design. Welcome new ideas, welcome people, respect each other's ideas. This group is an example of interculturalism. - Values – light, inclusive, free flowing, no restrictions, people coming together, taking care of the environment. - Whenever I see this building in the future, I will know I was a part of that. - I'm someone who likes their home and spaces to stay the same. First, I was excited about the location change – more space. But then I felt tension to create the spaces to keep providing the events that have been happening there. For a while I felt anxious, didn't think it would work. Today I felt a bit more excited. I love the colours and materials. Creates

	<p>an interesting space. Makes it different than a huge space all the same colour. The work you have done on the colour and textures looks excellent. Knowing the people who work at the centre, I think they will make it work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do we make sure it looks welcoming? The different minds have enriched the process.- It's not just the space, it's the program. How you bring life into it.- My hope is that the new Centre will be a place where people feel safe and valued and able to have difficult conversations with each other that enrich our community.
Meeting close: 8.10pm	Final meeting