

# SWAN HILL REGION ART GALLERY REDEVELOPMENT

## Community Consultation Outcomes Report

Following several focus group sessions and numerous submissions via Council's Let's Talk page, Council is pleased to report a number of strong and cohesive themes for the redevelopment of the Swan Hill Region Art Gallery.

A comprehensive list of ideas produced from the workshops are included on the following pages and broken down into themes including: Community Ideas, Materials, things to Avoid, Landscaping, Accessibility and Artwork. Let's Talk received 15 responses, these too are listed.

Ideas from the community were positive and innovative and took inspiration from our strong ties to our land and surrounding environment, as well as ideas drawn from bigger galleries and experiences that our focus group members had experienced.

### Summary of consultation outcomes:

Building materials should complement the natural environment, as well as be practical in terms of both maintenance and providing optimal space and conditions for artwork. Landscaping could include bush tucker/native garden, sculptures, entertaining area, walking tracks for children to play and discover, or for people to rest and reflect. A local bush landscape that ties in with the building and it's surrounds, and forms part of the Gallery, was a consistent theme.

The building should be accessible and enjoyed by all - sensory spaces for children, thoughtful spaces for parents, and all abilities access both inside and outside the gallery. The gallery should be accessed with ease for both patrons and changing exhibitions and thought given to parking, roads, kerbs, lighting, shade and signage.

The building should provide multiple versatile spaces and cater for small to large exhibitions, provide space for local artists, artists in residence and workshops. The building should give thought to lighting, storage, seating and make use of local materials where possible. The history of the building is also important - incorporating mud brick into the new design, and retaining the existing piano for performances.

Some thought that a cafe would work well, while others suggested leaving that for Spoons Riverside, the closely located restaurant and cafe. Kitchen and function facilities were also discussed as options for the new building.

We received passionate suggestions about artwork including a permanent indigenous collection and prominent spot for notable works.

Constructive ideas have been captured - we appreciate each contribution and thank our community for getting involved!



## Community Ideas

- Space for local art
- Sculpture garden
- Vibrant and bright exterior
- Lume-style space
- More storage - store room
- Bigger gallery space
- Workshop space - well lit, with tables and chairs
- Exhibition Centre / precinct - not just a gallery
- Interior loading dock - ensure it is accessible for larger vehicles
- Space for highly noteworthy pieces
- Enough power-points and data points
- Sensory and interactive children's gallery play area
- Restaurant/catering area/ kitchen - with local food
- Ability to host large travelling exhibitions
- Performance auditorium / Indigenous dance circle
- Movable walls and adaptable spaces
- Artist in residence
- Links to Gallery and rest of town
- Glass walls to maximise riverfront environment
- Outdoor workshop space
- Have the river form part of the gallery
- Indigenous employees
- Swans represented

## Materials

- Local wood
- Mallee colours
- Subtle flooring to not detract from artwork
- Innovative exterior
- Stay on theme
- Easily cleaned materials
- Incorporate mud brick into theme, as community developed this is 1987
- Not tin shed/corrugated iron look
- Keep the piano and ensure it can be used for concerts
- A unique building to set Swan Hill apart.
- Consider - accoustics, temperature and hardwood textures and colours

## Avoid

- Small single use buildings
- Inaccessible areas
- Café or restaurant - distract from Spoon
- One story building - no stairs or lifts
- No ordinary size doorways - must be wide
- Closed uninviting
- Narrow lens programming
- Harsh looking modern, concrete boxy building
- Concentration on modern at the expense of history

## Landscaping

- Bush tucker / Native gardens
- Sculptures - linked around town to entice visitors
- Good paths and seating
- Adequate parking
- Accessible
- Entertainment/amphitheater
- Mural spaces
- Mallee roots
- Childrens area
- Outdoor seating
- Café style area
- Suitable to mallee environment
- Gardens - maze or walk concept
- Large roofed outdoor space with ability to enclose or partially enclose
- Ability to see water
- Easy maintenance
- Restful areas
- Local bush landscaping
- Space for musicians

## Accessibility

- Larger to house larger exhibitions - higher ceilings and glass cases
- Outdoor seating and shade
- Accessible car parking and kerbing
- Inviting grand entrance- revolving doors
- Wide pathways and doors
- Sensory areas, hearing loop and braille
- Seated rest spots
- Guided tours using headphones and apps for visual and hearing impaired
- Large covered drop-off area
- Free for locals or by donation
- Funding to subsidise workshops and outreach activities
- Lighting
- Nursing space

## Artwork

- More storage
- Areas for local art
- Permanent collection displayed
- Areas for local art including work from local schools
- Safe access to storage areas
- Permanent First Nations
- history gallery
- Permanent Pioneer Gallery
- Children's art area
- Teaching space
- Area for local artists to sell artwork
- Art projection on exterior of building at night
- Glass etching in the building design
- Dream time designs
- Exterior artwork
- Sculptures
- Modern

## Other ideas

- Need to maximise land for landscaping
- An association that has control over the facility and contents
- Strategic information about gallery and exhibitions recorded
- Leave room for changing collections and preservation of art collection
- Staff spoons first, the gallery doesn't need a café
- Engage younger people
- Keep the community in the loop
- Architect must visit the site and talk to locals
- Good internal connectivity
- Ability to host more events - breakfast or lunch with artist
- Inclusion of murals
- Digital artwork opportunities (and from the permanent collection)
- Good catering /kitchen
- Outdoor art walls / graffiti walls
- Utilise the lodges - they are past their use by date
- Connectivity to Pental Island
- Space for school visits
- Co-locate gallery and library
- Consider Echuca Library design and Sale Art Gallery
- Permanent Collection should have Indigenous Community involvement
- Better signage
- Education Officer
- More involvement with schools
- Add a recording studio to the design



# Feedback from Primary School aged children

## What would you like the building to look like?

- Red carpet roof for entrance like entering crown and a chandelier.
- Gold and red.
- Triangle roof higher on one side, brick, paint the cement in between the bricks different colours
- Art work on entry
- Dark when you walk in with lights shining on art work.
- Mona Lisa
- Names of people who did the art.
- Look like it is made of art and crafts
- Like animals covered
- Wall made of lego and long lego.
- Art on it, crystal stuck to the ceiling.
- Golden carpet, golden walls, fancy gold frames, golden ceiling.
- Grandma's paintings, vines.
- Like the town hall
- Fake grass with white fences have an arch shape, beige.
- Palm trees, golden arch.

## What should it be made of?

- Gold
- 100% recycled plastic
- Tin & nails
- Crystals
- Bricks and concrete
- Steel framing, bricks as main area, tiled flooring, corrugated roofing, glass & timber windows, bits of marble
- Brick
- Gold
- Playdough
- Stone with fossils
- Hard rock

## Feedback from Primary School aged children

### What would you like to see inside the Gallery?

- Grandma's paintings
- They should have multiple rooms, the main room with most of the art, toilets, school excursion room to do their own painting, cleaning closet in hallway with locked doors, security cameras.
- Giant talking cod that greets you when you come in.
- Story room that tells you about the painting such as aboriginal paintings.
- Rocks, toothpicks, match sticks
- Piece of string, bobby pins
- Texta's, beads and loombands
- Plastic mushrooms
- Plastic flowers
- Pom poms, lego
- Paintings
- Rock and roll band, flowers
- Animal painting, famous people paintings
- Shelves & Mirror
- Statues from people in the past
- Drawings of food
- Dinosaur picture, handmade craft
- Cute animal pictures
- Art competitions

### How would you like the outdoor garden area to look?

- Lots of flowers
- Lots of statues
- Cherry trees, fruit trees
- Passion-fruit vines, statues of artists
- Fruit and veggie garden
- Artists engraved on the building

# Let's Talk: Design Ideas - Gallery, Landscaping & Accessibility

"I'm thrilled to see this project- I believe the new art gallery should have: bigger exhibition area (that can be divided up), some smaller exhibition rooms that allow for individual artists exhibitions or local artist ones , a permanent collection gallery, a small-medium size hall where events could be held, a small cafe/cafeteria and several workshop spaces. I also believe that a native plant and sculpture garden would be beneficial."

"The local arts and culture community would benefit from more usable creative spaces. The tourism industry needs more pull to the area - a development like this would benefit both."

"Including classes in gallery space, accessible local displays, multimedia-meet the artist, links to Vic and Aust art gallery content online."

"Recognise local indigenous culture stories and expertise more- so they are better appreciated by locals, boost pride in achievements and cultural stories -in indigenous young people and other local people. An accessible space for coffee - like Vic Art gallery, maybe in a garden or outdoor space. Shop for local art. Easy access- use bollards not kerbs for disabled parking. Enough power points to run IT. Enough chairs of different heights - so older people needing an armrest and 500mm seat height, can rest while viewing the collection or multimedia- so allows them access. Adjustable lighting in workshop areas. Ways to view recordings or videos of past collections. A couple of different, separate display rooms for other separate exhibits - like local artists, permanent displays as well as guest exhibitions. Classes put on by artists or teachers."

"The project must be sympathetic to the surroundings and be of a suitable design to adequately accommodate all the needs of the art gallery now and into the long term future."

"Give it a natural look that blends in with the surrounds of the Settlement etc. the use of red gum timber is an obvious material to use."

"Inline with the local heritage and blending with the pioneer settlement."



# Let's Talk: Design Ideas - Gallery, Landscaping & Accessibility

"A space where local artists can come and work on their artwork at anytime like the Swan Hill Library."

"There is no need to be too extravagant, something that blends into the local area maybe red gum style weatherboards and rustic corrugated iron. Simulating and old shearing shed."

"Adequate artwork storage and workshop area. All lighting in the Gallery must have a high CRI and consistent colour temperature. Large area where local artists can display and sell their artwork. An area that can be used for art workshops and where local artist can come paint and work on their artwork."

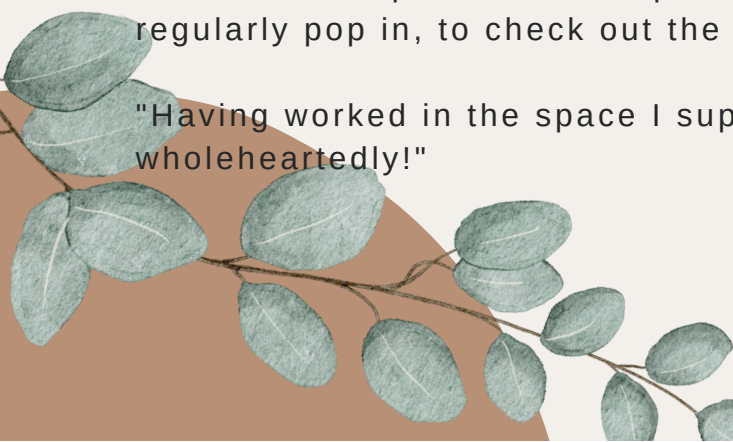
"Providing adequate artwork storage and a workshop area would enable staff to rotate the gallery's collection fast and efficiently. The area should also have adequate room to store the shipping containers from visiting exhibitions. The storage also needs to provide room for future acquisitions."

"Having an area for local artists to display and sell their work would bring in extra income for the Gallery and increase the Galleries appeal to both visitors and locals. A dedicated area for art courses would remove the need to interfere with the current displays and exhibitions. It would also greatly add to the appeal of the Gallery, visitors love to see and talk to artists at work."

"If possible retain main gallery space, if not rebuild! Need Space for touring exhibitions, permanent collection and local shows. Better storage and access for touring shows, workshop space that can be used by Gallery as well as community groups such as Mallee Artists and invited artists."

"It would be very healthy and mentally stimulating for local people to have their own art space, also to spend time having a chat with tourists who regularly pop in, to check out the Gallery."

"Having worked in the space I support this redevelopment wholeheartedly!"





## Let's Talk: Other ideas & concerns

"I would expect the architect to supply a small number of options to be in line with the above criteria. I would expect that all plans will be showing position in relation to existing housing, parking and general surroundings of the Pioneer Settlement."

"I believe the gallery needs to have its own separate location which gives the sense of autonomy and an additional activity for visitors rather than combining it with the PS."

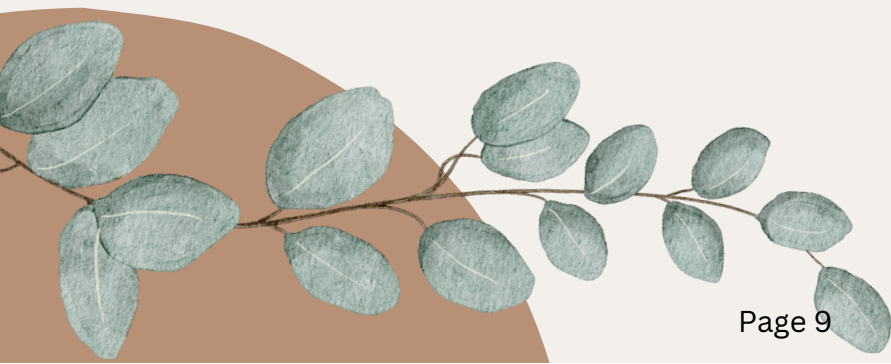
"Do not design a building that stands out like a sore thumb. The aesthetic and history of the area must be maintained. Build it to look old, but inside be whatever needed to house an amazing art and community space. Echuca had a street of history and liveliness that worked because it all suited each other. Now.... it looks like a McDonald's has been put in an historical area and it has had a detrimental effect on the area. Find an old sheering shed, and wrap the building in it, just make it look like it fits the area.... please."

"The current site of the project is in hot contention because locals feel like they are being ignored. There is a way to compromise. As it stands, the suggested building, whilst a great piece of architecture, is completely wrong for the area."

"Lighting is very important and when displaying artwork a high CRI (Colour rendering index) ensures that all colours in the artwork are rendered correctly. Having a consistent colour temperature is extremely important; I would recommend between 3700 and 4000 degrees Kelvin. Modern LED lighting would be recommended for their long life and low power consumption. A lighting expert should be engaged."

"I am pleased to hear the building will be in same location."

"Room to accommodate breastfeeding and baby change facilities. Interactive art by way of sensory experiences e.g. textured walls."



## Let's Talk: Other ideas & concerns

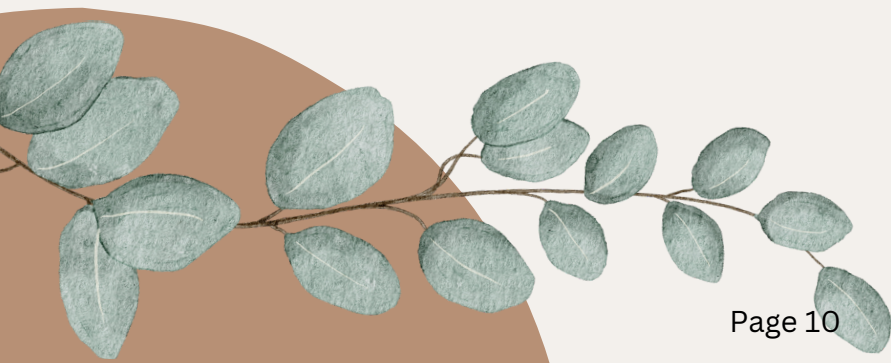
"Has it been considered to locate the art gallery in the now historic grain shed? Surely in this day and age an architect can create a building within a building. A very unique art gallery it would be, directly across from Riverside Caravan Park, stones throw from Riverside Park. I believe the building should represent the historical/rustic theme of the Pioneer Settlement precinct."

"If the art gallery was located in the grain shed, the current site could be demolished and make way for a car park, and the current confusing car park would make way for a new entrance building to the Pioneer Settlement. Imagine an entrance like a goods shed alongside the wharf at The Gem. Recreate what our wharf had. Imagine a wagon loaded with wool bales ready to be loaded onto a paddle steamer, an enticing view to visit the settlement. The grain shed is already history so we need to keep it. I believe we need to spread out the river precinct and not have all our lollies in one bag. With a First Nations cultural experience added to the art gallery in the unique grain shed site, it can become an extra day activity for visitors, rather than just a 10 minute add on after settlement, encouraging people to stay longer."

"I would like to see the cafe known as Spoons to stay there where it is, and be part of the project. Swan Hill and Lake Boga need some decent places to eat, that serve nice plain healthy food, not Pub Style meals. Also a good coffee shop is required that serves morning and afternoon tea and brunch. Just open up some eateries along the river and the Lake at Lake Boga, why does everything stall that the council has their hands on,? Too many opportunities are being missed it's very sad..take a look at Echuca and get off your bums and get something going Council."

"As for the remainder of the project incorporate it into what is already there, down there on the river, no need to spend millions with some fancy building that wastes money, this is Swan Hill, not Toorak Road or Collins St."

"It would be very healthy and mentally stimulating for local people to have their own art space, also to spend time having a chat with tourists who regularly pop in, to check out the Gallery."



## O u t s t a n d i n g   q u e s t i o n s

### **What is the actual location and size?**

The current Art Gallery Building is approximately 500 square meters. It is estimated that the redevelopment will increase the building size to approximately 800 square meters.

### **Impact on residents and car parking?**

We expect the project will create minimal disruption to neighboring residents, although varying levels of construction noise may occur throughout the project.

There may be some impacts on car parking adjacent to the Art Gallery. Traffic management plans will determine signage and /or traffic speed requirements where required.

Residents will be updated regularly via social media and letter-box drops in relation to expected disruptions and changed traffic conditions.

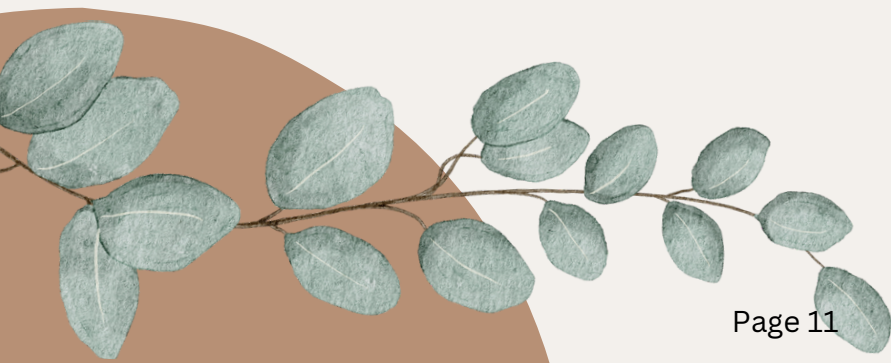
### **Status of Spoons building?**

Spoons Riverside has recently changed ownership. The reopening of the Café/Restaurant will complement the Swan Hill Art Gallery redevelopment and the Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub.

### **Grants and funding - is this dollar for dollar?**

#### **How much of ratepayer funding will contribute?**

The project is dollar for dollar. The project received funding via a group application among a collective total of seven partner Councils. The program called, Our Region, Our Rivers is supported by the federal government's Regional Growth Fund which provided 16 million matching dollars to help deliver 29 projects.



## Outstanding questions

### **How can we make this a positive project and get ahead of negativity?**

Council has taken onboard feedback received from the initial project proposal for one building, instead of two. We will use this feedback to ensure that the two new proposed buildings are complementary to their immediate surroundings and we look forward to working closely with our community, to ensure these buildings best reflect our municipality. Our residents deserve great arts and cultural facilities - we look forward to delivering this for the long-term future of our community. In addition, we will work alongside Heritage Victoria, to ensure that the Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural hub is complementary of Pioneer Settlement and its rich history.

### **How will Council measure success and visitation against other sites - and publish feedback?**

The art gallery measures success through visitation, participation in public programs, and number of exhibitions delivered. Details of this data are published each year in the Annual Report.

### **How will culture be incorporated and how will local tribes be engaged?**

Throughout the project planning phase we have been working closely with local Indigenous Elders to seek their input, ownership and ideas. We are grateful for this contribution and will continue this relationship for the duration of the project.

### **Can we incorporate indigenous art and celebrate local indigenous artists?**

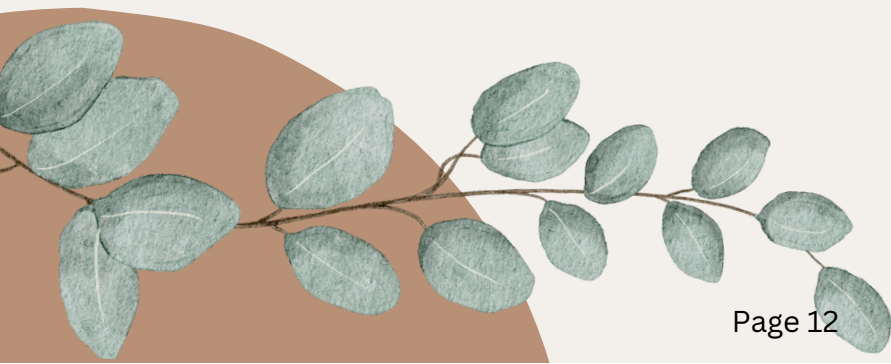
We look forward to investigating opportunities to celebrate our local indigenous artists at the new Gallery. We are currently working through many aspects of this project but can assure the community that our local Indigenous Artists will be included in this process.

### **When will building works start?**

We are currently in the process of awarding the tender to a suitable architect to commence the detailed designs. Once we have consulted with the community and formalised the designs, we will commence construction works.

### **Can we use the old lodges space?**

The lodges site is not part of this redevelopment. The lodges site and access will be a consideration when designing the new development and we do not expect any access issues.



## Outstanding questions

### **Will this be there in the future?**

The Swan Hill Art Gallery redevelopment project is expected to be a long term building to formally cement our region on the map for Art lovers and tourists alike.

The Gallery is expected to enhance the capacity for exhibitions and visitor attractions and create new engagement and public spaces for our regional community, well into the future.

### **Can we go up to two storey?**

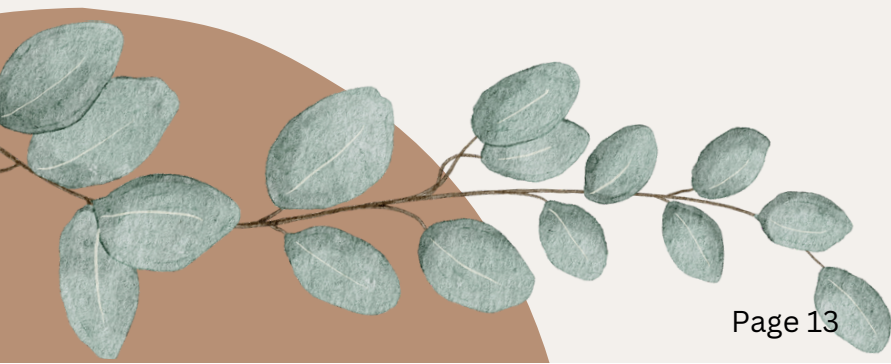
Following extensive feedback from the community the original proposed two-storey building will not be proceeding. The redevelopment of the Art Gallery will be reflective of the immediate surrounds and neighboring residents and will be a single storey building.

### **What will the ongoing expenses be?**

Council has an annual budget of \$1.4 million to maintain Council building assets. The Art Gallery currently costs approximately \$20,000 per annum to maintain, excluding operational expenses such as cleaning and utilities. With the installation of new components, fixtures and fittings, it is anticipated the ongoing maintenance costs for the building will be similar, despite the building being larger.

### **Are we using feedback from other consultations including Our Place and Riverfront Masterplan?**

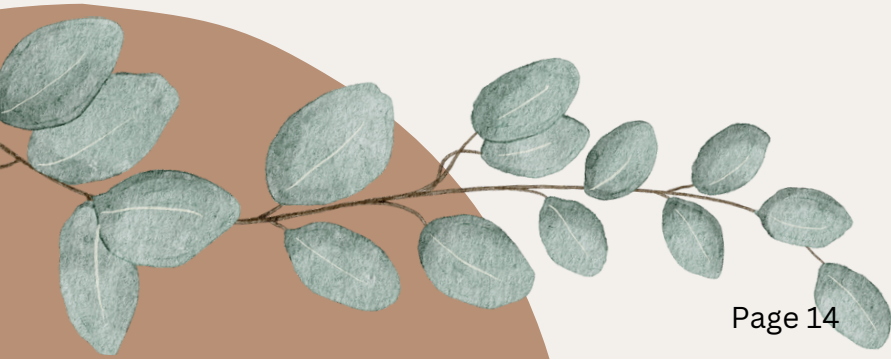
Council is using contributions from both past consultations and more recent consultations, including focus groups sessions. All information has been collated and provided to the architects.





## A p p e n d i c e s

P h o t o s   o f   b u t c h e r s   p a p e r   t a k e n  
f r o m   F o c u s   G r o u p s



# Focus Group - Session 1

Art Gallery

## Feedback on Workshop

FG1-2/2

positive ✓  
Exciting ✓  
Inclusive ✓✓  
Good start  
Interesting  
Confidence in procedure  
Step in the right direction

Art Gallery

## Landscaping

FG1-2/2

Aboriginal bush tucker native gardens ✓✓  
Sculptures around the town to entice visitors to see more of them at the gallery ✓  
grounds with paths & seating to walk through sculptures ✓  
adequate parking ✓  
disabled accessibility ✓ VIP. CLOSE TO!!  
entertainment/ampetheatre seating area,  
mural spaces  
Natural/green spaces - indigenous plants ✓  
Mallee root ✓  
childrens garden/playground → red "Mallee" sand, water play, sensory play

Art Gallery

## ART WORK

FG1-2/2

Larger storage space for permanent collection ✓✓  
Areas for local art. ✓✓✓  
Permanent collection to be on display in its own right. ●●●  
To be able to show case works from all over the world. ✓  
More of permanent collection to be displayed at all times  
Areas to include local art including work from local schools. ✓✓  
ENSURE THAT LIBRARY STAFF CAN ACCESS STORAGE AREAS WITHOUT DISTURBING THEMSELVES OR DAMAGING ARTWORK.  
Sculptures, modern, local, childrens art areas historical, permanent, Outdoor murals area, big exceptional music events. ●

Art Gallery

## Accessibility

FG1-2/2

Easy access - wheelchair etc. ✓✓  
Outdoor seating - outdoor shady areas. ✓✓  
Plenty of easy car parking ✓✓  
lighting ✓✓  
Grand entrance that looks inviting ●●●  
All paths to be wide for wheelchairs, walkers etc in outdoor art areas, parkland.  
hearing loop, Braille, sensory areas. ●  
Shaded outdoor seating + many seating options internally.  
Elevators.  
childrens areas  
Cafe onsite / bar/venue options.  
Night/out of hours events/displays ●

Art Gallery

## Important materials

FG1-2/2

Class - ✓  
Local woods etc (red gum trees) ✓✓  
Mallee colours (e.g. sand, sunsets) ✓✓  
Subtle flooring not to detract from artwork. ✓  
Innovative exterior - (screaming Swan Hill) different unique ●  
STAY ON THEME ●  
Mallee root, Natural, sustainable, stones ●  
indoor flooring to be easily cleaned & maintained, not easily damaged. ✓

Art Gallery

## Key design Features

FG1-2/2

- Accessible to all ✓  
- Sustainable ✓  
- Heritage / older facade ✓✓  
- larger gallery spaces - big enough to suit needs now & future ●●●  
- Mix of natural & Modern, indoor/outdoor areas. ✓✓  
- Workshop, guest speakers, artists in residence & local art group ✓✓  
Blend in with natural environment ✓  
Room for piano and Rehearsals ●●  
ACOUSTICS IN MAIN AREA. VERY DIFFICULT TO HEAR SPEAKERS ●  
ENSURE THAT THE AUDIENCE IS AWARE OF ORIENTATION i.e. Summer the West Winter North North.  
WORKSHOPS for Art.  
- Catalogue area - Record Keeping ●●



# Focus Group - Session 1

## Art Gallery Other Ideas?

FG 1-2/2

- \* Can we go up - Storeys?
- \* Need to maximise land for landscaping
- \* Articles of association - Control over the facility + contents inc Art Work.
- \* Strategic points made + reported.
- \* Still leave room for change in collection but also preserve art collection.
- \* Noting gallery has cataloging already
- \* Staff Spoons first - don't need another restaurant/cafe.
- + Shortage of staff nationally.
- \* Impact of Spoons closing on the gallery.
- + engage younger people
- + Wanting to be kept in the loop
- + Architect to visit site, ask Q's
- + talk to locals - work w local architects

Art Gallery Outstanding Questions? FG 1-2/2

- Land size available impact on - residents - car parking
- Status of Spoons building - who's responsible?
- Grants - are the \$ for \$
  - How much is it
  - How much are rates \$
  - ongoing \$ - operations maintenance
- Our Place forums - are we using feedback from that.
  - Riverfront master plan consultation (10yr plan)
- How can we make this a positive project, and get ahead of negativity

## Art Gallery Design + Function

FG 1-2/2

### What we don't want

- boxy building ✓ / Scary "Spaceship" modern architecture ✓ ●
- white space - ~~more friendly~~
- small / one use spaces
- areas / sections not accessible to anyone / individuals
- VISIT OTHER GALLERIES: - SAM. BPAE BENALLA (SHEPPARTON) / MONA, NGV } what they want
- A steel cement square box structure.
- Cafe or restaurant - Spoons???

## Art Gallery Feedback on Workshop

FG 1-2/2

- Positive ✓
- Exciting ✓
- Inclusive ✓
- Good start
- Interesting
- Confidence in procedure
- Step in the right direction

# Focus Group - Session 2

## AA Gallery - Landscaping

142 2/2

- ✓ Seating outside - 4 units / most people / enjoy outdoor / outdoors
- ✓ Café / light area - outdoor / outdoor space / to coffee - more / just make you want - somewhere to sit & enjoy outdoors
- ✓ Suitable for Mallee weather (+ some watering)
- Gardens is statutory space (maybe a maze or walk concept) outdoors
- ✓ large roofed outdoor space - 23 Flexible outdoor indoor space.
- café doors to enclose / partly enclose it
- so can use outdoors in our great climate (like Logan lodge, like spoons)
- (maximizes performance / gathering / event space)
- Want to see the water.

## Art Gallery - Accessibility

142 2/2

Not the main building - use bollards so people can get out of cars into gallery easily

Chairs into the area

- ✓ Chairs - places to rest for those who can't walk for
- X Kerbs → use bollards - so easier for more people to access path → not have to only be in disabled park
- Accessible & ambulant toilets
- lighting - adjustable up & down - up for workshops
- At 'Guided tours' via headphones or phone app to allow visually impaired / other guests to experience art through several ways.
- ✓ - Good access for elderly & disabled - lighting V.I.P. as a lot of openings are at night.
- large covered area as drop-off (big verandah space porch)

## Art Gallery - ART WORK

142 2/2

Permanent First Peoples history gallery

- Permanent Pioneer History
- Childrens art / activity space - colouring, puzzles, weaving, etc. - just an independent play area
- AREA FOR TEACHING ART SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Some outdoor art

Area to display for local artists to sell artworks

## Art Gallery - Important Materials

142 2/2

- Incorporate mud brick as part of the new building as a nod to what the community developed in 1987.
- prefer not tin-shed corrugated iron look - brick / mud brick preferred
- thermal mass inside? to help temperature ✓
- ? polished concrete in workshop? or too noisy? if so - washable carpet or lino
- ceiling - sound deadening - not hard surface
- Modernized building. Ok to pay homage to Victorian style but it should be fresh and modern.
- Keep the Piano! ensure it can be used for concerts.
- A UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL "FEATURE" SETTING SWAN HILL APART
- Ability to screen movies (which may be part of a performance)
- open it up - bigger / high inside - not just low roof

## Art Gallery - Feedback on Workshop.

DEDICATED ART SUPPLY IN GIFT SHOP TO SUPPORT WORKSHOPS.

- Inspired + enthusiastic
- Food for thought + Consulted.
- Updated.
- Learning about Gallery
- more ideas.
- Optimistic



# Focus Group - Session 2

Good Internet connectivity

Art Gallery - Other Ideas

FG2 2/2

- Events - such as breakfast with the Artist.
- More Murals eg near riverside park
- Digital artwork opportunities
- Digital artwork from the permanent collection eg. Use of Clocktower.
- Spoon S- Opportunity to use this space - Council to consider this.
- Good Catering / Kitchen.
- eg. Servery + modern.
- eg NGV ~~at~~ Melbourne - Eat + view outside to gardens
- Outdoor art walls - Graffiti walls

Store room - shelves + furniture  
enough powerpoints + data points (eg in floor) to run IT for exhibits or workshop participants

Art Gallery - Design + Function

FG2 2/2

What we want.

- Art precinct rather than 'just a gallery' ✓
- Workshop spaces - lit well, tables etc different ht / size chairs
- ✓ ABILITY TO HAVE LARGE
- TRAVELING EXHIBITS
- EG: ARCHIBALD →
- TRAIN TRAVEL FOR GALLERY VISITS
- ✓ CATERING AREA INSIDE & OUTSIDE ✓
- ✓ KITCHEN FOR CATERING ✓
- Performance auditorium ✓
- Movable walls / lighting / tables + chairs ✓
- Permanent Artist-in-residence work space where visitors can peek in on art as it happens ✓
- Galleries to incorporate with rest of town - eg. Mural Art site

Link the gallery to the wine + food events. History of wine making.

• • "SUSTAINABILITY" • •

Art Gallery - Key Design Features

FG2 2/2

Integrate indoor + outdoor spaces

Lots of glass where possible ✓ see outdoors in work / entry / walkshop area.

Multi-levels or the impression of levels

• BLEND IN WITH THE PRESENT BUILDING ✓

- Several rooms - so can have several exhibitions at once
  - local permanent
  - local for sale
- Outdoor view in workshop areas -
- Workshop space - with folding tables, chairs + chairs with arms + good lighting + power outlets +
- ✓ Ability to utilise outdoor spaces for openings & music events ✓

Art Gallery - Outstanding Questions

FG2 2/2

- How will Council measure success + visitors to the Gallery against other sites?
- Building footprint on existing land.
- Cultural Centre - how will that be incorporated, what is the purpose of the display, how will engagement with the local tribes be done - all in a respectful + meaningful way to both cultures
- Can we incorporate indigenous art / sense of country / place exhibition space / celebrate local indigenous artists
- What is the status of Spoon S?
- Is there opportunity for more car parking? eg Marrobor st + Railway land.
- If this goes ahead when will it start?
- Can we use space allocated to the Old Lodges?
- How are Council going to avoid conflict with locals regarding the Gallery?



# Focus Group - Session 3

## Art Gallery - Accessibility

FG 4/2

- Wider doorways
- Free for locals or by donation
- Better parking
- Larger store front so it accessible for things such as prams, wheelchairs, etc. ✓✓
- Seek funding to subsidise w/shop participation + outreach activities across LGA area.
- GALLERY LARGE ENOUGH TO HOUSE MUCH LARGER EXHIBITIONS (WOULD NEED LARGER ACCESS DOORS) INCLUDING HIGHER CEILINGS, GLASS CASES.
- A place for mothers to be able to feed and care for their children
- Good parking

## Art Gallery - Art Work

FG 4/2

- Major FN projections / installation on ext of building → lit up/activated 2 night
- If 'Major' areas of glass, FN 'etchings' ~~in~~ referencing a rich history of emu-egg carving.
- MODERNISTIC - THINKING MAYBE DALI STYLE BUT USING LOCAL HISTORY + FAUNA, EG. ABORIGINAL DESIGNS OF DREAMTIME.
- exterior artwork to prefer indigenous instead of "modern" ~~art~~ <sup>△ symbols</sup>

## Feedback

- Quiet - less lively.
- Interesting ideas.
- Disappointed not more people here.
- Good session.
- Wants to have ideas listened to by the Council.

## Outstanding Questions?

- What is the status of 'Spoons'?
- Will this be there in the future? (would like space to relax).
- What will be the actual location of the gallery? What are the parameters? Is there a particular size in mind?
- Will there be a problem to access the Lodges?

## Other ideas?

- The Lodges - Old Buildings post their use by date - Bridge to Penal Island. - Bring the connection to the Art Gallery.
- Spaces for School visits
- Colocate Gallery + Library
- Agree to group 1 storey + use upper levels for storage + offices.
- eg Echuca Library - to consider this design.
- eg Sale Art Gallery - Gippsland - Good example of a new building
- Perm Art - should have Indigenous Comm involved in choosing Ind Art.
- Better Signage - Wayfinding - esp Main Rds
- More involvement of Kinder + School children.
- Education officer

## Art Gallery - Important Materials

FG 4/2

LOCAL MATERIALS - SANDSTONE, ETC. <sup>Art Gallery</sup>  
NATURAL LOCAL FLORA SURROUNDS.

- Red gum / water
- hardwood textures + colours (Red Gum) Box Sandalwood

Environmentally friendly options



# Focus Group - Session 3

Art Gallery - Key Design Features FG 4/2

- Single Story - <sup>Vic</sup> Galleries exp. is not up stairs for visitor or handling art works/exhibits
- GLAZED AREAS for Nat light (n.b. air con problem)
- More storage for permanent collection
- More (semi-open air) public = children's art <sup>workshops</sup>
- FN <sup>inst</sup> presence front + centre, ie FN First ...
- Cafe/wine bar co located w gallery social space + art space.
- Access for trucks to bring in art work - loading docks. Areas for coaches.

Art Gallery - Landscaping FG 4/2

No rustles - snakes... on going work

Good pathways

restful areas

- interactive children's space (eg musical).
- Indigenous garden showcasing local indigenous plants ✓✓
- Indig food garden
- Water
- LOCAL BUSH LANDSCAPING
- SPACE FOR MUSICIANS (VISITING OR LOCAL)

What we don't want. FG 4/2

an austere institution (elite).

modern concrete, solid walls, limited natural light

~~space for dance or performance, such as Indigenous Dance Circle~~

~~function space for children~~

- 'Closed' / uninviting / austere... (ie not like a hushed library)
- Programming that reinforces a narrow lens on our regions cultural heritage → it is so much ~~broader~~ broader / diverse than the dominant colonial / pastoralist image oft depicted
- SMALL and UNINVITING.
- concentration on "modern", at expense of indigenous + natural

Don't want stairs.

What we want FG 4/2

→ Storage lots of it. ✓

→ a destination → higher profile for tourism + community

→ adaptable spaces

→ workshop spaces / residency space for visiting artists ✓✓

glass (walls) to maximise riverfront environment

more workshop area for young / budding artists

similar T for indigenous art + dance

- Interactive spaces for children

- A space for Dance or performance, such as Indigenous Dance Circle ✓

● Expansive in design / vision / program / outreach

maximise "natural" riverfront {atmosphere, ambience, space} ✓

.. natural light (while considering art works presens)

Outdoor Workshop space ●

Having the river as apart of the gallery ●

Indigenous employees ●