Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

Latest news and updates

In this newsletter, you can learn more about recent project updates including:

- Introducing the Community Reference Group
- Open House Melbourne walking tours
- Supporting our local traders
- What's happening on the ground

Introducing the MAPT Community Reference Group



In order left to right: Dan O'Keeffe, Clair Richards, Penny Hutchinson, Sulagna Dasgupta, MaryKay Rauma and David Hamilton.

For Southbank residents living next door to the construction area, in addition to resident drop-in sessions, construction updates and quarterly newsletters, the project now has a Community Reference Group.

The Community Reference Group has been established for the life of the project as a channel for more in-depth discussions with community representatives on project activities. It will give the project team local perspectives on the project, open communication channels and, where possible, help minimise construction impacts on the community.

Members were selected following a strong response to the Expression of Interest earlier this year. The Community Reference Group members are all local residents - Sulagna Dasgupta, David Hamilton, Eileen Pang, Clair Richards, Dan O'Keeffe on behalf of Southbank Residents Association, and MaryKay Rauma on behalf of Southbank3006.

The group met for the first time on 29 June, with the meeting chaired by Penny Hutchinson, who has been appointed as the Independent Chair.

To find out more about the CRG and to access meeting minutes, please visit artsprecinct.melbourne/community-reference-group/

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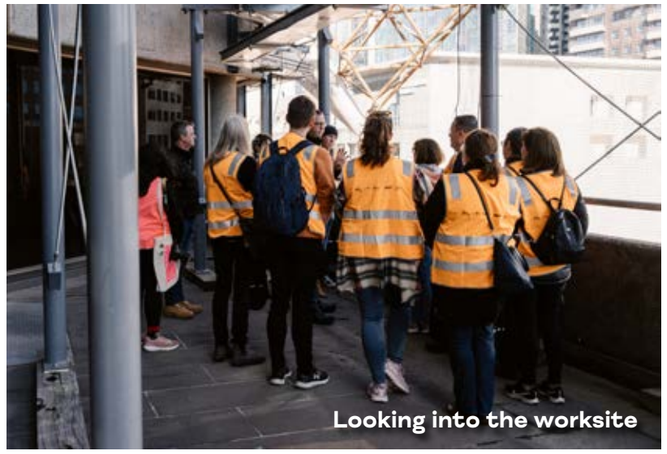
Open House Melbourne

MAP Co joined Open House Melbourne for the first time this year, inviting members of the public to tour the project works in and around Arts Centre Melbourne's State Theatre and behind the scenes at Fed Square.

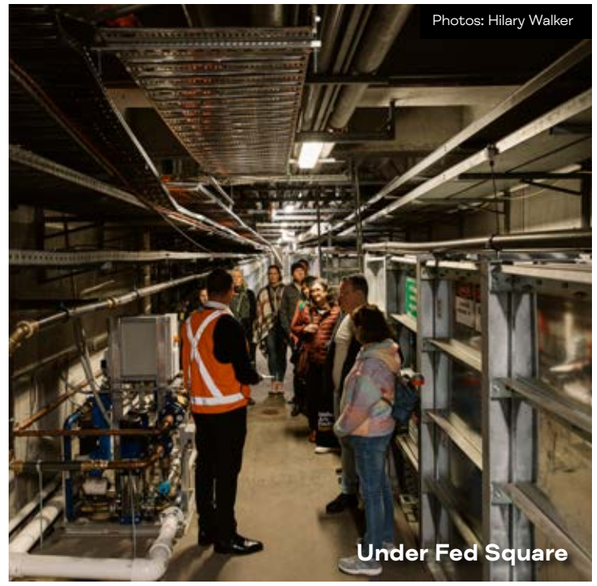
The six sessions were booked out within 45 minutes, highlighting the community's keen interest to learn about the future of the precinct.

Participants of the tours enjoyed a bird's eye viewpoint of the work site from Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building to learn about the works in progress. The groups then travelled 'back of house' to the State Theatre and heard about the many improvements in store. The tours concluded at Federation Square with a behind-the-scenes tour of the square and its hidden labyrinth.

For those eager for a behind-the-scenes of the project, there will be more opportunities to tour the project site as part of Open House Melbourne in 2024.


Looking into the worksite


State Theatre stage, Arts Centre Melbourne.


Photos: Hilary Walker

Under Fed Square



All participants received a project bag


On the stage at the State Theatre


Under Fed Square

Supporting our local traders

The project looks at a range of ways to support local traders, such as using their services for project events and activities, and encouraging our team and workers to shop local.

Since July this year, we've supported Broad Bean Organic Grocer, Pawa Café & Bar, and BodyFit Training with an advertisement in the monthly Southbank News, and we'll be talking to other traders in the Kavanagh/ Fanning streets village about that opportunity.

Development Victoria will soon issue its new newsletter Behind the Hoarding which will be distributed to project team members, contractors and subcontractors. Each edition will promote a local business from the area, encouraging project staff to support them.



Local traders on Fanning St


Local traders on Kavanagh St

What's happening on the ground

77 Southbank Boulevard deconstruction

Delta Group has been appointed as the contractor to lead the deconstruction of 77 Southbank Boulevard, the site where The Fox: NGV Contemporary will be built.

Works will start with what's called a 'soft strip' which involves the building interiors being removed. There will be trucks entering and leaving the site via the loading dock on Kavanagh Street. The main deconstruction works are currently planned to start in late 2023.

Changes to the intersection of Sturt and Kavanagh streets

If you are visiting the precinct, you will see more changes to the intersection of Sturt and Kavanagh streets.

The intersection is at the heart of the construction works and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers is our priority.

We're encouraging pedestrians moving between Kavanagh Street and St Kilda Road to use the pedestrian footbridge from the Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre to the Arts Centre Melbourne Forecourt. The Ballet Centre building, with lifts from the street level up to the Level 4 walkway, is open from 6am to 1am.

Pedestrian access from Kavanagh Street into Arts Centre Melbourne's carpark is now only by taking the walkway to the lower ground carpark. Pedestrian access into the carpark from Southbank Boulevard has not changed.

There's signage in place to show you the easy and safe way to walk, and traffic management will be onsite during construction hours.

For the latest maps and information on traffic and access changes, subscribe to the monthly Construction Updates at www.development.vic.gov.au/mapt



Pedestrian bridge to The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre and Kavanagh Street.



Entrance to pedestrian bridge to The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre and Kavanagh Street.

To find out more about MAP Co, go to **artsprecinct.melbourne** or scan the QR code.

If you require information in another language, please call us on 9280 0755

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