

Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

Latest news and updates

In this newsletter, you can read about the latest project news and what the project team achieved in 2023!

You can also learn more about:

- Local businesses in the arts precinct
- Construction updates
- Resources to stay up-to-date on all the project news



Community Reference Group tours the MAPT site

2023 – the year that was on MAPT

January

- The project team set up a pop-up information stand for the community to learn about the upgrades to Arts Centre Melbourne.

February

- Demolition of Arts Centre Melbourne's Harold Alexander Terrace was completed, while their largest Summer musical The Phantom of the Opera performances continued, uninterrupted by the works.
- First Nations artworks were installed on construction hoarding near Hamer Hall, first displayed as part of the First Peoples Melbourne Art Trams 2022 for RISING.

March

- The second community information session was held to share updates on the project with residents, local businesses, and community members.
- Sturt Street South closed in March so construction could progress.

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2023 – the year that was on MAPT



Media announcement with contractor Lendlease

April

- Lendlease was announced as major contractor for Arts Centre Melbourne upgrades. These works include the restoration and enhancement of the heritage State Theatre auditorium including new seating, flooring, air conditioning improvements, as well as new technology upgrades, a new Studio and Function Room and two dining outlets.

May

- A new pedestrian footbridge was installed to reconnect Arts Centre Melbourne’s Theatres Building (under the Spire) to level 4 of The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre. The new bridge replaced the previous footbridge, and was installed at a different angle to make way for works to progress.



A new pedestrian footbridge is installed

June

- The first Community Reference Group (CRG) meeting was held. This group is made up of community members from local apartments and business. Their job is to help ensure the local Southbank community is kept up-to-date with the project’s progress and key updates.
- A piling platform was installed at the Arts Centre Melbourne project site to support the installation of new piles. In total, 350 new piles are being installed as part of the foundation for new building structures that will go on top.

July

- Delta Group was appointed as the contractor for the building deconstruction of 77 Southbank Boulevard to make way for the new gallery The Fox: NGV Contemporary.
- The project team hosted tours of the project site for Open House Melbourne – the tours sold out in 45 minutes!

August

- Soft strip of 77 Southbank Boulevard began. This step prepared the site for the next stage of building deconstruction.



Open House Melbourne tours on State Theatre



Community Drop-in Information Session



CRG Members Site Tour



Pop-up MAPT marquee at Fed Square



Pop-up MAPT marquee at Fed Square

September

- The project team announced a partnership with Revival Projects. Over the next six years, Revival will work closely with the project and design teams to explore how trees removed from the precinct for construction can be reused and repurposed.

October

- All 38 existing piles were removed from the ground to make way for the installation of new piles – the old piles had been in place since the 1980s.
- The Victorian Government had a change in Cabinet and a new Premier was appointed, as well as new Minister for Creative Industries, Colin Brooks MP, to oversee the MAPT project.
- The project team hosted this year’s final drop-in information session for residents, local businesses and community members.

November

- Members of the CRG participated in a tour of the MAPT project site. The group enjoyed a glimpse of one of the piling rigs at the construction site – standing at approximately 40 metres tall!
- The project team set up a ran a pop-up marquee at the Victorian Festival of Diwali and the African Music and Cultural Festival at Fed Square to chat to members of the public, share information about the project and the benefits in store for local businesses, residents, artists, and creatives.

December

- A piling milestone was reached with over 100 piles successfully installed!
- The MAPT team joined the festive celebrations at the annual family event A Very Merry FriendMas with local community group Southbank3006.

We look forward to another busy year in 2024!

Open for business in the Melbourne Arts Precinct

If you're visiting the arts precinct, there are plenty of local businesses and traders open for business this festive season. For a selection of food and beverage options, you can visit Saporito Café, Olmate's, The Barre, Broad Bean Grocer or Act of Wine. For those wanting to stay fit and

healthy during the celebratory season, there's BodyFit Southbank gym on Fanning Street. If you're looking for somewhere to stay, Quest Southbank is a locally owned family business located just a short walk from many of the arts precinct venues.



Construction updates

Construction works for the project will pause from 21 December 2023 and resume on 10 January 2024.

For the latest information on construction, subscribe to the monthly Construction Updates at www.development.vic.gov.au/mapt



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