

Kalamunda Arts Advisory Committee 9 November 2020

Committee Recommendations and City Responses

Recommendation 1:

That the Central Mall redevelopment is the first major city project to be undertaken since the adoption of four key City strategies – Arts, Tourism, Environment and RAP. The Committee sees considerable benefit of a cross-strategy approach to facilitate Focus Area 1 of the Arts Strategy - Placemaking and Identity be adopted. The redevelopment is a powerful opportunity to align across all four strategies and to take full advantage of the area for visitors and residents.

Response 1:

The City is confident *Placemaking and Identity* have been embedded in the concept design of this important urban renewal project. These principles have been informed by extensive consultation and embraced by the design team, who have gone beyond technical competencies, to create a contemporary space with creative design elements that demonstrably reflect the recently adopted Arts, Tourism Development, Economic Development Strategies and Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Central Mall Concept Design embodies a strong sense of place and local identity that is sure to be an attractive place for local families and communities to gather and a supportive setting where businesses can thrive.

As the City embarks on future urban renewal projects it will take key learnings from this important project to ensure Place and Identity are reflected in the outcome.

Recommendation 2:

Seek appropriate advice and cultural guidance and consultation to naming the mall, the telling of traditional stories, informing design elements, street infrastructure and plantings from appropriately recognised Wadjuk Noongar elders. That these cultural elements feature strongly in the final development in ways that align with the City's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Response 2:

There is no overall concern with this recommendation.

The City notes that any proposal to change the name of the Mall will require State approval via the Geographic Naming Committee in line with their published processes.

Recommendation 3:

Community expertise in the Arts Advisory Committee and more broadly the City's community be a source of specialist advice that relate to lighting, sound and other facilities that enable arts and community activities to take place in the mall. This specialist knowledge also extends to strong links to networks of creative, qualified and experienced personnel who offer greater value adding opportunities and who can be sought using the City's standard procurement processes.

Response 3:

The City is comfortable that its consultants are suitably qualified and experienced to undertake the work and would not benefit from either volunteer or paid external inputs. The final decision regarding the scale of lighting, sound and other facilities will be determined by Council as part of budget deliberations.

Recommendation 4:

The public art funds allocated to this project, \$24,000, be used to cover the costs of artists' design and creative fees. This will ensure that local artists are able to benefit from the City's investment in the mall as well as extending the City's formal link to artists.

Response 4:

This is contrary to the Local Planning Policy where the 1% allocation is used to cover both fees and art piece(s).

The final decision regarding the scale of public art will be determined by Council as part of budget deliberations.

Recommendation 5:

That the City appoint an artist to be part of the design team to inform all elements of the redevelopment. This recommendation actions Item 1.4 of the Arts Strategy, that relates to improved visual attractiveness of the City and Item 1.6, that recommends engagement of creative specialists (artists/curators) to be part of the design teams of City projects.

Response 5:

This is perceived as over-reaching the intent of public art policy and may cause delays in design when simple engineering works require artistic review. Further the concept design has progressed to the stage that if a wholesale 'reset' of the concept to allow public artist involvement in all facets of the redevelopment will cause significant delays and increase budget.

As the City embarks on future urban renewal projects it will give consideration to the inclusion of public art practitioners and creative specialists on the design teams to help shape improved outcomes.

Recommendation 6:

That the design and placement of metal posts/trunks, street furniture, catenary lighting, plantings, written and visual messages, images, sounds, smell (from plants) and other elements should be central to this development to provide a distinctive look for this part of Kalamunda.

Response 6:

It is felt that the concept plan as developed thus far is distinctive and subject of course to vehicle and pedestrian hazards being dealt with.

Recommendation 7:

All lighting be LED format – selected for its warm colour, adaptability, programmability and energy saving is used rather than more traditional sources of mall lighting.

Response 7:

Is included in current scope of works.

Recommendation 8:

Linked to this recommendation (the City presumes this means Recommendation 7) is the use of digital projection on large trees near Mead and Barber Sts, external building walls and other reflective areas so that local visual stories can be shown and used to attract residents and visitors to the mall at night.

Response 8:

Is not included in budget. Indicative costs would be in the order of \$50,000 depending on scale.

Recommendation 9:

Advice be sought to select the best plantings of aromatic local plants that create habitat for quendas, installation of mature trees (possibly deciduous Australian) to break up some of the existing open areas and for these to be planted with appropriate horticultural and Australian plant advice.

Response 9:

This has been generally adopted in concept planning however it is noted that if KAAC are proposing non endemic Australian species are used, this is contrary to City practice to develop only native WA species in plantings.

Recommendation 10:

This redevelopment source sustainable, recycled and natural materials.

Response 10:

Will be used where feasible.