



Northern Beaches Council

Creative Art Space Workshop Series Report Consolidated Report

11 April 2018

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Workshop #1 outputs.....	6
Workshop #2 outputs.....	11
Workshop #3 outputs.....	18
Appendix	23
Appendix 1. Small group design suggestions.....	23
Appendix 2. 'Dotmocracy' prioritisation exercise results.....	24
Appendix 3. Hands-on design workshop concepts	26
Appendix 4. Shortlisted Locations – Presentation Slides	27

Cover image: Artwork Leesa Knights

Executive Summary

Background

At the Northern Beaches Council meeting of 27 June 2017, the Merger Savings Fund was formalised through the adoption of an Administrator Minute, providing \$1 million in 2017/18 for a Creative Art Space at the northern end of the Northern Beaches Local Government Area.

The Administrator's funding commitment provides an exciting opportunity to deepen and diversify the cultural offerings on the Northern Beaches. It has been met with enthusiasm by the general community, who had the opportunity to provide feedback on *what should be a part of the Creative Art Space* during engagement that ran from August-October 2017.

Advisory Group purpose

During the initial community engagement phase of the project, community members had the opportunity to self-nominate for an Advisory Group, established to advise Council staff on the concept design of a proposed new Creative Art Space in the Northern Beaches Local Government Area. Additional information will also be gathered by Council through research and feedback from broader community engagement

The members of the Advisory Group include:

- Representative(s) from the former Art, Culture & Heritage Strategic Reference Group
- Representative(s) from the business community (such as Chambers of Commerce or Business Associations)
- Cross section of residents to represent the arts and culture sector (including those with experience in visual arts and illustration, film and television, theatre and events, literature, community arts, art education and cultural studies)
- Representative(s) younger than 25 years
- Male and female representatives

Workshop series

The Advisory Group met three times from December 2017 – March 2018. The details and focus of each workshop are outlined in the table below.

	Workshop #1	Workshop #2	Workshop #3
<i>Date/Time</i>	Wed 6 Dec 2017 6pm – 9pm	Wed 7 Feb 2018 6pm – 8.15pm	Wed 21 Mar 2018 6pm – 8.15pm
<i>Location</i>	Newport Community Centre	Avalon Recreation Centre	Avalon Recreation Centre
<i>Attendance</i>	27 members	19 members	18 members
<i>Focus areas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key users and uses • Design principles • Design, operational and location considerations • Suggested spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 1 outputs • Priority uses for the centre • Design elements • Criteria for assessing potential locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop 2 outputs • Shortlisted locations • Facilities and functions • Focus and flavour

Key findings

Users and uses

The Advisory Group identified the following core uses that apply to the two main user groups: artists and the community.

	<i>Creation</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Connection</i>	<i>Exhibition</i>
Artists	Creating art	Teaching others their craft	Networking and being inspired by others	Preparing and exhibiting final art products
Community	Witnessing the creation of art	Learning new crafts	Finding mentors	Experiencing artists' final products

Creation and exhibition were seen as the priority uses for the Centre. Exhibition and studio spaces were deemed to be the most important facilities for delivering on these priority uses.

Design considerations

The Group suggested that the Centre should:

- Be accessible and usable
- Be connected and visible
- Include flexible, multipurpose spaces
- Use a hub and spoke design, with a focus on smaller spaces
- Be designed with the artist's needs in mind
- Allow visitors to experience completed art and art in-development
- Include supporting facilities
- Feel like a place with 'soul'
- Offer something unique
- Be designed with Council's budget in mind
- Incorporate sustainable design

Most important to the group was allowing visitors to experience art, including multipurpose spaces and designing the Centre with the artist's needs in mind.

Design narrative

Generally, the Group came to describe the possible Centre design as having an open and inviting entrance into a central space, activated by a café or similar, to draw visitors in. Surrounding this space would be multipurpose studios for creating art, rehearsing performances or running workshops. Some or all of the studios would be transparent and open to encourage visitors to engage with the process. An additional exhibition space would allow visitors to view and buy art and, possibly, outdoor spaces could be used for performances and other productions.

Location criteria

The Group initially suggested approximately two dozen locations of interest. In discussing these locations, the Group identified the following criteria to inform Council's search for an appropriate space. Members said the location should:

- Be visible
- Offer supporting facilities
- Be accessible
- Offer a unique point of difference
- Be sizeable
- Offer flexible outdoor space
- Be situated in an attractive and visually-appealing location
- Be fit-for-purpose
- Offer reasons for visitors to stay

The Group shortlisted four locations that met all or most of these criteria: Avalon Golf Club House, Mona Vale Green Site, Avalon Annexe and Avalon Bowling Green Site.

Facilities and functions

When asked what specific facilities might be included in the Centre, different members suggested large, flexible, multipurpose spaces – well programmed – which could be used for preparing works (e.g. painting, ceramics, metal work, industrial offerings, sound recordings), running educational workshops (e.g. for kids), performing (e.g. small theatres), exhibiting (e.g. top class gallery), and selling art – with indoor and outdoor places to spend time. Participants commented that the specialist facilities selected should be informed by demand and the available budget, with the focus on 'getting it right' rather than taking too much on. It was suggested that the Centre might run autonomously as a cooperative, with a small committee of at least 5 members, possibly by an Arts Co-ordinator or Director.

Focus and flavour

Members of the Group spoke of the Centre as a community for artists, especially young artists, and a place to engage the broader community – encouraging people to get more involved in art. Many participants spoke of the Centre as offering a local experience, emphasising the unique character of the Northern Beaches in productions and products on sale for the local community and tourists. It was suggested that the design of the centre, including sustainable design, could contribute to its unique flavour.

Next steps

In the coming months, Council will use the Advisory Group's priority uses, design, location and other recommendations to draft a specific proposal for a Creative Art Space which will be presented to the broader community for their feedback.

Workshop #1 outputs

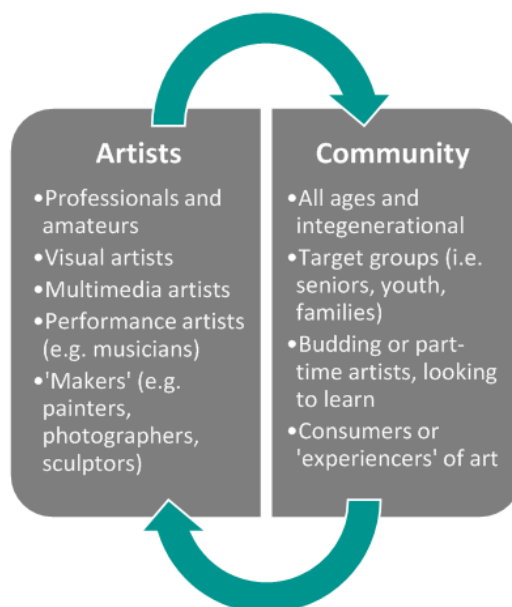
Key users and uses

Small groups at each table suggested the Centre should cater for the following top users and uses.

	Top users	Top uses
Table A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists, including professionals, visual artists and various crafts Performers, including music and dance Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition Creation Teaching
Table B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists, including visual artists Performers, including musicians People interested in learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition and workshop space Performance and rehearsal space Cultural and education
Table C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists, including creatives Youth and families Audiences, including tourists, community, clients and buyers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making and creating Presentation and exhibition Viewing, including consuming, hearing and experiencing
Table D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual and creative artists Youth (but also intergenerational) Wider community as consumers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning and education Exhibition of visual arts Production of visual arts

All small groups emphasised the importance of balancing the needs of *artists* and the *community*. They pointed out that the Centre should facilitate both the development and presentation of art; it should be a space where professionals and amateurs can create, new artists can learn and the broader community can experience the development and performance of art.

The key users, can be organised under the two categories below, which are inextricably linked:

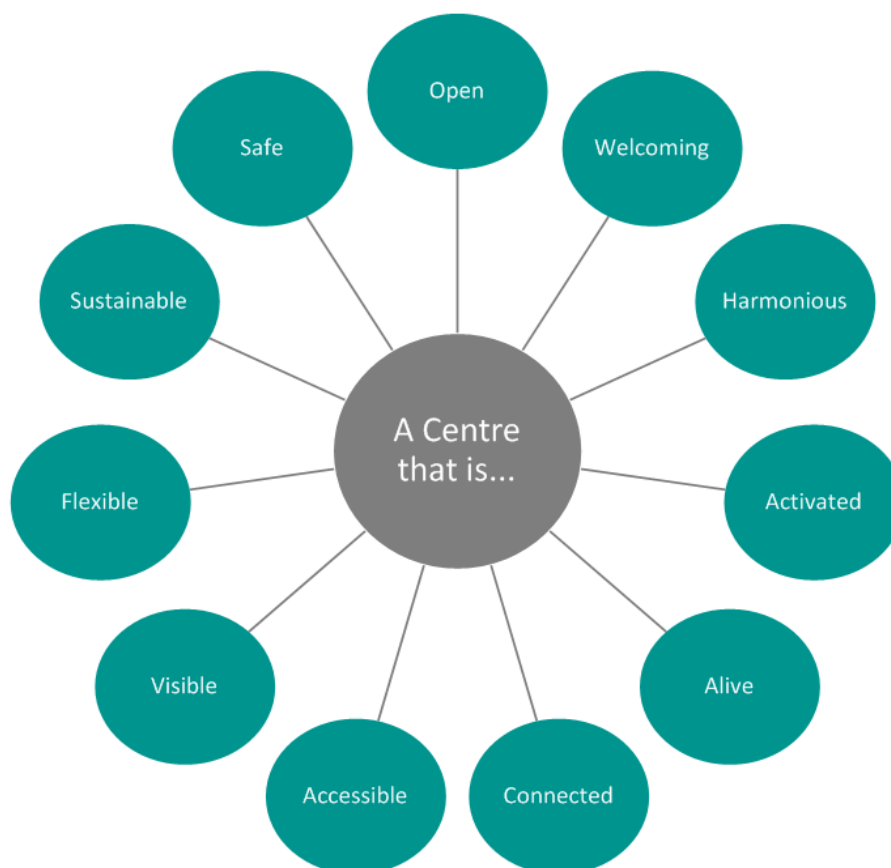


Similarly, the top uses for the Centre can be consolidated into the following areas: *creation*, *education*, *connection* and *exhibition*. Based on participant suggestions, the below table outlines what artist and community uses might look like within each of these areas.

	<i>Creation</i>	<i>Education</i>	<i>Connection</i>	<i>Exhibition</i>
Artists	Creating art	Teaching others their craft	Networking and being inspired by others	Preparing and exhibiting final art products
Community	Witnessing the creation of art	Learning new crafts	Finding mentors	Experiencing artists' final products

Design principles

Small groups used the following terms when describing the ideal Centre design:



Design, operational and location considerations

Participants suggested that, in meeting the requirements of key users and uses, the following should be considered in the design, operation and location of the Centre. Example design suggestions prepared by each group can be found at Appendix 1.

	Design considerations	Operational considerations	Location considerations
<i>Accessibility and usability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large doors to allow for large art equipment and products to be easily moved Loading bay with nearby storage space Ventilation and waste product management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours of operation Management of access Waste product management Cleaners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible venue for people of all abilities, including by foot, car or public transport Proximity to public transport and parking
<i>Connections and visibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interface (e.g. café or shopfront) Outward facing (e.g. with glass front so that people can see inside and/or transparent roof for natural light) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connectedness to already activated spaces (e.g. a village hub, civic centre, shopfront)
<i>Flexible, multipurpose spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaces that can be separated or merged (e.g. with moveable walls) Spaces that can be closed off during preparation/rehearsal and opened up for exhibition/performance Flexible spaces, in terms of height and floor space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming 	
<i>Hub and spoke design with focus on smaller spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaces connected via a central hub to allow easy movement between them Spaces that can be used for a variety of activities 		
<i>Design with artist needs in mind</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate venue acoustics Clean and 'dirty' work spaces Balance between specialist vs generalist spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term options for booking spaces (i.e. to allow for 'bump in', rehearsal, performance and 'bump out') 	
<i>Allowing visitors to experience art</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open spaces where visitors can witness the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for visitors to meet the 'makers' 	

<i>Supporting facilities</i> <i>A place with 'soul'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surround art spaces with facilities that support their use Colourful and comfortable spaces Aim to attract people from a range of age groups Consider opportunities to tie in cultural elements (e.g. Indigenous Australians, Maori) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for involvement from local schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The character or 'atmosphere' of the area
<i>Unique offerings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't compete with existing local facilities (e.g. provide intimate performance space rather than another large theatre space) 		
<i>Budget considerations</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design for low cost operation 	
<i>Sustainable design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed with sustainability in mind (e.g. reusing materials from other buildings) 		

Suggested spaces

Some small groups had specific suggestions for spaces that should be included both inside and outside the Centre.

Internal spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition space (i.e. gallery, screen, small performance spaces) • Studio space (including 'messy' work spaces) for 'making' • Rehearsal space • Meeting space • Flexible space (i.e. 'black box' theatre) • Comfortable space (e.g. 'chill' zone with couch) • Storage space, ideally near loading bay • Supporting facilities (e.g. toilets, changing rooms, kitchen, café, shopfront, Wi-Fi) • Graffiti wall
External spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaped space (including with trees and sculptures) • Courtyard and/or park • Space (e.g. open air central pavilion with covering) for performances/exhibitions (e.g. stage shows, projection mapping, screening films)

Popular suggestions

Following the workshop, participants had the opportunity to show their informal support for particular sessions by placing sticky dots on design suggestions such as those included at Appendix 2.

Participants showed significant support for a *gallery* as a space within the Centre, as well as for spaces that allowed visitors to *experience* the creative process in action. The idea of a *welcoming hub* was also popular and participants showed support for a Centre that is *accessible* and *connected*, to transport and to the community.

Workshop #2 outputs

Review of Workshop #1 Outputs


Members commented, as a whole group, on the outputs of Workshop #1.

Participants generally approved of 'artists' and the 'community' as key *user groups*, though several pointed out that different artists will have different requirements of the space and so the nature of the design may include some while excluding others. There was also debate as to whether the Centre should cater predominantly for artists or the community, following which it was suggested that the design endeavour to cater for both simultaneously (e.g. offering community opportunity to see art in development, not just the final product). It was suggested, therefore, that all *uses* emerging from Workshop #1 should be catered for to some degree in the final Centre design.

Group feedback against each Workshop #1 Output is outlined below.

Workshop 1 Output		Group Feedback												
Users and uses														
<div><div><div>Artists</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professionals and amateurs• Visual artists• Multimedia artists• Performance artists (e.g. musicians)• 'Makers' (e.g. painters, photographers, sculptors)</div><div><div>Community</div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• All ages and intergenerational• Target groups (i.e. seniors, youth, families)• Budding or part-time artists, looking to learn• Consumers or 'experiencers' of art</div></div>		<p>Participants suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Community' be extended to include tourists• 'Community' includes passive users, not just active (i.e. those who need to be encouraged to get involved)• Performance artists and other artists have different requirements and differences exist within those subcategories as well (i.e. different needs of thespians vs musicians)• That one individual may work across more than one art form• 'Makers' includes more than those included as examples in the Workshop #1 report												
<table><tr><th></th><th>Artists</th><th>Community</th></tr><tr><td>Creation</td><td>Creating art</td><td>Witnessing the creation of art</td></tr><tr><td>Education</td><td>Teaching others their craft</td><td>Learning, in the case of budding artists</td></tr><tr><td>Connection</td><td>Networking</td><td>Finding</td></tr></table>			Artists	Community	Creation	Creating art	Witnessing the creation of art	Education	Teaching others their craft	Learning, in the case of budding artists	Connection	Networking	Finding	<p>Participants suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In relation to the 'creation' use, that inspiration is catalysed by witnessing the creation of art• The term 'budding' did not resonate with them
	Artists	Community												
Creation	Creating art	Witnessing the creation of art												
Education	Teaching others their craft	Learning, in the case of budding artists												
Connection	Networking	Finding												

	and being inspired by others	mentors, in the case of budding artists	
Exhibition	Preparing and exhibiting final art products	Experiencing artists' final products	

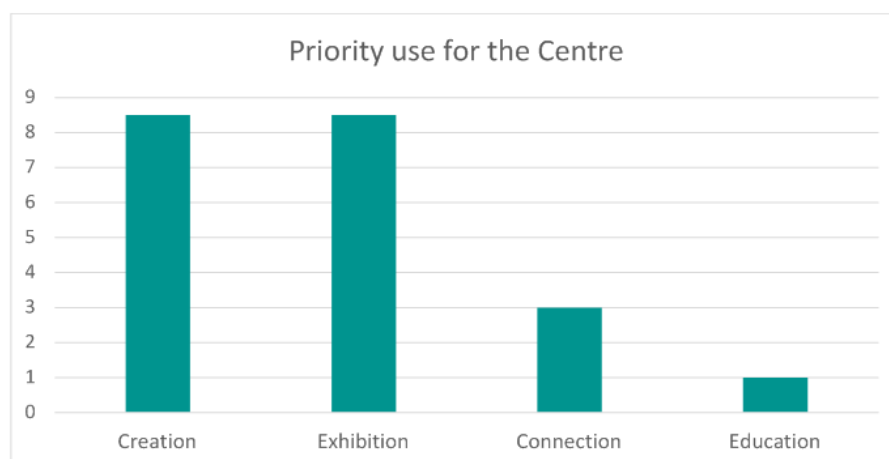
Design and other principles/considerations	
<p>Design principles</p>  <p>Design, operational and location considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility and useability• Connections and visibility• Flexible, multipurpose spaces• Hub and spoke design with focus on smaller spaces• Design with artist needs in mind• Allowing visitors to experience art• Supporting facilities• A place with 'soul'• Unique offerings• Budget considerations• Sustainable design	<p>Participants suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flexible was an important principle and that it would be realised – in part – through ‘multi-purpose’ spaces• Both ‘clean’ and ‘messy’ spaces should be included in the design• Accessibility was important, for artists as well as the community• That a combination of designated (i.e. specialist) and more flexible spaces would be required to strike an appropriate balance• ‘Sustainable’ included, for them, financial sustainability – not just environmental• Scheduling and coordination of spaces would be critical to the success of the Centre• ‘Pop-up’ functions would play a key role in establishing a flexible space for a diverse range of uses• The Centre would need to be sizeable if long-term (“block”) bookings and short-term (“pop-up”) uses were to both be accommodated• Not all spaces can be flexible if they are required to meet a particular artist’s needs (e.g. licensing, sound proofing and relevant equipment for musicians)
Suggested spaces	

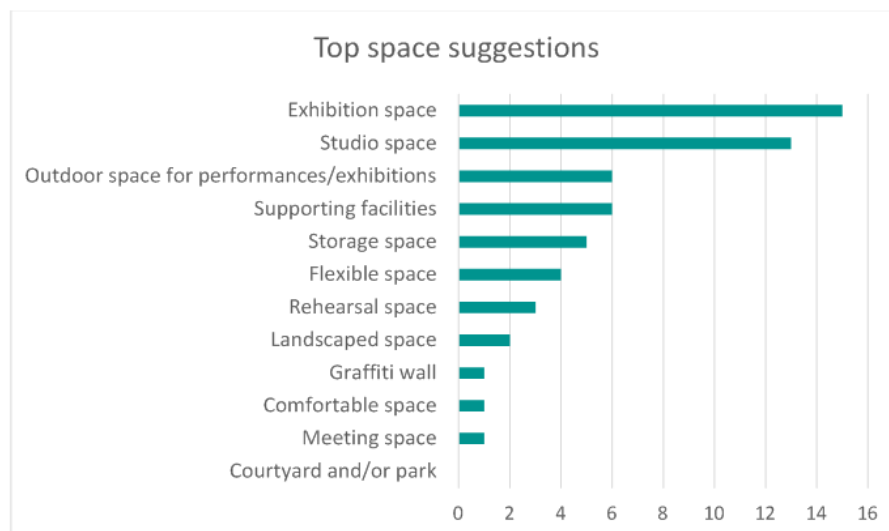
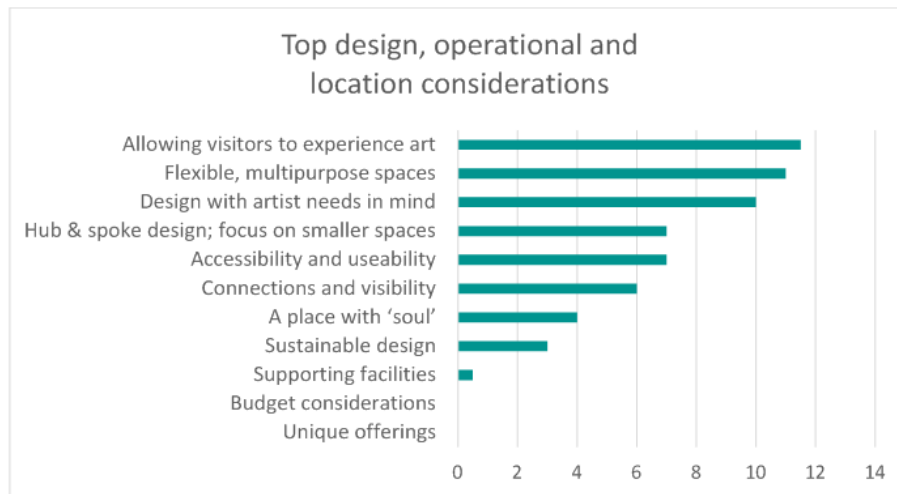
<p><i>Internal spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition space (i.e. gallery, screen, small performance spaces) • Studio space (including 'messy' work spaces) for 'making' • Rehearsal space • Meeting space • Flexible space (i.e. 'black box' theatre) • Comfortable space (e.g. 'chill' zone with couch) • Storage space, ideally near loading bay • Supporting facilities (e.g. toilets, changing rooms, kitchen, café, shopfront, Wi-Fi) • Graffiti wall <p><i>External spaces</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaped space (including with trees and sculptures) • Courtyard and/or park • Space (e.g. open air central pavilion with covering) for performances/exhibitions (e.g. stage shows, projection mapping, screening films) 	<p>Participants suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose spaces include moveable screen and doors • The Hazlehurst art space was a good example of a multi-purpose space • That some spaces are already catered for by other facilities in the local area
---	---

Prioritisation Exercise

Members placed dots against the Workshop #1 outputs to indicate their priority use, design/ operational/ location considerations, and spaces suggestions.

Overall, the Group indicated that 'creation' and 'exhibition' were priority uses for the Centre. They wanted the Centre design to meet the artists' needs, including flexible multipurpose spaces, while allowing visitors to experience art products and production. Studio and exhibition spaces were considered most important in delivering this.





Hands-on design workshop

Members used a range of materials, in three small groups, to prepare draft design concepts that addressed the priorities identified. More photographs of these designs are included at Appendix 3.

Participants were interested in whether the space would be a repurposed space or completely new, as many felt this would inform further action and ideas. Given that this information was not yet available, it was recommended by one participant that each group prepare designs that would fit on a typical rectangle plot of land and that might be possible to achieve using an existing rectangle building.



A common design narrative could be observed across the three designs presented by the groups:

Visitors to the Centre would pass through an open and inviting entrance, into a central courtyard. The courtyard would attract visitors with an operating café and other activities, such as workshops or performances. The space would be adaptable including, for example, a retractable roof to allow for indoor and outdoor activities.

The courtyard would be bordered on two sides by a network of rooms that could be used for various artistic purposes, including small studios, rehearsal spaces, interactive workshops and other 'pop-up' setups. The spaces would be glass-fronted – transparent and open – allowing visitors to the courtyard to observe art in-development.

The courtyard would also naturally flow into an exhibition space that local artists could book to display their works and where visitors could peruse at their leisure. An amphitheatre or similar outside the building might be an additional place for audiences to enjoy performances, films and other productions.

Through this design, visitors to the Centre would be drawn in by the café and courtyard activities and exposed to the creative process happening in the rooms around them. From there, it's hoped they might be inspired to engage more deeply with the Centre; purchasing artists' work, attending classes or producing their own art there.

Other ideas and design elements included:

- A 'raw function' area, such as toilets and storage, at the back behind the exhibition space
- A veranda at the front leading into the courtyard
- A gift shop at the end of the 'U shaped' series of studios and art space that visitors would naturally leave through
- Outward facing glass walls as so that the interior of the facility was visible to passers-by; a 'fishbowl' design
- Innovative classes, such as 3D printing and coding workshops, with the equipment to support them
- Reuse of old industrial materials in the new Centre, reflecting innovative and sustainable design models

Other comments from participants included:

- Concern that a 'fishbowl' design might influence the art production process
- Suggestion that the Centre should, in effect, embrace a 'hub and spoke' model
- Preference for 'high ceilings', with 'organic' and 'flowing' design
- Interest in the space being 'unique', with 'spirit and soul'
- Concern about what can be realistically achieved within a \$1 million budget

Testing possible locations

Through pre-workshop homework and during a small group activity, participants provided a wide range of ideas on locations for further consideration against the criteria below. Council will consider the list outlined below, as well as the criteria outlined above, as it prepares a shortlist for consideration at the third and final workshop.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Avalon Annex | • Mona Vale Pumphouse |
| • Avalon Cinema | • Mona Vale Bowling Club |
| • Avalon Golf Course club house | • Flannery's, Mona Vale |
| • Avalon Golf Club – third green | • Pittwater Plaza |
| • Avalon Rec Centre – Customer Service & Baby Health | • Dive Spear Sport, Mona Vale |
| • Avalon Beach & Whale Beach | • Gateway Building, Mona Vale |
| • Abandoned Fruit Shop, Robertson Road, Newport | • Fitness First, Mona Vale |
| • Mower Shop, Robertson Road, Newport | • Dan Murphy's, Mona Vale |
| • Newport Beach | • Council Offices, Mona Vale |
| • Warriewood | • Darley Street Warehouse, Mona Vale |
| • Winnererremy Bay, Mona Vale | • Governor Phillip Park, North Palm Beach |
| • Mona Vale Industrial Area | • Unspecified sites (i.e. surf clubs, schools) |

Setting location criteria

Members created 'Location Selection Criteria' in small groups, indicating what might elicit a small or high score against each criteria. These have been consolidated into one Criteria below.

Criteria	What would cause a high score?	What would cause a low score?
Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the village centre/ main road • Visible from a distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a back street or 'the middle of nowhere'
Supporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of a hub with other like or complimenting facilities (e.g. other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand alone; nothing connected or nearby

	<i>art offerings, library, café)</i>	
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to public transport • Accessible via foot or bicycle • Good access to parking 	
Unique/ 'Funky' point of difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural influence • Sculpture 	
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300sqm+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small and inadequate
Flexible outdoor space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for landscaping and usable outdoor space • Potential for plants and/or movable walls to open up access to green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confined space and/or no external outdoor space
Attractive location/ Visual appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space around and in the Centre is nice, including greenery and interesting history • Good design, allowing visitors to see inside (i.e. glass) 	
Fit-for-purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose built Centre 	
Reason to stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Café, restaurant or other reason to linger 	

Workshop #3 outputs

Review of Workshop #2 Outputs

Members commented, as a whole group, on the outputs of Workshop #2.

In Workshop #2, it was deemed important that visitors can experience art – both complete art and art *in-development*. Participants suggested that artist studios could be visible to the public so visitors can see them applying their craft. Some Workshop #3 participants expressed concerns about this approach, suggesting it could be too intrusive, while others suggested it would make the space more inviting for visitors while demystifying the art process and ideally encouraging them to get involved in art creation. Participants also expressed a desire for open workshops and spaces rather than small studios and emphasised the importance of glass walls in making the space more inviting for the public.

Workshop #2 design suggestions included the incorporation of a café in the Arts Space to attract visitors, in the hope that they would then interact with galleries and other parts of the centre once they were there. Some participants in Workshop #3 expressed concern about a café as part of the centre; suggesting that it may be too expensive and difficult to maintain. However, others suggested that the café would attract people, encourage them to linger, increase visibility of classes and other art displays, and increase the likelihood of the public approaching and interacting with artists.

Shortlisted locations

Council presented the following shortlisted locations (see Appendix 4) to the group, based on Workshop #2 suggestions and criteria, as well as Council's own additional research:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Avalon Golf Club House | 3. Avalon Bowling Green |
| 2. Avalon Annexe & Green Site | 4. Mona Vale Green Site |

Participants moved around the room, commenting on how well each location met the criteria from Workshop #2. Their comments are captured below:

	Avalon Golf Club House	Mona Vale Green Site	Avalon Annexe & Green Site	Avalon Bowling Green Site
Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located by a main road It is close to Coastal Walk Gateway to Avalon The trees obscure the view Concern for transportation and accessibility Opportunities for sign posting Avalon is not as central as Mona Vale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High visibility – very desirable High foot and car traffic Good location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With existing passersby with time to spare, there is potential for a wide variety of visitors Long site lines May not be visible unless you know where to look Avalon is not as central as Mona Vale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passersby could look in Landscape would need to be managed People need to learn it is there Low visibility People would come if it is the right offering of exhibitions / performances Avalon is not as central as Mona Vale
Supporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for tea room There is significant space for parking There is three-phase power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a village Existing café Large pub, playground, library and community hall nearby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With existing facilities, it is commercially viable The existing building could be used as studios and the new building for exhibition space/showcase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nearby loft upstairs, behind the RSL, could act as Annexe for performance, dance, opera etc.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearby bus stop Potential to draw an audience Too far from the end of the village – could this be extended? Unsuitable location for exhibition as people will not naturally be drawn in from the sidewalk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport is good – there is the B-line Main road Visible from road 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to shopping area Café to help fund facility Very accessible (unlike Creative Space) Connected to park Easy/effortless to pass through to it – ‘pass-by’ crowd It is in a community hub – nearby is the RSL bowling club and Recreational Centre No need to promote its presence – people are already near the site It is in the village and already part of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to people Limited public transport – bus 199 Could need to open up onto Dunbar park front face

	Avalon Golf Club House	Mona Vale Green Site	Avalon Annexe & Green Site the community	Avalon Bowling Green Site
<i>Visual appeal/design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for 'U' shaped extension Character Panoramic Outdoor studio potential Instant sanctuary Sandstone Connection to local history Incomprehensible location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Custom built Potential for design competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor appeal Boring design – would need to be modified Too many windows Spills out into park – there is a large curtilage No 'wow' factor – this could be created but is not visible from main road Not visible enough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large scope Nice outlook
<i>Outdoor Space</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor performance No potential for noise complaints Opens up space to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to lose green space – not good for nearby residents Village green – playground Outlook Performance Markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection Potential for outdoor space to be landscaped and used as exhibition space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could do anything with enough money Not going to be quiet, with music from bowling club and RSL
<i>Council's ownership/control</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of use – this will have a low impact to golf club and community May have local heritage constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a barrier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceiling needs to be raised or removed Commercial ability The existing building needs to be more visible Flexible function Easy building to modify Light weight construction easy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could create community backlash
<i>Vehicle access for delivery of work</i>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to customise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy – there are no space restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good
<i>Sufficient parking space</i>	50+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient lighting of carpark? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good

	Avalon Golf Club House	Mona Vale Green Site	Avalon Annexe & Green Site	Avalon Bowling Green Site
Fit-for-purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the most cost effective option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can build custom Could build out of cost-effective demountables or shipping containers Potential for staged construction, with future stages using additional funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing site will require re-build and new custom made studies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose built
'Creating': Studio space potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility for 3D studio work Three-phase power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate elsewhere Question over space 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor workspace Ceramics Sculpture See Richard Cole work
'Exhibiting': Exhibition space potential		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only a gallery may be possible within budget or perhaps other spaces for emerging artists to use 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be connected by design
'Connection': Social space potential		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connection to new Mona Vale performance space Is there an active arts community in Mona Vale? 		
'Learning': Education space potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for education spaces 			
Reason to stay (visitor experience)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to install a moat?? It is already a lovely space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pub Café Playground Natural hang-out spot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds another dimension to Avalon that improves whole village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great location for a café – existing business owners could be concerned Should be open 7 days
Number of people who voted as #1	6	6	5	1

Facilities, Functions, Focus & Flavour

Building on the outcomes from previous workshops, regarding priority uses, design and potential locations for the Art Space, they were asked to identify specific spaces, infrastructure, furniture, gadgets and more that they would like to see in the new Art Space.

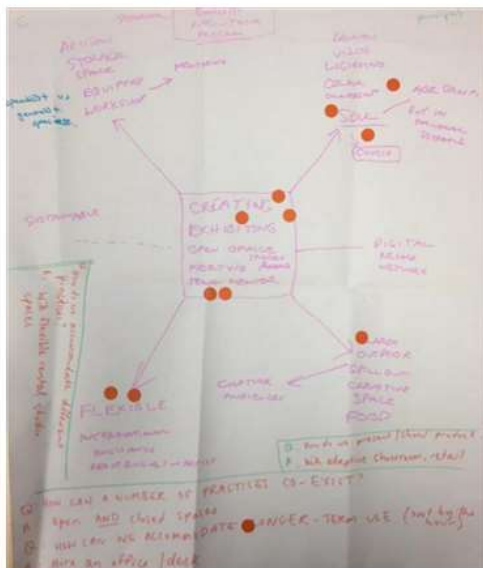
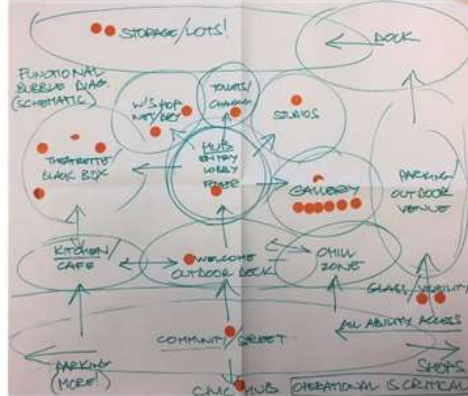
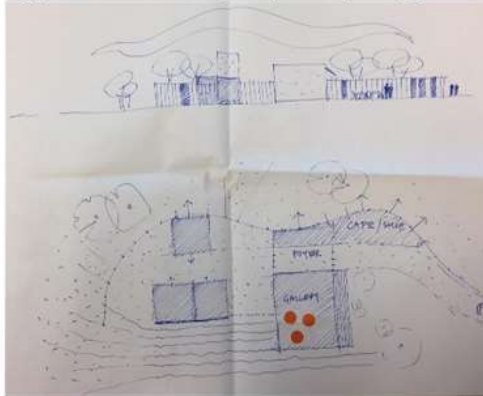
Another key theme throughout the workshop series was the importance of creating an Arts Space that is unique in some way. The Group was asked to focus and consider what the flavour of the place would be that set it apart from others like it.

To assist them in their thinking, participants were shown examples of facilities and functions (see Appendix 5) in other NSW arts centres, as well as the focus and flavour of these centres that set them apart. The range of ideas proposed across the three small groups are captured below.

Facilities & Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some participants wanted an Art Space that grew in stages, focusing first on “doing one thing well”. The Art Space was described by some as being highly visible, well-lit, offering 24 hour access and possibly including a café. It was suggested that the Art Space might run autonomously as a cooperative, with a small committee of at least 5 members, possibly by an Arts Co-ordinator or Director, with artists offering something back to the community for free. Large, flexible, multipurpose spaces – well programmed – could be used for preparing works (e.g. painting, ceramics, metal work, industrial offerings, sound recordings), running educational workshops (e.g. for kids), performing (e.g. small theatres), exhibiting (e.g. top class gallery), and selling art – with indoor and outdoor places to spend time. Participants suggested that specialist facilities should only be selected if there is sufficient demand. It was acknowledged that a sufficient operational budget would need to be in place to maintain these facilities and functions.
Focus & Flavour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that the Art Space should be more than just a gallery. Various participants described it as a community for artists (especially young artists) and a place to engage the broader community. Non-artists could be encouraged to relax and engage in ‘creative play’, passively consuming art or sharing experiences and directly interacting with activities (e.g. readings). Many participants spoke of the Art Space as offering a local experience, emphasising the unique character of the Northern Beaches in productions and products on sale for the local community and tourists. This might mean emphasising the area’s natural setting and celebrating Aboriginal art and – ideally – finding a beautiful location for the Centre. Sustainability could be a key focus for the centre, with an emphasis on recycled materials and sensitivity to the environment. Showcases might include installations, multimedia presentations, and contemporary art – supported by long term programming. Finally, the unique flavour of the Art Centre could be achieved through a ‘funky’ design with a large curtilage and long sightlines.

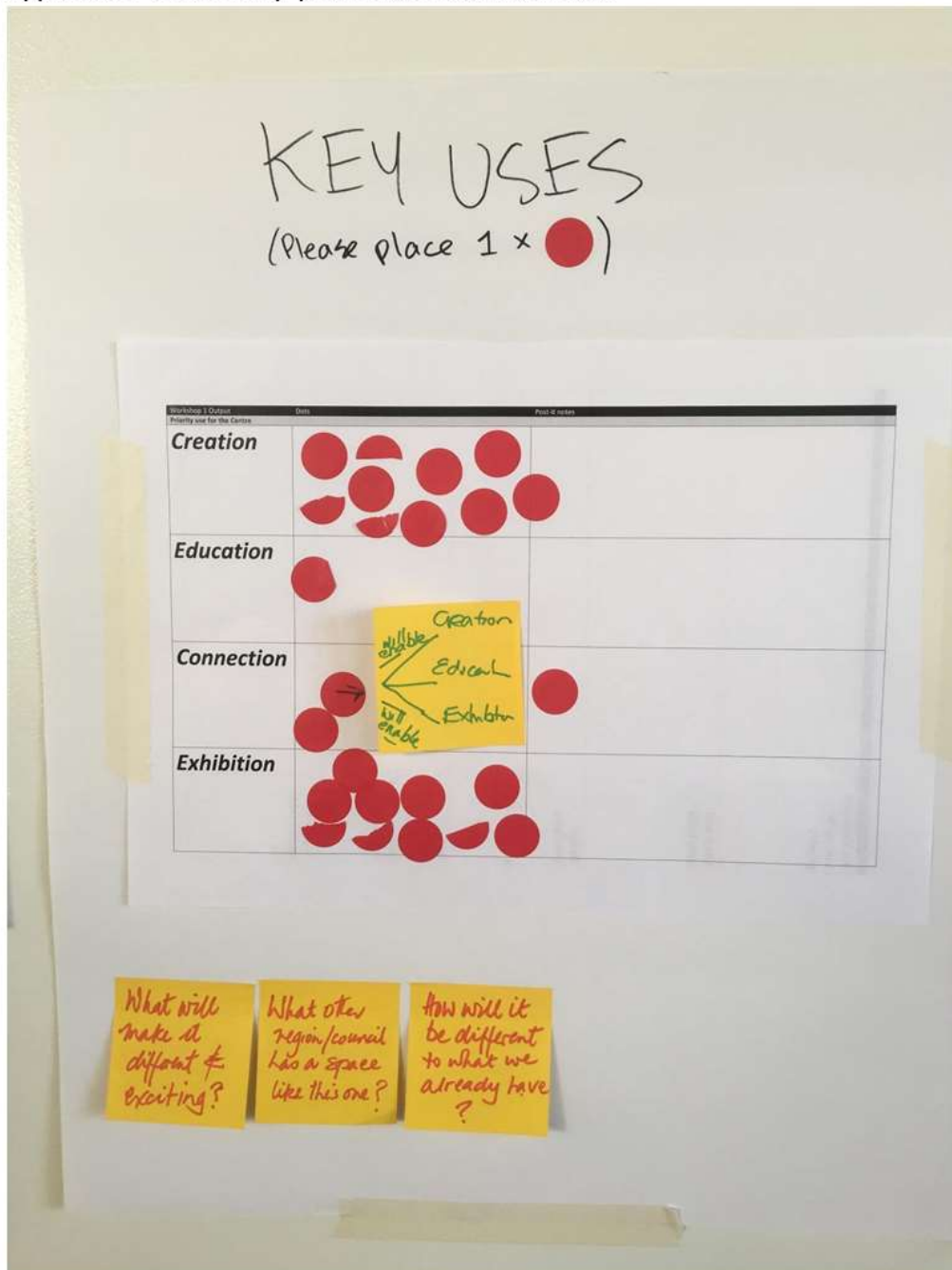
Appendix

Appendix 1. Small group design suggestions



- ### WHAT SPACES DO WE NEED?
- OUTDOOR/INDOOR - TRANSFORMABLE?
 - LIGHT (NATURAL) + ROOF - TRANSFORM?
 - MOVABLE WALLS - USING SMALLER ROOMS
 - FLEXIBILITY OF FLOORSPACE (RATIO)
 - FLAT?
 - MAJOR HUB + SEPARATE ELEMENTS - NEAR BEACH
 - RECTANGULAR? A - NEAR BEACH
 - ACCESSIBLE - TO GET TO (PUBLIC TRANSPORT FRIENDLY)
 - PARKING NEARBY
 - EASY TO GET TO (PUBLIC TRANSPORT FRIENDLY)
 - Sustainable - eg. kimbriki material
 - Studio spaces - containers
 - Workshop spaces - modular system (Yards)
 - Workshop spaces - different locations - NEED POWER
 - Prep - DISMANTLING & CHARACTER
 - Workshop spaces - SHORT RENT UPON (200k?)

Appendix 2. 'Dotmocracy' prioritisation exercise results



KEY DESIGN, OPERATION & LOCATION
CONSIDERATIONS
(Please place 3 x ●)

The image shows two pages of a dot grid notebook. The left page has a list of criteria on the left and red dots representing responses on the right. A yellow sticky note is placed on the page. The right page has a similar list of criteria with red dots representing responses.

Left Page Criteria and Responses:

- Accessibility and usability: 10 dots
- Connections and visibility: 10 dots
- Flexibility, multipurpose spaces: 10 dots
- Plot and space: design with focus on smaller spaces: 10 dots
- Design with social needs in mind: 10 dots

Yellow Sticky Note:

1. small to 200sqm
2. multi-use
3. all levels
4. 1st floor

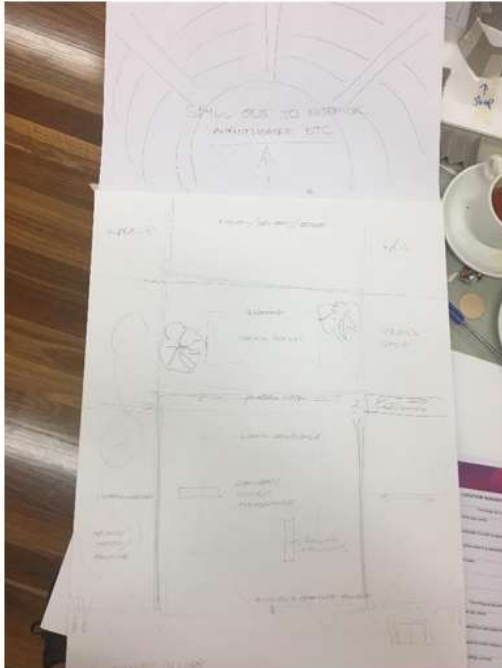
Right Page Criteria and Responses:

- Allowing visitors to experience art: 10 dots
- Supporting facilities: 10 dots
- A place with 'soul': 10 dots
- Unique offerings: 10 dots
- Budget considerations: 10 dots
- Sustainable design: 10 dots

SUGGESTED SPACES
(Please place 3 x ●)

The figure consists of two hand-drawn diagrams of a building floor plan, labeled 'Before' and 'After'. The 'Before' plan shows a high concentration of red circular markers (representing people) in the central corridor and meeting areas. The 'After' plan shows a more dispersed distribution, with people moving towards the perimeter spaces and the central area becoming less crowded.

Appendix 3. Hands-on design workshop concepts



Appendix 4. Shortlisted Locations – Presentation Slides



Location Shortlist

Creative Art Space



Avalon Golf Club House




Avalon Golf Club House

- 5 minute walk from village centre
- Active 9 hole golf course (low usage)
- Café onsite
- Car parking
- Heritage Building
- Outdoor courtyard space
- Council owned
- Large well ventilated area underneath extension




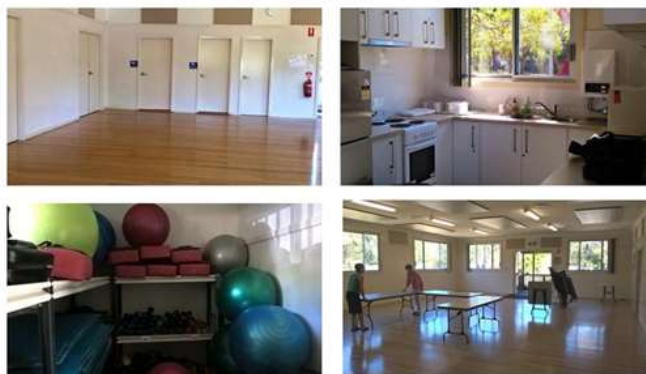
Avalon Annexe



Avalon Annexe

- In village centre
- Sits on Dunbar Park
- Across from Recreation centre, Library
- Close to cafes
- Car parking
- Basic rectangular shape
- Outdoor space
- Council owned
- Currently hired out to community users





Avalon Annexe & Green Site



Avalon Annexe & Green Site

- Green site sits opposite entrance of Annexe
- Would allow for custom designed studios
- 14m x 14m approx. usable space



Avalon Bowling Green



Avalon Bowling Green

- Part of village centre
- Car parking
- Green site
- Outdoor space
- Council owned
- Currently leased and used by bowling club
- Visually concealed by trees and shrubs
- Roadway runs along side access point



Mona Vale Green Site



Mona Vale Green Site

- Village centre
- Close to library, playground, open space
- Accessible to passers-by
- Close to cafe's
- Car parking in town centre
- B-Line access
- Crown land
- Green site – custom design



Sydney office

Level 9, 2 Elizabeth Plaza, North Sydney NSW 2060
PO Box 302, North Sydney NSW 2059
T 02 9955 5040

Melbourne office

Suite 1102, 503 Little Collins Street Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 16215, Collins Street West VIC 8007
T 03 9005 2030

E info@kjassoc.com.au | www.kjassoc.com.au