The City of Greater Bendigo will creatively lead and support our growing community and businesses to realise their potential

COMMUNITY ART SPACE SCOPING STUDY

July, 2009
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With community arts, everyone benefits. It’s where professional artists and local communities join forces in every imaginable art form, to create new bridges of understanding, regeneration and opportunities. It’s art that goes anywhere and everywhere - into schools, local halls, hospitals and prisons, outback dots on the map, playgrounds and city streets. It’s about access and engagement, and sustained outcomes.

In Australia, community arts have a long and inspiring record. They’ve helped recovery efforts after natural disasters, moved young people off the treadmill of boredom to exciting challenges, guided communities forward in the face of social and economic change, and turned the aging years into a celebration of life, self-discovery and growth. For many Australians, they’re pathways to local pride.

Mix artists and communities, and watch what happens. (Australian Council for the Arts – OZCO website)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Real art is one of the most powerful forces in the rise of humankind, and he who renders it accessible to as many people as possible is a benefactor of humanity. Zoltan Kodaly

The need for a community art space/s was identified as one of several key priority areas for implementation as part of the Arts and Cultural Strategy 2008-2011. During the research phase of the Arts and Cultural Strategy there was a strong desire expressed by community members for development of a Community Art Centre.

The Scoping Study commenced late March 2009 and this report is the result of that body of work. The specific aim of the scoping project was to identify the requirements for the development of a community art space (or spaces) and to identify appropriate and existing building stock that would accommodate a community art space.

The City of Greater Bendigo is committed to community arts through the programs facilitated by Community and Cultural Development (CCD), however it has been acknowledged, by the community arts sector, that the sector is restricted and hampered in its growth and opportunities, by a lack of a physical presence and focus in the City.

The major area of need has been identified in the visual arts and crafts, community art development sectors, especially a space for young people. Although there are spaces dotted across the municipality, these are predominantly exhibition spaces. There is a huge need to provide a safe, central, flexible, affordable space, with meeting rooms, exhibition, studio and workshop spaces where diverse programs can be delivered by the community for the community.

Although the City of Greater Bendigo successfully operates two key cultural facilities, The Capital-Bendigo’s Performing Arts Centre and the Bendigo Art Gallery there is a big gap in arts delivery at the community arts level. The community arts sector’s desire is for a community arts space, a space where the cultural development process can occur.

Their vision is for a central community arts space in Bendigo and satellite spaces in Heathcote, Elmore, Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk. These places will provide space where the broadest sector of society, children, youth, people living with disability, Indigenous, multicultural and emerging communities can connect with one another and engage in and experience the arts. Places where diversity, creativity and self expression are celebrated, central to community life and community engagement.
1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the City of Greater Bendigo commissioned an Arts and Cultural Strategy for the next three years. The need for a community art space/s was identified as one of several key priority areas for implementation as part of the Arts and Cultural Strategy 2008-2011. During the research phase of the Arts and Cultural Strategy there was a strong desire expressed by community members for development of a community art centre.

The City of Greater Bendigo allocated funds to undertake the Community Arts Space Scoping Study. Mentors and Business Coaches International (MBCI) was awarded the contract to undertake the scoping study and commenced the project late March 2009.

City of Greater Bendigo acknowledges the impact that a dynamic and vibrant arts sector has to the economic life of the City and the attraction to new residents and commercial companies. It has long been acknowledged that arts, culture and leisure activities add to the liveability of a city and that companies look to the regions with the greatest liveability factors when choosing where to locate their business operations.

Community based arts workers, cultural practitioners and artisans have long argued the case that a dynamic cultural sector encourages a healthy, functional community. The research supports this thinking that a sense of well being and individual self esteem is built up through participation in arts and cultural activities. The arts can be a catalyst for providing opportunities for social interaction, developing a sense of belonging and pride of place, boosting self esteem, and providing entertainment, pleasure and relaxation.

“It is through the things we do together as groups and communities that we gain a sense of collective identity, a sense of place and a sense of belonging.” Cultural Development Network [www.ccd.net](http://www.ccd.net)

Bendigo benefits from a vibrant arts precinct which is located around View Street in the heart of Bendigo. The arts precinct is home to The Bendigo Art Gallery, one of Australia’s finest regional galleries, The Capital – Bendigo’s Performing Arts Centre and LaTrobe University’s Visual Arts Centre. View Street attracts residents and tourists alike with its many restaurants, galleries and antique shops.

A tour around surrounding districts also highlights the importance of arts and culture, with stunning historical architecture across the municipality, public art displayed within parks, gardens and civic spaces, including the many private studios and galleries dotted around the CBD, surrounding neighbourhoods and small townships.

The City of Greater Bendigo supports the community art sector through the Community and Cultural Development Unit (CCD). CCD administers funding programs, community events and facilitates a range of arts and cultural programs and services that engage residents of all ages across a broad section of the community including young people, seniors, Indigenous community, multicultural and emerging communities and people living with disability.
CCD uses a range of methods to encourage broad community participation in the arts, programs and events are based on the principles of Community Cultural Development, this methodology may be defined by the following:

- Encourage an exchange of skills and experiences between members of the community and professional community based artists;
- The development of work lead by professional community artists which is informed by members of a community and may address an issue of concern or interest to the community;
- Active participation of community members in arts based activities across a range of art forms and mediums i.e. singing, dance, visual arts, multimedia, music;
- Social change through art; and/or social change through collaborative arts and cultural activities.

The City of Greater Bendigo is committed to community arts through the programs facilitated by CCD, however it has been acknowledged, by the community arts sector, that the sector is restricted and hampered in its growth and opportunities, by a lack of a physical presence and focus in the City.

Currently there are two shops owned by the City of Greater Bendigo in the Allan’s Walk Arcade that are being used by Allan’s Walk Artists Run Space Inc, (AWARS). AWARS was established in 2000 with the support of CCD, whilst it was not the first artist run space, it is the longest running. In the 1980’s local artists established a studio space in a Lyttleton Terrace warehouse which is now a retail outlet.

There are many examples of the transformation of whole communities through integrating community art with community planning. The Renew Newcastle project in New South Wales demonstrates the power that arts and culture can have in transforming a city. This project is a partnership between community arts people who together have revitalised the CBD of Newcastle, the seventh largest city in Australia by locating arts projects in empty buildings around the city.

The City of Greater Bendigo, as a whole, is a diverse and extensive region with many individual townships and rural communities each with their own needs and challenges. With the rich cultural life focussed on the centre of Bendigo, many of these outlying communities have a desire to develop their own opportunities with facilities and resources to meet the needs of their local residents and to build opportunities for their district.

There is tremendous potential to further develop, support and celebrate our vibrant arts and cultural sector in particular our community arts sector, and to acknowledge the creative capacity of all residents, at a community level, through the establishment of a Community Arts Hub. The development of community arts spaces would strengthen the City's reputation as a vibrant place to live, visit and invest.
2. PROCESS

The process undertaken for this scoping project included the following elements:

**Phase 1 – Community Consultation**
- an audit of existing reports, programs, policies
- interviews with key stakeholders and community groups
- surveying the broader community
- community forums
- research of successful models in other municipalities

**Phase 2 – Identified Community needs**
- interviews with key Council Officers
- an audit of building stock
- audit of existing community arts activities and spaces
- inspection of appropriate properties

**Phase 3 – Presenting the Opportunities**
- presentation of the draft report of recommended models to key stakeholders for review and feedback
- balancing the dream and the reality – the most appropriate model
- drawing together the final action plan with conclusions and recommendations

The approach undertaken was in three stages and commenced with an analysis of need which was drawn from desk research, interviews, surveys and four community forums. Forums were held in the Bendigo Town Hall that attracted over 130 participants, and 20 from Heathcote and Elmore. The online survey was widely promoted through the networks of community groups and responded to by over 100 residents.

One on one interviews with key community stakeholders were conducted, including groups such as Indigenous, disability, youth sector, women’s groups, arts and community, education, Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, +25 Arts and Cultural Action Group, YMCA, BRIT, St Lukes, DHS, LaTrobe University, The Bendigo Art Gallery, The Capital Bendigo’s Performing Art Centre.

Council officers representing Community and Cultural Development, Marketing and Major Events, City Futures, Organisational Support, Planning, Property, Presentation and Assets, Community Wellbeing, Major Projects, Bendigo Library, City Architect and Urban Designer, and representatives from other government agencies were also engaged in the process to ensure opportunities for broad input (see Appendices). This was followed by research of the key success factors and facilities of a number of community arts spaces and business models from across Australia.

The second phase of the project identified possible sites from existing building stock available. This phase focused on information gathered from City of Greater Bendigo officers, reports, identification and inspection of existing facilities across the City and Townships. The consultation phase engaged community members representing over 89 different community arts groups, an
audit of venue usage revealed that a total of 80 venues are currently being used by and/or under used by the arts community.

From this work the report outlining the proposed models and recommendations was put forward for open discussion and comment. The final report was then submitted to Council for consideration prior to approval and adoption, to be implemented by CCD and other City of Greater Bendigo Officers as appropriate.
3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The strategic context for undertaking the Community Arts Space Scoping Study is centered on the Bendigo +25 Community Plan, City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2009 – 2013 and the Greater Bendigo Arts and Cultural Strategy 2008-2011. An analysis of other City of Greater Bendigo plans and documents including the District community plans and other local research data was reviewed as part of an audit of existing reports, programs and policies.

**Bendigo +25 Community Plan**

The Bendigo +25 Community set out the following Arts and Cultural achievements and actions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts &amp; Culture</th>
<th>Key Achievements in 2030 Greater Bendigo will...</th>
<th>Actions We will do this by...</th>
<th>Key Stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Achieve worldwide recognition for our progressive Arts Education from early years to tertiary and beyond</td>
<td>1. Developing an integrated Arts School (Centres) which is fully utilised by Community Groups and Schools. 2. Establishing one or more professional Performing Arts Companies.</td>
<td>Community Groups, Bendigo Art Gallery, The Capital, Educational bodies, Funding bodies, Library groups, Museum groups, Historical groups, City of Greater Bendigo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have a vibrant and diverse Arts &amp; Culture scene that enhances liveability</td>
<td>1. Developing an enhanced library/information facility. 2. Increasing the number of local, national and international exhibitions, with international standards of storage. 3. Establishing a community television station, a daily Arts Section in the local newspaper and an active film industry.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Have an Arts &amp; Culture scene that is supported by high quality infrastructure</td>
<td>1. Developing a Performing Arts Complex that includes a choice of state of the art professional theatres seating from 200 to 1000 which is fully utilised by community groups, national and international acts. 2. Establishing a centralised collection storage facility (historical, art, archival library) on a major scale surrounded by museum display areas visited by tourists and researchers from near and far. 3. Creating an outstanding display of public art in the streets and parks.</td>
<td>Community Groups, Bendigo Art Gallery, The Capital, Educational bodies, Funding bodies, Library groups, Museum groups, Historical groups, City of Greater Bendigo.</td>
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**Actions from City of Greater Bendigo Council Plan 2009-2013**

- Engage with cultural groups within the municipality to assist them to celebrate their cultures and to integrate within the broader community.
- Work with the community to make the best of assets and facilities through shared use, high levels of use, good maintenance, improved accessibility and replacement programs.
- Support diverse and vibrant arts and cultural program that challenges community thinking and encourages appreciation and participation.
- Continue to implement the Arts and Cultural Strategy by range of actions including supporting temporary/permanent public art and events and activities.
- Undertake refurbishments as identified in the Community Arts Space Scoping Study.
- Facilitate the development of arts for health programs as Youth Arts Network and Arts for Children Network.
Arts and Cultural Strategy

The Arts and Cultural Strategy was adopted by Council on March 2005. One of the most popular requests put forward by the community during the research phase of the Strategy was the desire for a community arts centre. This arts centre was described as a place to meet, engage in various arts activities, rehearse, store materials and display finished art works and to provide facilities and programs to meet the needs of all residents and community interest groups.

4. Community Arts Facilities and Programs

To provide facilities and programs to meet the needs of residents and community interest groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE MANAGER</th>
<th>TIMELINES</th>
<th>PARTNERS</th>
<th>INDICATIVE COST</th>
<th>PROGRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Undertake a scoping project to identify the requirements for a Community Arts Space</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Consultant-ACAC, +25 Arts and Culture Action Group NCGRL</td>
<td>$10,000-$20,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2 Identify appropriate building stock that will accommodate the Community Arts Space</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Property Unit</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3 Plan and complete refurbishment of selected facility for Community Arts space</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>Asset Planning and Design</td>
<td>Dependant on building</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.4 Commence programming in the Community Arts Space</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Local artists and arts providers</td>
<td>Dependant on programming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Provide ongoing funding for outreach programs for arts and cultural activities in suburban neighbourhoods and townships</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>Annual and on going</td>
<td>Youth services, Use existing CCD/youth staff to develop programming</td>
<td>No additional</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.6 Develop support and provide increased funding for a diverse range of annual programs, including programs linked with children</td>
<td>Manager Community &amp; Cultural Development</td>
<td>Annual and on going</td>
<td>CCD, ACAC and +25 Action Group, various community</td>
<td>As per general programming budget, Additional funding</td>
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Integration with other Council Strategies

Actions from City of Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2008-2011

- Investigate the opportunities to build intergenerational relationships using current networks and projects e.g. Youth Arts Network, Lead On.
- Continue to build partnerships and projects that support greater participation in community life for all residents eg. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), people living with disabilities and Indigenous residents.
- To increase multipurpose community facilities, linked by infrastructure that supports community interaction and enhances access for residents of all ages and abilities
- Implementation of Arts for Health initiative
- Support young people, including disengaged youth to strengthen support to Bendigo’s young people and build their resilience and capacity to engage in life’s opportunities
- Implement Arts for Children program
**Actions from Bendigo CBD Plan**

- The Civic Precinct will provide a location within which a number of government, Council and community-based activities locate. There will be functional benefits in the co-location of some uses and benefits to the community in having similar activities located nearby to each other, and outside, but still close to, the Retail Core
- Commission Public Art to enliven pedestrian routes
- Investigate opportunities to showcase youth art, possibly through commissioning of art or sculpture, or student displays in public areas such as the Hargreaves Mall
- Involve educational institutions in developing student input to public issues in the CBD such as vox pop activities, surveys, art competitions.

**Elmore and District Community Plan**

Elmore residents who participated in the Scoping Study revealed that there was need to develop social infrastructure to support young people and a place to engage in arts activity. The need for a designated youth meeting place is identified in the Elmore and District Community Plan. The action is listed below.

- A permanent Youth meeting place and activities designed and run by them, facilitated by peer organisation. ref p 28 Elmore and District Community Plan

**Heathcote and District Community Plan**

Heathcote residents who participated in the Scoping Study revealed that there was need to develop an appropriate space to exhibit, run workshops and set up studios where they could work alongside each other and store their materials and works in progress. Listed below is an extract from the Heathcote and District Community Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL 2: Celebrate and encourage the diversity of our cultural groups and activities</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACTIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Encourage and support events and opportunities for activities, exhibitions and performance e.g. music, dance, art &amp; crafts.</td>
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<td>2.2 Support, promote and participate in local cultural &amp; historical initiatives.</td>
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<td>2.3 Encourage links between cultural groups throughout the district.</td>
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<td>2.4 Develop a process for publicising community events via Heathcote website, Melvor Times, other relevant media outlets &amp; local newsletters.</td>
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<td>2.5 Petition CoGB to allow use of RSL Hall to community “not for profit” groups at minimal or no cost.</td>
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<td>2.6 Investigate feasibility of developing a cinema/performance venue</td>
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External Research Data

Community and Cultural Development has participated in a range of arts based research projects such as the Australia Research Council Linkages Scheme - Risky Business; A cross disciplinary investigation of creative arts as intervention activity for young people at risk in Urban and Rural Victoria, Living the Arts – A Community Arts and Disability research project in partnership with Golden City Support Services, Latrobe University, Bendigo Health Care Group, DHS and Peter Harcourt Services, Snap Shot Appreciative Inquiry and Kick Start professional development for community arts practitioners working with young people.

Analysis of this research data outlines the many health and wellbeing benefits associated with participation in arts and cultural activities. The research data also demonstrated the need for developing appropriate Community Arts Space(s) across the municipality.

Greater value needs to be afforded arts activities, and a wider range of options developed, in order for people to maximise the health and wellbeing benefits to be gained from engagement in arts activities. Arts venues need to include exhibition and performance spaces to ensure the work of people with disabilities can be seen by the community and contribute to social connectedness and inclusion. Living the Arts, 2008

4. OVERVIEW EXISTING COMMUNITY ARTS SECTOR

The strength of community arts process is its ability to bring diverse people together around a common project and sense of purpose” Vic Health

The Bendigo region has an active community arts sector made up of arts workers, community cultural development practitioners, arts students, hobbyists, amateurs, emerging and professional artists. The sector works across a diverse range of both traditional and contemporary art forms and contributes to the shaping of our unique and vibrant social and cultural landscape.

The City of Greater Bendigo is committed to community arts through the programs facilitated by Community and Cultural Development, however is has been acknowledged by the community arts sector that it is restricted and hampered in its growth and opportunities, by a lack of a physical presence and focus in the City.

Greater Bendigo also benefits from the active Arts for Health sector, there are many community focussed agencies and organisations who have integrated arts programs into their core service delivery to engage disadvantaged and marginalised sectors of the community in the arts.

Arts for Health initiatives provide pathways to address social isolation and disconnectedness and provide employment opportunities for community based artists and cultural workers. To date the Bendigo Youth Arts Network has provided employment opportunities for over 50 professional community based artists and engaged over 800 disadvantage young people in arts based activities and community events.

In general Arts for Health programs are led by a professional community based artist and programs may include storytelling, dance, multimedia, community singing and performing arts. CCD facilitates a range of arts based programs through the Bendigo Youth Arts Network and Children’s Arts initiative.

The Arts are an important indicator of the health of a community and can be used to disseminate health messages and help to create healthy communities. National Rural Health Alliance Newsletter July 2009

Other Models

Other municipalities have demonstrated that a physical presence increases participation and community engagement across the broader community. Rockhampton in Queensland has created a significant community arts facility in an historic building in their city offering studio spaces for emerging artists and a gathering place for the community to experience art in a way that is not possible in traditional venues. It has created a hub that attracts up to 6,500 users and 200 hires per annum.

Wodonga City Council in Victoria has developed a central hub that creates a flow of pedestrian traffic around a joint Library and Artspace with an adjoining grassed area where events and outdoor activities co-program with arts and library activities. This combined venue is able to offer school art classes, holiday workshops, access for the craft group, eclectic unique exhibitions,
intimate performances, workshops, recitals and forums, local, regional and imported exhibitions. This hub also includes a separate Senior Citizens centre, meeting and seminar rooms and is centrally located alongside the Civic Centre. The very nature of the shared spaces breaks down the barriers to arts and culture engagement, as the arts meet the community where it is at.

Box Hill in Melbourne’s outer east has a purpose built community arts centre that from its very inception, involved community in the design of the building. Local schools and arts groups made the tiles that decorate the external façade and some internal walls. It is now 20 years on and its popularity and attraction to the wider community is testament to several factors. The positioning in the middle of the shopping strip and transport hub makes the venue and its programs accessible, the initial strong consultation and community involvement, especially with young people and the arts community have ensured loyalty over the long term for this centre. It offers a targeted program and a range of facilities that provide flexible space for over 55 user groups.

Newcastle is a wonderful example of a city transformed by focusing on the arts. In the CBD the vacant shopfronts and empty buildings were made available to the arts community for temporary window displays, workshop spaces and studios. This created life, activity and a vibrant culture that was attractive to residents, visitors and landlords. In Newcastle a vacant Catholic Primary School has been redeveloped into an arts space, utilised by over 50 community groups, from youth to the aged, with 50 studios for artists, fully let and generating income for the facility.

**Community Strengthening**

*Community strengthening aims to build collaborative relationships between individuals and groups to achieve common objectives. It supports people to become more active, confident and resilient and aims to marshal these attributes at the community level to create stronger social institutions, improved wellbeing and increased social and economic opportunities.* Victorian Government 2006

Current research highlights the fact that communities that offer opportunities for involvement in the arts have happier, healthy tolerant communities by empowering individuals by being places of connection and support.

*Participation in Arts and Culture was measured in the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Respondents were asked if they had participated in a range of activities in the previous month, including painting, drawing, art and craft, playing musical instruments, singing, writing and performing. 51.3% of persons in Greater Bendigo had participated in at least one of the selected artistic and cultural activities in the previous month, compared to 47.9% in the Loddon Mallee Region and the Victorian State average of 46.6%. [www.communityindicators.com.au](http://www.communityindicators.com.au)*

*Over the course of the last decade a growing number of authors have emphasised the importance of community participation for successful health promotion outcomes’ Social Connectedness and Health Goetz Ottmann 2006, p6*
The Victorian State Government, working in partnership with Local Government, is delivering a range of community strengthening initiatives for this very reason. These projects aim to build local community capacity through engaging people to get involved at a local level for their own benefit as well as the benefit of the wider community.

Much of the literature on strengthening communities and developing social capital reveals that success is achieved when stakeholders work together in partnership. The City of Greater Bendigo has engaged in extensive community consultation with the aim of working in partnership with the community to develop a number of strategies for the City.

**Bendigo Community Arts Space**

The brief for the scoping study asked for extensive community consultation to identify the need for community arts space/s and identification of appropriate existing building stock. After extensive consultation with residents and the arts community of Greater Bendigo it was clear that the following key common needs were expressed:

- Access to affordable, flexible art making spaces that are central to their city or township;
- Places that offer storage and space for developing and making work, either as workshop, studio or rehearsal space;
- Separate places to exhibit and perform;
- A gathering place for interaction, research and collaboration, and
- A space that offers opportunities to run programs to attract and cater for young people and marginalised groups.

Further investigation, including interviews and inspection of various facilities revealed that the performing arts community was well catered for with two excellent community operated spaces for rehearsal and development work. The Bendigo Theatre Company has an old drill hall, which with many volunteer hours, fundraising and Council support they have developed to meet the needs of their membership. Bendigo Community Arts have access to a substantial complex at Golden Square where they can meet, explore new work and rehearse. Both these groups use The Capital Bendigo’s Performing Arts Centre and the Old Fire Station as venues for their public performances.

The major area of need has been identified in the visual arts and crafts, community art development sectors, especially for a space for young people. Although there are spaces such as Specimen Cottage, Allan’s Walk Artists Run Space and the Conservatory in Rosalind Park, these are predominantly exhibition spaces. There is a huge need to provide a safe, central, flexible, affordable space, with meeting rooms, exhibition, studio and workshop spaces where diverse programs can be delivered by the community for the community.
5. FINDINGS

5.1 Community Consultation

The first phase of the project study provided the opportunity to hear the voices of the community through face to face interviews, responses to the survey, and the community forums. These conversations revealed that there are two sectors of arts activities in the region, which is consistent with other municipalities.

The first sector is the community arts sector, where groups and individuals experience arts and culture, as individual emerging artists working from their home studios, or arts groups working on joint community projects. These community projects engage the broader community and often attract those who may not normally attend or participate in arts events and activities.

The second sector is the professional and established arts area that includes practitioners and audiences looking to engage in high end arts and cultural experiences such as exhibitions and performance. These exhibitions and performances are presented in venues such as the Bendigo Art Gallery, the Capital, and LaTrobe University’s Visual Art Centre.

This project was managed by the Community and Cultural Development Unit (CCD) to explore opportunities to develop community arts facilities and programs that meet the needs of residents and community interests groups. The City of Greater Bendigo through CCD gathered the arts community and Greater Bendigo residents together for the consultation phase of this project.

This process identified the primary needs of the community arts sector as access to affordable, flexible art making spaces that are central to their city or township, that offer storage and space for developing their work, either as studio or rehearsal space, and separate places to exhibit and perform. Residents expressed a desire for a gathering place for interaction, research and collaboration to build community capacity and meet community needs.
5.2 Identified Community Needs

**Bendigo**
The major area of need has been identified in the visual arts and crafts, community art development sectors, especially for a space for young people. There is a huge need to provide a safe, central, flexible, affordable space, with meeting rooms, exhibition, studio and workshop spaces where diverse programs can be delivered by the community for the community.

**Townships**
The City of Greater Bendigo has a number of townships that were highlighted during the consultation as communities where the arts were a focus and interest to the community. Community groups involved in the arts include, artists, craftspeople, sculptors, theatre and performing arts groups, musicians and writers all looking for places to work, rehearse and develop their work and then affordable venues to exhibit and perform.

The overarching need in these townships is for resources, physical spaces, equipment, technology resources, human resources and financial support. Due to the diversity of groups and needs across the different townships, each area requires a different solution and level of support.

**Heathcote**
Heathcote was identified as having a strong visual arts community. The Heathcote Artists Inc is a typical example of a community arts group from this sector whose pressing needs reflect the key issues identified by others. This dynamic group of over 85 members, the largest incorporated arts group in Central Victoria, work individually, but gather together for joint exhibitions and workshops to encourage and motivate each other. They bring their art to the community, even to the streets, setting up in places where the community is able to join in or just watch artists at work.

Their cry is for appropriate places to exhibit, run workshops and set up studios where they could work alongside each other and store their materials and works in progress. The community forum revealed that most artists work and meet in homes and that the local Neighbourhood House, Senior Citizens, RSL Hall, Golf Club and Bowls Club offered space to some of the groups. Access and pricing was often very restrictive.

The current City of the Greater Bendigo office is under used and with redesign and reconfiguration of the internal walls this building could be reconfigured to offer gallery space to community arts groups. Further investigation by the City of Greater Bendigo would be required but there is real potential to maximise use of this space to create a vibrant hub in Heathcote.

It is also understood that there are plans for a new Fire Station. If that were the case, the Old Fire Station would be an ideal home for the arts community, providing workshop and exhibition space.

The Heathcote Community Plan has a strategy focused on Culture and History. The actions identify the need for subsidy for rental of the RSL Hall, a feasibility of a cinema and performance venue, a desire for greater links between arts and cultural groups and support of exhibitions, music and art.
Artists and other new enterprises are coming to the district attracting a large following. This influx, together with growth in business and tourism ventures will contribute to our future development. Jock Granter (resident of Heathcote for 54 years) Heathcote and District Community Plan, 2007

**Elmore**

Elmore has the advantage of a range of buildings that have been well maintained and used over the years. The Athenaeum and the Memorial Hall offer a range of opportunities for rehearsal and performance, touring shows, school productions, meeting rooms and workshop spaces in close proximity to the centre of the township.

The first step for Elmore would be to establish an arts network to build their social infrastructure to support and develop community lead arts and cultural activities and events. Their desire is to establish arts programs to support and engaged young people in the area. The City of Greater Bendigo’s Community and Cultural Development Unit could assist the community to establish an arts group that could be based at the Memorial Hall as it has meeting rooms, a kitchen and ample space for a range of arts activities and programs.

The Elmore Community Plan talks of the potential for tourism, projects and events to increase visitation. It mentions procurement of a space for young people, festivals and an art show in its list of aspirations. There is also mention of the unused shopfronts and like the Newcastle example; here is an opportunity to partner with landlords to use the vacant shopfronts in the main street for arts displays and the shops themselves as studio spaces.

**Eaglehawk**

This outer suburb has a culture and presence of its own, even though it is not far from the central Bendigo city. Eaglehawk has a proud history with a number of historically significant buildings. The Star Cinema has been a local focus for those interested in art house films and is used by many community groups for fundraisers and special events.

Some appropriate spaces have been identified within the Cultural Heritage Precinct of Eaglehawk, such as the upstairs room at the back of the Eaglehawk Town Hall building directly above the stage area. This space could be converted to an arts studio, although that space has no disability access which could be prohibitive for artists living with disability.

There are a number of privately owned buildings in Eaglehawk that may be appropriate for the community arts sector. Should one of these buildings become available and depending on its ability to offer workshop, meeting and studio space, this could a solution for local artists. There is also a range of venues and facilities such as community halls and community centres, potential also exists to explore partnerships between the community and education sector.

**Kangaroo Flat**

This is a growing area and there are a number of church halls and other public buildings including the JB Osborne Theatre which is used by arts groups. Again the need is for studio spaces and workshop venues where programs can be run to engage and connect with the local community who may not have had the opportunity to participate in arts activities. The Kangaroo Flat community is currently developing their community plan. The draft plan outlines the following actions; to redevelop the JB Osborne Theatre as a local arts, performance and voice education site and to investigate and develop relationships with local artists to increase the variety and diversity of arts provision within the school both within and outside of schools hours.
5.3 Existing City of Greater Bendigo resources

The City of Greater Bendigo through Community and Cultural Development (CCD) works in many areas of community engagement and development, supporting and facilitating initiatives focussing on arts and culture, youth, cultural diversity, community transport, community safety, Aboriginal reconciliation, community connectedness, leadership, new residents, international relationships, natural environment, community events and temporary Public Art.

CCD works in partnership with industry partners to support the growth of the community arts sector. Over a period of many years a range of projects have been facilitated in association with Craft Victoria, Australian Business Arts Foundation, Australia Centre for the Moving Image, Film Victoria, Melbourne Fringe Festival, Cultural Development Network, Regional Arts Victoria, Regional Arts Australia, Vic Health, Regional Cultural Development Network, Arts Officer Network, Arts Victoria, LaTrobe University and Melbourne University.

A range of local arts initiatives are also supported through the City’s Community Grants Program, Small Townships Grants Program, Dudley House Arts Hire Subsidy and Raw Youth Arts Awards, Youth Arts Network and Children’s Art Initiative. CCD also compile and administer a weekly Arts e-bulletin, on-line arts register and calendar of community events.

Other initiatives include the establishment of Specimen Cottage Youth Arts Space in 2005, facilitated the Growing a Fringe Festival 07/08 and provides ongoing advice to the Allan’s Walk Artists Run Space Committee. Allan’s Walk Art Space was established in 2000 and is currently the only artists run space in Bendigo.

Art in the Conservatory was established in 2002 to provide a space for artistic and cultural expression and to encourage use of the City’s Parks and Gardens. This initiative emphasis’s the importance of creating and displaying local artwork that reflects local identity. This program provides a space for installation artists and local sculptors to display their art work e.g. Passage through Ceremony, Hand Me Down, Grass is Green and the recent Parasols installation.

A significant exhibition in this public and civic space, telling the story of our past, this is a space that beckons movement, expression ….a celebration of the senses to excite, enjoy and be-the people we are becoming. May it move on and touch many. Visitor comment, Art in the Conservatory.

CCD is also responsible for the delivery of an Arts for Health program that includes facilitation of the Bendigo Youth Arts Network and Children’s Arts Initiative, projects include animation workshops for children, transport for primary aged children to attend cultural Diversity Week activities, additional support for Reconciliation Week activities and supporting arts based workshops and music sessions for young people in Kangaroo Flat, Long Gully and Bendigo.
5.4 Review of buildings being used for arts

An important part of this project was to review how existing properties, available to the community, are being utilised. A matrix was developed to show the relationship of usage to venues. A total of 80 venues are currently used by the arts community (see Appendix 8). The study revealed that there are ten different categories of user need to be fulfilled and these include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User Needs</th>
<th>Number of Venues (Total = 80)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Meetings</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Exhibitions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Art Classes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Music and Performance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Genealogy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Arts and Craft</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Studio Space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Workshops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each venue has been categorised by its primary use and as many of the venues are able to satisfy more than one need; this information has also been captured in the study. The study revealed that while there are a large number of venues in use, only a small number of these are serving as multi-purpose venues and there is a lack of appropriate space available as studio spaces where artists can work. Workshop venues with access to running water are also an issue.
6. RESEARCH OF COMMUNITY ARTS SPACE MODELS

Research was undertaken in the study to review leading community arts centres in several municipalities as benchmarking candidates. Each centre was measured in 13 key operational categories. This was done through desk research and face to face interviews with community centre managers.

Operational areas assessed include:
1. Number of user groups
2. Number of users overall
3. Population served
4. Layout and size of facilities
5. Type of rooms available
6. Seating capacities
7. Equipment available
8. Operating budget
9. Staffing
10. Partnerships
11. Sponsorships
12. Type of classes
13. Competitors

As well as a review of the 13 categories listed, a sample of the key challenges and key features of the facilities researched in each municipality were also identified, as such information provides a greater depth of understanding of how community expectations and needs are being satisfied. To bring a balanced assessment, samples from three States were researched and include the municipalities of Box Hill, Wodonga, Rockhampton and Newcastle. Centres that were researched include Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Wodonga – Artspace, Walter Reid Cultural Centre, Rockhampton, and the Newcastle Community Arts Centre. A matrix was developed to enable key comparisons across the various centres.(see page 31)
Box Hill Community Arts Centre (BHCAC) was opened in 1990 and for 18 years has since become a focus for cultural activity within the City of Whitehorse, winning architectural and lifestyle awards in the process. The centre was purpose built and an innovative architectural firm designed the building to be environmentally sensitive. Designers worked in partnership with community groups, artists and potential user groups to produce a genuine community effort. The activity within the centre is testament to the foresight of the community’s contribution and enthusiasm and the importance of a well planned collaborative approach.

The Centre offers a wide range of services, including activities for adults and children during school term, and a wide range of art/craft activities during the school holidays. Also on offer to the community, are flexible spaces and rooms for hire for regular or casual use.

A key success factor of this facility is the fact that it was purpose built, drawing input from the community. It is positioned centrally within the community and public transport is less than a five minute walk making it accessible to the whole community. Even though the centre was built nearly two decades ago, there is still a large footprint of open land remaining which is testament to the foresight of designers leaving room to expand.

BHCAC also offers space for an artist in residence doing targeted community programs. It offers large pottery space, a wet area with kilns and a well appointed kitchen is registered for caterers’ usage. The well appointed kitchen adjoins a large flexible space that can be used for a variety of activities from community group meetings through to sit down dining. The centre offers a favourable community hiring discount program.
Walter Reid Cultural Centre, Rockhampton Queensland

This three-storey warehouse, constructed in the early 1900's with a gross floor area of four thousand square metres has been adapted into Rockhampton's premier community arts and leisure centre. The newly renovated cultural centre has become the home to a variety of art, craft, and music, leisure and community groups. To meet the demands of community, the centre offers a theatre, gallery, rehearsal rooms, meeting rooms, and workshop spaces.

Key to the success of the Walter Reid Centre and stemming from its immense size is the fact that it provides the community with multiple spaces. It offers tremendous flexibility with a 900 seat theatre, a smaller auditorium that seats 150 and other spaces of various seating capacities. The facility was first used as an arts centre in 1970 and after extensive community consultation; it was comprehensively re-furbished in 2003 resulting in improved quality of its condition thereby encouraging growth in the level of visitations, usage and appreciation by the Rockhampton community.

Art Space Wodonga, Wodonga, Victoria

Arts Space Wodonga is a vibrant and accessible contemporary arts venue situated in the central business district of Wodonga. It offers an eclectic program of unique exhibitions, intimate performances, workshops, recitals and forums, featuring local, regional and imported cultural works. A showcase of dynamic art works by North East Victorian artists features regularly and proposals are welcomed from individual artists and organisations.

There are a number of key factors that make the Wodonga space successful. The fact that the design of the facility includes a large and flexible open plan space adjoining the library offers a significant connection point with community. It has become a space that looks out to community and also draws community to it.
Another success factor is that it is a new building of simple clean design with fully functional kitchen, and offers a great meeting space for community groups and opportunities for co-programming with the Library. Through consultation with community it was identified that a central facility, easily accessible to all community, would be of key importance in fulfilling community needs.

**Newcastle Community Arts Centre, Newcastle, New South Wales**

The Newcastle Community Arts Centre (NCAC) was founded in 1983 and was previously a sizeable Catholic school. It operates as a not for profit company limited by guarantee, and has charity status. Its primary aim is to build partnerships with other community organisations. This is done by creating a range of arts projects which promote cultural development throughout Newcastle and the Hunter Valley.

Generously supported by Newcastle City Council, the centre is dedicated to supporting the arts and artists by providing this large physical space. More than 40 artist studios, an artist-run gallery and a theatre (the Black Box) are provided. Also supported are the development of community-focused arts activities by individuals, groups and organisations.

The NCAC is situated in a prime and central location at the entrance to the city and its positioning and accessibility has been identified as a key factor in supporting the arts and community. A major success factor of the Newcastle Community Arts Centre is that it has such a large number of artists’ studios available. All studios are fully tenanted and generating revenue and there is a growing tenant waiting list. The artists are encouraged to connect with community through their works and to connect with each other.

The centre offers a number of flexible spaces that include a quality gallery and theatre space. Because if its accessibility and flexibility, the centre has attracted up to 50 regular user groups that represent the broadest community demographic.
Key Success Factors
From the research undertaken it is evident that a range of strategic factors have contributed to the success of the community centres that were reviewed.

Strategic Factors
- Extensive community consultation
- Wide range of services and activities
- Flexible spaces and rooms for affordable casual use or hire
- Positioned centrally with access to public transport
- Public transport accessible
- Room to expand
- Space for delivery of targeted community programs
- Outdoor performance and leisure space adjacent
- Wet areas
- Well appointed kitchen
- Large flexible open planned multi use spaces
- Programs that offer connection and interaction with community
- ‘Whole of community’ culture
- Fulltime staff to manage and maintain programming

Risk Management

Key Factors
- Volunteer Support – no ownership and lack of access
- Governance – lack of understanding of financial statements, clarity of the roles of paid staff and committee
- Utilising Appropriate Building Stock – older buildings that require ongoing maintenance and refit to create useful spaces
- Programming – programs that don’t address the needs and interest of the community
- Strategic Planning – lack of strategic thinking, short term knee jerk responses to issues
- Partnerships and Alliances – operating in a ‘silto’ without community partners and consideration of other services and programs

There are a number of risk factors that need to be considered when establishing a community facility. An appropriate case study of a community arts facility that struggled to survive is The Meat Market Craft Centre in North Melbourne.

The large heritage building that houses the Centre was converted from an historic meat distribution centre during the 1980’s into a Craft Centre to provide exhibition spaces, woodworking studio, retail areas, hot and cold glass studios, a print workshop, artist studios, a conference centre, meeting rooms, storage spaces and a café. Initially the Centre was supported by the Victorian State Government, but after some financial difficulties and governance issues in the early nineties, the Centre’s future was in doubt and the arts community lobbied to keep the Centre open with reduced Government and volunteer support. Over the next five years the Centre was turned around and a number of key success factors can be attributed to this recovery.
Volunteer Support
With reduced funding, staffing was cut so a band of passionate supporters made themselves available. This volunteer support took two forms; a Friend’s Group who raised the profile of the organisation and garnered financial support and the volunteers who made themselves available to assist in a number of areas depending on their individual skills and experience. Without this administrative assistance the Centre would have most certainly closed.

Governance
The impact of poor governance can be dramatic on any organisation, especially in the area of financial control. The critical issue in this instance was to present the financial figures in a format that was easily understood by non financial Board members. This ensured that decisions taken were made with understanding of the implications of expenditure and impact on cash flow. Agreement around the annual budget and close review and evaluation was crucial to keep the organisation on track.

Clarity of the roles of the governing Board and management is an area that can create dysfunction and inefficiencies. Documenting and workshopping these issues ensured that the Board of the Centre had a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities.

Community Access and Engagement
In the case of the Meat Market there had been a focus on promoting the cutting edge of art and craft, which often did not appeal to the general public. This led to the perception that the Centre was not a place for craft groups, even if their members produced work of high quality.

 Added to this lack of access there was the issue of the program itself. Because of the cost of showing touring exhibitions and mounting professional exhibitions the main hall of the Centre was often empty, disappointing visitors and making the place appear disused.

This lack of engagement with the community was two of the factors leading to the near demise of the organisation. Access is critical if the community is to gain ownership. During the nineties the new management took a different approach which led to a ground swell of support for the organisation from the community and the wider art and craft sector.

Craft groups were invited to submit applications to hold group exhibitions and a new program involving the community was developed. This raised the profile of the Centre, increased visitation and improved the financial position.

Appropriate Building Stock
One of the most significant costs in the Meat Market annual budget was maintenance. Because the building is over 100 years old and built for another purpose there is a constant need for repairs to be undertaken. The main hall section has a cobbled stone floor which creates a safety issue and makes exhibition installation difficult and hazardous, increasing insurance costs. Providing appropriate climate control is expensive and challenging in historic buildings.
Location is an important consideration in planning for any community facility. The Meat Market Craft Centre is located away from other community facilities and not easily accessible by public transport. As the general public often feels intimidated, by the arts locating community arts facilities close to other services will attract visitors who may not normally engage in arts activities.

**Strategic Planning**
Every organisation requires a well thought out strategic planning approach if it is to remain viable and sustainable over the long term. The Meat Market Craft Centre’s revival in the early nineties was due to a greater focus on planning and review and evaluation. This enabled management and staff to develop long term goals to work towards an increased level of motivation as those goals were achieved. It added a greater ownership of issues and challenges which were able to be addressed by the staff.

**Partnerships and Alliances**
As the Meat Market developed partnerships with the community craft groups there was a greater sense of alliance across the sector that created opportunities to work together. This led to better programming and improved community engagement. By working together the real needs and interests of the community were understood and greater support from funding bodies became available.

This demonstrated that operating in a ‘silo’ limits the future of organisations and opportunities for community development. The writer of this report is well qualified to document the issues and risks that faced this organisation at this time as she was General Manager during this period.
## Benchmark Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Box Hill CAC <a href="http://www.bhcac.com.au">www.bhcac.com.au</a></th>
<th>Wodonga Artspace</th>
<th>Walter Reid Rockhampton</th>
<th>Newcastle Community Arts Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Number of user groups</td>
<td>55 user groups of which 60% arts and craft. Users recreation, community, corporate, religious</td>
<td>10 groups (music, schools, dance)</td>
<td>Rockhampton Regional Council (meetings, events, arts programs, HR training), 15 tenant groups (mostly arts, craft, music, drama), external hirers (community, corporate) numbers n/a</td>
<td>9 groups on average per month. 50 permanent artist studios (all tenanted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Number of users overall</td>
<td>6500 pa - Combined users and casual attendance average for 3 yrs.</td>
<td>Not counted, around 200 community &amp; commercial hires p.a.</td>
<td>50 user groups plus a community access gallery (40 artists exhibit annually drawing 200 visitors, 11 times per year. Broad arrays of workshops are run by tenants and service a wide demography from youth to the aged.)</td>
<td>50 user groups plus a community access gallery (40 artists exhibit annually drawing 200 visitors, 11 times per year. Broad arrays of workshops are run by tenants and service a wide demography from youth to the aged.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Population served</td>
<td>50,000 wide ethnic representation</td>
<td>Wodonga 35,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>157,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Layout and size</td>
<td>5 venue hire spaces – overall area of 396 Sq Metres</td>
<td>3 moveable stages</td>
<td>Three-storey warehouse (constructed 1900-1902) of gross floor area of 3,988 m2 adapted into a community arts centre.</td>
<td>Old Catholic primary school (2 buildings of 3 stories). Separate is Newcastle Art Space (2 small gallery spaces)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Types of rooms</td>
<td>1 Meeting, 1 Arbour, Lounge/kitchen, 2 Day craft</td>
<td>Large Gallery (1), Foyer, Kitchen, Sprung floor</td>
<td>Comprises leased tenants’ rooms (Lapidary Club, Potters, Photographers, BUSH TV, Painters, and Chamber Music etc) and hire spaces: 150-seat auditorium, kiosk and foyer, 2 meeting rooms, rehearsal studio, artist’s studio, and 3 bed flat 2. Spaces for hire (gallery, auditorium, meeting rooms, rehearsal space), Performance (sprung floor)</td>
<td>2 casual meeting/art making spaces generate $500-$700 per month. Black box, 50 studios spaces. A third space is planned as a retail shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seating capacity</td>
<td>Meeting (15), Arbour (170), Lounge/kitchen (40), Daycraft1 (30), Daycraft2 (30)</td>
<td>100 seated, 150 standing</td>
<td>Theatre (900), Auditorium (150), large meeting room (60), small meeting room (15), foyer (150 +), AIR Studio (60)</td>
<td>Black box (120 seated, 250 standing), 2 meeting rooms (35 seated)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Equipment available</td>
<td>Modern TV, DVD, Sound system, large screen, lighting desk, feedback speakers, whiteboard, storage for regular users</td>
<td>Lighting, sound system, projector, large screen TV (2m x 1.5m)</td>
<td>Auditorium (cinema screen, 35mm film projector, data projector, sound system, lighting desk, theatre lights, curtains, tiered seating), kiosk kitchen (commercial fridges, dishwasher, warmer oven); whiteboard, OHP, TV &amp; DVD etc</td>
<td>Lighting, sound, risers for small stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Operating budget</td>
<td>Not available – basically aim at ‘break even’</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2008 $455,000</td>
<td>Building owned by NCCC – peppercorn lease of $0 – assessed market rate is $100K pa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Staffing and Operating Hours</td>
<td>4 FT, 1 PT – operates 7 days</td>
<td>2 PT staff (average 3-4 days per week) 1 Education officer PT (2days per week) Gallery Mon, Tues, Wed, Friday, 9.30am to 6.00pm Thurs 9.30am to 8.00pm Sat 9.30am to 12.30pm Closed Sundays and public holidays</td>
<td>IFT Caretaker/Cleaner (lives on site in Flat 1); 2FTE staff off site (1 manager, 2 admin, 2 programs staff involved in operations) Mon-Fri (8.00am-9.30pm) Sat- Sun (9.00am-6.00pm)</td>
<td>I FTE 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Gallery Fri – Sun (10.00 am – 4.00pm) Tenant artists have 24/7 access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Whitehorse Council</td>
<td>Arts Wodonga, Wodonga CC, Murray Music Club</td>
<td>Owned &amp; administered by Rockhampton Regional Council; some long-term tenants with long leases on rooms</td>
<td>Newcastle City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sponsorships</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Emerging Artist prize (NCCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Types of classes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>School art classes, holiday workshops, craft group, eclectic unique exhibitions, intimate performances, workshops, recitals and forums, local, regional and imported works.</td>
<td>Arts, crafts, drama, film, music, painters, quilters, embroiderers, textileers, youth orchestra, gemmologists, theatre groups, art and craft workshops, movie programs, photography, pottery, woodworking and rail modelling, community exhibitions.</td>
<td>Life drawing, youth theatre, music and art, oils, landscape, photography, industry classes. Also seeking to ‘build a community with the tenants’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitors</td>
<td>Albury Art Gallery, 2 local galleries</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Key Challenges | Car park restrictions (30 spaces) | Limited parking – 4 spaces, Lacking storage for own needs | Car park restrictions. Flooding in basement occasionally. Some security issues (occasional nuisance vandalism) as building is open 7 days with limited supervision. Limited operational budget restricts activities |

| Key Features | Purpose Built – 1990 $1.7M Public transport 5 min walk, users need to insure for public liability, potential to expand, large pottery space with kilns, artist in residence doing targeted community programs, kitchen registered for caterer’s usage. Special discounts are NFP (50%), Seniors (90%), Approved fund raisers (free). Excellent acoustics in performance area | New building, simple clean design, fully functional kitchen. Open plan design linking to library during operating hours | Important heritage-listed and remarkably intact warehouse building of immense size built 1900-02 when Rockhampton was a busy river port (river and wharves nearby). First adapted as an arts centre in 1970’s and extensively refurbished in 2003. A very special building in regional Australia. |

| | The Lockup – Old Police Station – gallery space, artist in residence, well funded. Workers Education Association – broad program | Sustainability (towards self funding) Relevance of creative expression in everyday life Disabled access Cost of building maintenance Volunteer dependency | Studios fully tenanted Gallery Theatre space Multi art form Prime location (entrance to the city) |
7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the experience of other municipalities in the development of community arts spaces, it appears that the key success factors include:

- Strong community consultation to identify the needs and gain ownership;
- A central location that is accessible and non threatening to those who may not normally engage in the arts;
- An adjacent open space for events and outdoor activities that will attract passers by;
- Flexible spaces that can offer the delivery of a range of program options to attract the broadest cross section of community, and
- A central space where the arts community itself can meet and gather to explore opportunities.

After considerable exploration and consultation, both with community and within City of Greater Bendigo, the major recommendation from this report is to redevelop the RL Campbell Theatrette and adjoining City of Greater Bendigo offices within the Bendigo Library complex as a joint library arts space so it becomes a central community hub and focus for residents.

Existing City of Greater Bendigo plans have been undertaken to develop this area with significant streetscaping and public art. The grassed area alongside the Town Hall is used for outdoor community and cultural events, utilising a small concrete stage at the edge of this outdoor space.

Funding has been provided in the 09/10 budget to undertake a comprehensive master plan of the Bendigo Library and RL Campbell Theatrette. Such work could include the redevelopment to provide workshop, exhibition, studio and meeting space for the community arts sector. With Allan's Walk Artist Run Space Inc on a limited tenure, this proposal would give that group the opportunity to have input in such a hub.

The Library foyer is currently underutilised although it has a number of glass cabinets that are used for minor exhibitions, but with some professional display lighting and tracking this area could be further expanded and developed as a vibrant community exhibition space. This area would not only be the Library entrance but a link between the Library and a new community arts area. These offices now house some of the City Futures team, but if office space was found elsewhere, it would make way for an ideal community arts space and total community hub.

With the disbanding of the Bendigo Film Society and the establishment of 121 View Street Theatre, the RL Campbell Theatrette is not well used and many of the participants in the consultation, including Library staff, spoke of the discomfort of the seating in this facility.
There are several options that could be considered depending on cost. If this space were redeveloped to be more comfortable, it could be used as a rehearsal space, for small intimate performances, or for music events, or if appropriately soundproofed, used by small bands to practice.

If this site became the focus for community arts in Bendigo it would meet the current expressed needs and desires of the community for exhibition space, workshop and studio spaces and create opportunities for partnerships and collaboration. It is a site that is readily accessible by transport and pedestrian traffic, with parking close by. It is a facility already well utilised by the public and would enable programs to be jointly developed by the Library and the Community and Cultural Development Unit. Artists could readily access the internet and utilise publications and research material.

This precinct is ideal for such a reconfiguration as it is a natural hub in the CBD and has ideal links with the Town Hall, the nearby laneways, restaurants and coffee shops. There is the opportunity to draw people to the area through a range of opportunities including display of temporary public art, annual community events and cultural celebrations such as NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and Cultural Diversity Week.

As a central focus, this site would draw residents and visitors to a dynamic and evolving vista of community activities and events that would reflect the heart of the City and the creative talents and cultural diversity of its people, while celebrating what it is to be part of the Greater Bendigo Community.

Heathcote, Elmore, Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat have active arts communities that are drawn to the CBD, but they lack suitable local facilities in which to run their activities. Although there are some buildings in these towns that could be suitable, access and refurbishment costs are prohibitive.

This study also provides recommendations that aim to increase opportunities for residents living outside of the CBD. There is tremendous potential in these communities to strengthen and increase community engagement in the arts through the provision of accessible, flexible programs to increase access to the arts across the wider City of Greater Bendigo region for a much broader cross section of the population.
7.1 Model for Community Arts Space/s

The recommendations of this report include the establishment of a central community hub, with a number of satellite sites to meet the needs of the largest Townships, including additional support to develop community arts in outlying smaller communities.

The model recommended and the requirements identified have been identified utilising the key principles that guide the work of community cultural development of strong consultation and collaboration with community networks. This process has given the community the opportunity to influence the direction by providing valuable and relevant input, while being engaged throughout. This report recommends a staged approach to ensure sustainability and viability of the sector.

Given that the City of Greater Bendigo is a large municipality with a number of diverse townships, it would be unwise to assume that one central Community Art Space would fit all the needs expressed during the community Consultation Phase of this project. The staged identification and redevelopment of satellite sites across the region is recommended to ensure the needs of the townships are adequately considered.

7.2 Requirements – Stage 1

Development of the City of Greater Bendigo Community Artspace Hub

This hub centres on the current Bendigo Library site. The refurbishment would include an upgrade of the RL Campbell Theatrette and adjoining Council offices within the Library complex. The development would be designed to link through an exhibition gallery to workshop and studio spaces, meeting rooms, and an informal welcoming gathering space where the sector can meet and collaborate. The Library area will offer access to arts publications, research materials and internet access.

The refurbishment and development of a joint Arts Hub library facility as part of the approved Master plan could include but not be limited to:

- Exhibition space with professional lighting and display
- Flexible meeting and seminar rooms
- 4 Artists studio spaces
- Wet workshop areas
- Commercial kitchen
- Writer’s studio
- Media Lab
• Informal lounge area for individuals and groups to gather
• Flexible workshop room with sprung floor for dance or rehearsal space
• Soundproof room for bands to practice

7.3 Requirements – Stage 2

Implementation of action plan to support development of satellite spaces in the following neighbourhoods and townships as identified in action plan.

• Heathcote
• Eaglehawk
• Elmore
• Kangaroo Flat

Appropriate spaces that can offer
• Artists studio spaces
• Performance space for rehearsal
• Meeting room
• Wet workshop area
• Internet access
• Informal gathering space
• Space for young people
8. CONCLUSION

The City of Greater Bendigo is committed to supporting arts and cultural development across the municipality. Underpinning the cultural life of our community is a vibrant arts community made up of arts workers, cultural development practitioners, arts students and emerging and professional artists who are working across a plethora of art forms.

The scoping study project has provided an opportunity for the arts community to voice their desire for the establishment of a community art space for Bendigo and satellite spaces in Heathcote, Elmore, Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk. The vision is for these creative spaces to become the focus for the community, places that draw the local community together to engage in and experience the arts, where diversity, innovation and creativity meet.

As the View Street Precinct offers visitors and residents cultural experiences with a metropolitan feel, so the Community Arts Space will showcase and celebrate the diverse talents of the local community.

The community arts sector vision is for a community arts space (spaces) that will attract the broadest sector of society, children, youth, people living with disability, Indigenous, multicultural and emerging communities. Spaces where diversity, creativity and self expression are celebrated, is central to community life and community engagement.
## 9. ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Initiative</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Quality and Cost Standard</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Art Space, Bendigo</strong></td>
<td>Following the planned Bendigo Library complex Masterplan, and subject to that plan identifying the complex as a suitable community art space, proceed to develop a joint Library Artspace Hub</td>
<td>Undertake a comprehensive master planning of the entire building and surrounds to assess functionally, capital upgrade works, building energy performance and linkages to surrounding area/s</td>
<td>Undertake Master Plan</td>
<td>Coordinator Arts and Community, Director Organisation Support, Property Manager</td>
<td>Budget for 09/10 is 40k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare complex for redevelopment</td>
<td>Identify alternative office accommodation and relocate MME Council Officers</td>
<td>EMT, Director City Futures, Director Planning and Development, Property Manager</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>2010/2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redevelop Library complex</td>
<td>Commence refurbishment and/or fit-out of Art Space Hub</td>
<td>Building and Property Managers</td>
<td>To be determined as part of the master plan</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Initiative</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Quality and Cost Standard</td>
<td>Timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Art Space Satellite Sites Heathcote, Elmore, Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat</strong></td>
<td>Create arts space</td>
<td>Identify and develop suitable community art space.</td>
<td>Investigate redevelopment of Council Heathcote Offices to become Arts Hub. Undertake refurbishment if required.</td>
<td>Coordinator Arts and Community Partnerships, Property Manager</td>
<td>$15,000 (part of 09/10 budget)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish Arts Network</td>
<td>Support and facilitate the development of an Arts Network</td>
<td>Host community forum to establish Arts Network</td>
<td>Arts Officer in partnership with Elmore Community</td>
<td>Officer resource already in place part of core community development outreach programs</td>
<td>November 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish Visual Arts studio/s in Eaglehawk</td>
<td>Explore access to disused space within Eaglehawk Town hall and/or school facilities</td>
<td>Assessment of available space not currently leased by other user groups Support developing of appropriate leasing arrangements.</td>
<td>Coordinator Arts and Community Partnerships, Director Community Wellbeing, Property Manager, Education Sector</td>
<td>$5,000 (part of 09/10 budget)</td>
<td>2010 ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locate suitable spaces for arts activities in Kangaroo Flat</td>
<td>Align with actions identified within Kangaroo Flat Community Plan</td>
<td>Investigate how to maximise future use of JB Osborne Theatre and develop links with local artists to increase the variety and diversity of arts provision</td>
<td>Coordinator Arts and Community Partnerships in partnership with Schools, Kangaroo Flat Community Planning Group and local artists</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>October 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Bibliography

Community & Cultural Development (CCD) Service Unit Plan 2008 – 2009

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City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo CBD Plan 2005

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Special thanks to Candy Stevens, Gayle Emond, Tink, Sparrow, Gail Hardy, Megan Beckwith and Susannah for their permission to use the images contained in this report.
Appendix 2 - Survey Questions

1. Do you believe Bendigo needs more Community Arts Space and why?

2. What do you think a Community art space would look like? Would feel like?

3. Would you personally or your group use such a facility - how and why?

4. What activities and facilities would you like to see in a Community Arts Space?

5. Which other community groups do you think might use a Community Arts Space?

6. Where would you like to see Bendigo’s Community Arts Space?

7. How far would you travel to use a Community Art Space?
Appendix 3 - Survey Compilation

1. Do you believe Bendigo needs more Community Arts Space and why?
   - Large population of artists
   - Must be affordable
   - Important part of community
   - Current spaces too small
   - Current spaces poorly designed
   - Current spaces not well known
   - There can never be too many spaces
   - Space not specific to organisation
   - Too few spaces for young artists
   - Provide mutual benefit and support
   - Encourage people to do something with creativity
   - Space for play and ideas
   - Lack of space now
   - Theatre for young people
   - Many professional artists and practitioners
   - Aligned to cultural richness
   - Needed for wider community

2. What do you think a Community Art Space would look like? Would feel like?
   - Modern appearance – fit with surroundings
   - Light and airy – like conservatory
   - Central location
   - Community art creation space
   - Multi function for wide range of arts practices
   - Hub of community – vibrant, creative, inspirational
   - Accommodate all formats of art
   - Accommodate all ages, all skill levels
   - Up to date technologies
   - For small or large groups
   - Café/ restaurant / studio spaces
   - Local artists space to sell products direct to public
   - Creative – open – colourful
   - Cheap studio space
   - Child friendly
   - Centrally located
   - Mixture of contemporary, traditional design
   - Design with attitude towards environment
• Celebrate local materials and craftsmanship
• E.g. – Strathdale Community Hall
• High ceilings
• White walls
• Polished concrete flooring
• Natural timber
• Stone
• Excellent lighting
• Place for all people – teaching and learning
• Rehearsal space for community projects
• Large notice board for skills exchange
• Welcoming – friendly – professional

3. Would you personally or your group use such a facility - how and why?
• Photography exhibition
• Needs to be affordable
• Suitable for etchings
• Would use printing press – if available
• Exhibitions
• Connect with other people
• Family friendly
• Youth programs
• After school care
• SCOPE
• Schools that have poor access to the arts
• Studio space to break isolation
• Studio hire
• Display own work
• Sell art work
• Starting performing arts group for secondary students (adds value to community)
• Sculpture exhibitions
• Share information relating to arts

4. What activities and facilities would you like to see in a Community Arts Space?
Multi use – needs arts exhibition space
• Community group meetings
• Studios, Gardens, artists market
• Involve community
• Printing press
• Life drawing classes
• Drama, dance, sculpture, digital formats, movie making
• Exhibitions incorporated with other Bendigo events
• Lots of different size studio spaces
• Expositions – classes
• Broadband access
• Open to public during day – Events venue for evenings
• School art excursions
• Good stage, fly space, dressing room, wings, apron
• Rear projection
• Kiosk
• Exhibitions of local artists
• Lessons in art
• Good parking
• Martial arts
• Workshops – meeting place

5. Which other community groups do you think might use a Community Arts Space?
• Community groups
• Artists and public
• All sorts – limit bureaucracy
• Primary and secondary schools
• U3A
• Scouts
• Guides
• Special needs students
• DHS
• St Luke’s
• Health care groups
• Aged care
• Hostels
• Senior citizens groups
• Prefer only artists use the space
• Community groups with arts interest
• Year 12 arts students
• Photography clubs
• Arts groups
• Community theatre companies
• Musicians
• Dance groups
• Band groups
• Workers if accessible at night

6. Where would you like to see Bendigo’s Community Arts Space?
• Existing spaces – above the streets – e.g. Beehive
• Central CBD ‘very strongly supported’
• Prominent
• Historical space
• View Street
• Old Gaol
• Public transport access
• Central for tourist access
• Town Hall
• Rosalind Park
• CBD with Parking
• Epsom
• Huntly

7. How far would you travel to use a Community Art Space?
• If it was in the CBD;
• Travel 1 hour
• Up to 5 KMS
• Up to 45 minutes
• Up to 10 KMS
• 10-15 minutes
• 20 minutes, 30 minutes
Appendix 4 - Forum Attendees

23 March 2009 Bendigo Town Hall, morning session
Groups represented;
Villa Fortuna Action Group
Eaglehawk Community Renewal Group
Long Gully Community Group
U3A Music Group
Bendigo Theatre Company
Bendigo Historical Society
Bendigo Chamber Choir
Strathfieldsaye Community Group
Bendigo +25 Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee
Circus WOW
Kamarooka
Goornong Gals
Mudbrick Motely – Heathcote
Heathcote Neighbourhood House
Victory Christian College
Cultress
Bendigo Arts Society
LaTrobe University Students
Bendigo Gallery Members
Bendigo Pipe Band
Capital Theatre Management
Eurofest Choir
German Friendship Society
Smart Art
Vocal Tones Choir
Eaglehawk Cultural Festival
Tourism Board
Australian Performing Arts Association
Bendigo Genealogical Society
Peter Harcourt Disability Services
Bendigo Film Society

23 March 2009 Bendigo Town Hall evening session
Groups represented;
Bendigo Amateur Drama Group
BCE Drama
Bendigo Library
LaTrobe university
Living Libraries
BCentral
Loop-Lead on
Fashion Show Head On
Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
Bendigo Hip Hop Kollective
Bush Dancing and Music club
Emu Creek Bush Band
Bendigo Spinners Weavers and Handcraft Group
U3A Choir
Neale Street Uniting Church Choir
Bendigo Field Naturalists
Arts Management Advisory Group
Phoenix Radio Station
CASTLEMAINE State Festival
CASPA
Castlemaine Fringe Festival
Craft Victoria
Allan’s Walk
Specimen Cottage
Purple Circle
Next Wave
NETS
View Street Festival
Visual Artists
Bendigo Arts Society
Catholic College Bendigo
Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir
Creatability
A Typical Troupe
Bendigo Symphony Orchestra
Growing a Fringe Festival
Elmore Ag Art Show
Arts and Cultural Development Centre
Bendigo City Council
St Pauls Cathedral Choir
St Pauls Art Prize
Bendigo Choral
Ros Avent Creative Dance
Women’s Health Loddon Mallee
Bendigo Neighbourhood House
Kangaroo Flat Neighbourhood House
Circus WOW
Bendigo Art Gallery
LaTrobe Uni Visual Arts
Central Victorian Women’s Choir
The Capital Theatre
Villa Fortuna
Bendigo Life Drawing Group

**14 May 2009 Heathcote, RSL Hall**
6 members of the Heathcote Arts Inc and performing arts group

**15 May 2009 Elmore, Athenaeum**
Denise Beckmans, Primary School art teacher
Thelma Shearer, Lions Club, Co-ordinator EPA News, Progress Assoc
Dianne Hoare, Local artist
Steve Hoare, Local artist
Appendix 5 - Notes from the Forums

**Key Priorities**
The following are the key priorities that emerged from the Community Forums;
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Utilisation of existing buildings
- Co-ordination of resources and spaces
- Sharing of resources/equipment Library
- Storage
- Flexibility, multifunction
- Central
- Sustainability

**Broader Needs**
The following are the broader needs that emerged from the Community Forums;
- Defined program directed by co-ordinator
- Action
- An equipment library
- Acoustics and sound proofing
- Good sprung dance floor
- Multi purpose rooms with adequate storage
- Flexible space
- Accessible to youth
- Amateurs and professionals coexisting and interacting
- Maintained and managed facilities
- Flexibility – storage library equipment
- Different groups activities and spaces
- Affordability – free or cheap
- Accessibility to wheelchairs and disabled
- Central location – transport, all accessible – affordable
- Innovative/attractive/underground
- Multipurpose – Kitchen cooking classes
- Needs support for satellites linked into mainstream as a support mechanism
- Number of different spaces in different locations
- Central –operational
- Satellites – providing access
- Visible/accessible for all
- Inside activities reflected on the outside, not hidden from view
- Emerging artists access to existing networks
• Affordable
• Storage capacity
• Opportunity for groups to link with each other
• Outside performance space

**The Big Vision**
The following comments were made by participants when describing their vision for a Community Arts Space;

• Involvement of youth and children and underprivileged
• Space for music
• Quiet spaces
• Outdoor Stage
• Café/restaurant
• Multipurpose Rooms
• Heating and ventilation
• Exchange of ideas
• Integration with outdoors/Lake Weeroona and Rosalind Park
• Exhibition Space
• Website
• Utilise trams/integration/art on trams
• Learning opportunities
• Links with education
• Marketed well
• Family involvement
• Street Art/performance
• Integration with aged care communities
• Integration with gardens
• Access to computers and broadband
• All age appeal
• Soundproofed spaces for rehearsal and music making
• Apprentices/mentors
• Studio workshops
• Tourism linkage
• Co-ordination of groups and towns
• Breathe new life into old buildings
• Drop in culture space
• Street art, singing performing, graffiti walls
• Environmentally sustainable
• Studios
• Space and program coordinator
• Committee structure
• Equipment lending library
• Dynamic
• Cultural diversity
• Sharing stories
• Environmentally friendly
• Social
• Encompassing everyone
• Connecting hub
• Networking
• Shared resources
• Youth focus
• Central
• Transport
• Alternative art
• Recycled art
• Performing space
• Big warehouse
• Crowds lining up outside
• Multi purpose building
• Focus and connection
• Enhances existing groups
• Aligns similar groups
• Fringe social groups
• Artist exchange program
• Creative micro business opportunities
• Artist studio space
• Arts expos
• Water parks – lake
• Grand piano
• Inspirational space
• Happy people
• Lots of music
• Collaboration
• Performance space
• Productive environment
• Social space
• Flexible / Accessible
• Interaction
• Welcoming
• Resourced with required infrastructure
• Recording studio
• Photographic studio and dark room
• Archival area
• Graphic art facilities
• Endless gallery studios
• Endless dollars
• Empowered people
• Different groups at different stages
• Space resources respect for all arts practice

Staff Session
The City of Greater Bendigo staff identified their vision for the future as;
• Use of public spaces for temporary events
• A focus for the artistic community
• Places for art making
• Places for rehearsal/music/dance/theatre
• Long term solutions
• New media development
• Media partnerships
• Resources for marketing promotion
• Knowledge of what’s available
• Artists in residence programs

Potential Buildings
The forum participants identified the following buildings as having potential as Community Arts Space;
• Beehive
• Golden Square High School
• Bendigo Gaol
• Villa Fortuna
• Old Gasworks
• Peppergreen Farm
• Gravel Hill (bands and theatre)
• Car Parks (performance/ workshop space
• Bath Lane (performance/festivals
• Star Cinema Precinct
• Amphitheatre @ Lake Neangar (performance)
• Basement and Front Room of Town Hall (performance and rehearsal)
• RL Campbell Theatrette(revamp required)
• Goldmines Hotel (performance)
• Brian Boru (performance)
• Shamrock Hotel (performance)
• Bull Street (festivals)
• Chancery Lane (wall space)
• Rosalind Park (performance) Poppet Head as base for screen/light show
• Barrack Rise Reserve, Heathcote (performance)
• Bike Trails (performance)
• Church halls
• Gillies Pie Factory
• Platform 2 and other Railway Platforms
• VRI Hall Mitchell Street
• Quarry Hill Mudbrick Hall
• Wolstencroft/Millar St Community Gardens
• View Street buildings
• Shop top spaces in CBD
• Old YMCA
• Huntly Hall
• La Terrazza (performance)
• Vineyards
• Axedale Hall
• Elmore Atheneum
• Trades Hall
• BRIT 3 vacant floors
• Vic Roads buildings for artists studios
• Eaglehawk Town Hall precinct
• Elmore Town Hall/field day site
• Atisha Centre for workshops, exhibitions
• Old police station
• QEO – folk club
## Appendix 6 - Audit of Venue Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Meetings        | Kangaroo Flat Rotary Convention Centre  
LaTrobe University Galleries  
Bendigo Art Gallery  
Campbell Theatrette |
| Exhibitions     | Capital Theatre  
Dudley House  
Bendigo Library Foyer |
| Cafes – Tardis, Leadlight, Heathcote Winery Gallery, Heathcote Bank Café, Match, Sutton Grange Winery, Mandurang Valley Winery |
| Classes         | Catholic College Bendigo |
| Music & Performance | St Laborius  
Eaglehawk Hub  
Capital Theatre  
Specimen Cottage  
Providence Court Retirement Village Hall Long Gully  
St Andrews  
Crook St Community Hall  
Victory Christian College  
Bendigo Baptist Shed  
Connect Church Shed  
Neighbourhood Houses  
Eaglehawk Band Hall  
Bendigo Senior Secondary College  
SH Cathedral  
Bendigo Town Hall  
Long Gully Community Hall  
Strathdale Community Centre  
Osbourne Street Campus LaTrobe Uni  
Arts Shed Allingham Street Golden Square  
St Paul’s Hall |
| Writing         | Bendigo Retirement Village |
| Film            | Campbell Theatrette Bendigo Library |
| Genealogy       | St Killians  
Historical Society  
Bendigo Gaol |
| Artists         | Goornong Recreational Reserve Hall, Bendigo Library |
## Appendix 7 - Audit of Activities and Venues in the Townships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elmore</strong></td>
<td>Touring Shows from the Capital</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School productions</td>
<td>Memorial Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art displays during annual Field Days</td>
<td>Elmore Events Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orchestra Victoria visit</td>
<td>Anglican Church</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Summer in the Parks events</td>
<td>Parks</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Dance classes</td>
<td>Athenaeum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heathcote</strong></td>
<td>Annual Easter Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibitions during the Fine and Food Festival</td>
<td>RSL Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paint Outs</td>
<td>Outdoors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Painting Weekends</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly workshops and classes</td>
<td>Homes, Neighbourhood House</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art in the Streets for children</td>
<td>Streets</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly Quilters Workshop</td>
<td>Homes, Bowling Club</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biennial Group Exhibition</td>
<td>RSL Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quilts for Love-quilts donated to the Bendigo Hospital</td>
<td>Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly Craft group meeting</td>
<td>Homes, Bowling Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mud Brick Motley Theatre Group 3 performances annually plus a Christmas pantomime</td>
<td>RSL Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art in the schools once a week volunteers run classes</td>
<td>Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heartbeat Singers choir</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Performing Arts Festival</td>
<td>RSL Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Craft groups activities</td>
<td>Homes, Bowling Club</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play reading</td>
<td>Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poetry reading</td>
<td>Homes</td>
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# Appendix 8 - Venues Matrix of Current Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meetings</th>
<th>Exhibitions</th>
<th>Art Classes</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Genealogy</th>
<th>Arts and Craft</th>
<th>Studio Space</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
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<td>B - Central</td>
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<td>Bendigo Gaol</td>
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<td>Bendigo Historical Society</td>
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