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THE HEDBERG



TASMANIAN SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA NINA
STEMME RETURNS.
PHOTO BY BRAD HARRIS

GREATER HOBART CULTURAL VENUES STUDY SUMMARY



Summary

Greater Hobart's cultural landscape has historically been defined by heritage buildings and warehouses converted or maintained as working spaces. After almost a decade of rapid growth, the sector and community have posed the question, what is the future of these spaces and the opportunities for development?

Together with the City of Hobart, the Department of State Growth jointly sponsored the Greater Hobart Cultural Venues Study to provide an inventory of our cultural venues and infrastructure to help inform future planning activities.

This study was undertaken by two independent consultants and delivered:

- Analysis of past and future investment in Greater Hobart's cultural venues.
- Audit of 30 public and private cultural venues in Greater Hobart.
- Identified gaps and opportunities based on feedback from 60 local cultural venue representatives.
- Recommendations for the Tasmanian and Local Governments.

Our current cultural infrastructure

Greater Hobart has a range of venues from small (80-120 seats) to medium (200-500 seats) to large (600-1200 seats). There is also a number of outdoor sites including the Botanical Gardens and Tolosa Park. Thirty of these venues were audited for the purpose of this study.

Through this study it was identified that our capital city lacks a clearly defined cultural precinct. Salamanca's role as a cultural hub has been increasingly challenged by food, entertainment, retail and residential development. The newly developed Hedberg and Theatre Royal are expected to revitalise cultural activity in the city, which has the potential to be reinforced by the activation of City Hall and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG). However, the study recognises that the potential for the forming of "cultural precinct" in this area is contingent on the further development of TMAG.

There is also an opportunity for St John's Creative Living Park in New Town to create and present contemporary community practice, First Nations cultural activity and education, and link inner-city based activity with Moonah and beyond.

This recognises that the City of Glenorchy is home to three of our most significant cultural venues – MONA, MyState Bank Arena and Moonah Arts Centre (MAC). MONA provides services to the national and international arts community and is not dependent on the needs of the local community. Community arts in Glenorchy is focused on MAC. The redevelopment of the MyState Bank Arena and Showgrounds (with new 1500 capacity events and performance space) will provide more accessible cultural venues.

Creative infrastructure continues to develop in outer Hobart suburbs. The Kingborough municipality is one of Tasmania's fastest growing areas and has seen Council invest in development of a central precinct to provide a greater urban identity by combining civic, cultural and community venues.

Across the Derwent River, the City of Clarence is home to a range of cultural activities focussed around Rosny Farm Arts Centre and Bellerive Boardwalk, many of which are actively managed and curated by Clarence City Council to align with local strategies. The visual arts focus will be strengthened through development at Rosny Farm over the next three years catering for emerging and early career artists, with cases and community cultural practice.

Gaps and opportunities

With the rise of Hobart's popularity as a cultural destination, particularly through our festivals, the whole city has been used as a stage.

Although this has strengthened Tasmania's brand as a cultural destination **there is an opportunity to strategically develop and repurpose existing buildings and spaces** in greater Hobart to help grow our cultural and creative industries.

This may include the development of a centralised cultural hub that is fit for purpose and operationally sustainable to strengthen local arts practice.

This could increase the sector's visibility in the community, nurture community participation and engagement, as well as providing a space that is functional for the sector's needs and a place where all Tasmanians can come together to collaborate and share our stories.



Read the full study here

