

Supplementary Submission

To:

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, TRAINING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

GPO Box 1020

CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

The Committee Office

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

London Circuit

ACT 2600

From:

Margaret Webber

Re: Fitters' workshop, Kingston Arts Precinct - Future use

Forwarded by email: committees@parliament.act.gov.au

1.

I understand that supplementary submissions are possible until 12th March 2012.

I have followed the Fitters' Workshop saga since the music community became aware of its special acoustic qualities. I make no claim to any expertise in this area but am aware of the musical standing of those who have made comment.

I am also aware of the inadequate public consultation process, well outlined in Dr Helen Moore's submission no 46

This poor public consultation process is sufficient to halt the project

2.

Below is a letter that I sent to Ms Burch

I hope you have seen this

Dear Ms Burch,

Please keep the Fitters' Workshop for ALL the ARTS. I cannot understand why Megalo is so determined to have this space? If they must leave Watson from where they seem to have done brilliantly and move to Kingston then offer them a purpose built facility. How can they refuse such an offer?

Nobody, it seems, was aware of the acoustic quality of this grand old building - the Fitters' Workshop.

Once a gem has been discovered surely it is in the best interest of all to make it available to all.

Yes, I am a singer and a potter and I've dabbled in painting and print-making. I've seen over the years the efforts to build new buildings with superb acoustics - the Sydney Opera House, the Llewellyn Hall. It is very difficult.

Please retain this space so that all the ARTS groups can use it. As a group we cannot fund expensive advertisements or run web sites but we can appreciate when a special space has been found and a special case needs to be made for its retention for ALL the ARTS.

Yes. It will need work but any old building worth preserving does.

Thank you for reading this.

Margaret Webber

Note that Megalo are at Watson not Weston

3.

I now wish to draw your attention to the following in the Burra Charter 1999

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members. **Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.** (My emphasis)

Who is the Charter for?

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

I believe that the Burra Charter must be applied to the Fitters' Workshop project as a place of cultural significance.

Further I believe that the amount of work necessary to accommodate Megalo Print Studio would compromise the cultural significance of the original workshop and be contrary to the following:

From the preamble of the Burra Charter

Why conserve?

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records, that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious. These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations.

The Burra Charter advocates *a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and to make it useable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained.* (My italics)

These statements alone are enough to negate the Megalo project. The amount of work that needs to be done will severely compromise the building.

4.

There is no conflict with providing Megalo Print Studios with its own purpose built centre within the precinct.

5.I am further addressing the:

Terms of reference

I refer to item 4

(4) calls on the Government to: (a) suspend the capital works project

In the light of the above I believe that this MUST happen:Until a complete programme of works for the whole site has been prepared followed by a further process of consultation to ensure that ALL aspects of this project are addressed to the benefit the community as a whole.

Sincerely

Margaret Webber