

From: penelope upward
Sent: Thursday, 1 March 2012 12:00 PM
To: Snedden, Andrew
Subject: Submission into the inquiry into the Fitters workshop

I have a B.A. of Visual Arts; Grad Dip of Education; Grad Dip of Art History & Curatorship and Certificate 11 in Conservation & Cultural Preservation. My great-grandfather George Upward was on the tour of senators who worked out the site for Canberra. I like many others believe in preserving all the wonderful heritage buildings that date back to Canberra's early history.

The Fitters Workshop is one of these heritage buildings in Canberra and because of its unique heritage should not be altered or changed in anyway. It is perfect the way it is and because of its wonderful acoustic properties should be used by singing or music groups both adult and children. It could also be used for children's theatre, dance groups and singing competitions. CIT fashion parades, exhibition space for ceramicists and textile artists including quilters.

As the ACT government has promised substantial funding for Megalo, new workshops and a gallery could be built for the printmakers. They do not need to destroy the heritage building of The Fitters Workshop for their ambitions. Megalo had very good workshop space at Watson but their gallery was out of the public's way so like all people working in the arts need a gallery close to where the public gather. Is their room in the Glassworks to incorporate printmakers studios? It is a huge building and its heritage not damaged by turning it into a place for glass makers.

I have not heard a single person lobbying for Megalo to takeover the Fitters Workshop being interested in its heritage value. This is a serious oversight and a serious oversight when the ACT government gave it to Megalo. Too much of Australia's heritage has been destroyed by selfish self-interest groups and developers and very bad planning.

I hope very much the ACT government and Megalo respect the unique heritage value of The Fitters Workshop and do not tamper or alter it in any way and a wider group of people working in the arts flourish there rather than a single self-interest group who have been granted adequate funding to build excellent new workshops and gallery closeby.

Penelope Upward