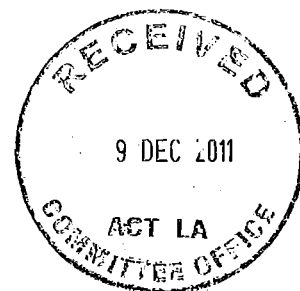


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	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	33
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	



5 December 2011

**Re: ACT Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the future use of the Fitters' Workshop
in the Kingston Arts Precinct**

I am writing in support of Megalo's case for tenancy of the Fitters' Workshop. As an active member of the ACT arts community I consider Megalo to be disadvantaged in its current location at Watson. Its crucial role as an open access studio has been demonstrated by 30 years of successful operations but it is at a stage in its development where it is poised to make a far more substantial contribution to the ACT arts community. Its ability to provide training, employment, networking and economic opportunities for artists from diverse backgrounds will be greatly enhanced with relocation to the Fitters' Workshop. Megalo stakeholders will be obvious beneficiaries but crucially many others will benefit too: those in the visual arts community and in the ACT community more generally.

Locating Megalo in the Fitter's Workshop will mean optimum use of the facility by artists and the broader community 7 days a week. It will also create a dynamic relationship with the Canberra Glassworks, providing a venue where people can both make and look at art. With Megalo at the Fitters' Workshop the precinct will become far livelier, energised by ongoing activities.

I applaud Megalo's ambition to provide superior services and opportunities to artists and the broader community and was delighted when the ACT government first announced its decision to relocate Megalo to the Fitters' workshop. I am extremely disappointed with the process that has since occurred, with the delays and the potential waste of taxpayer funds on preparing the scoping study and architectural drawings for the sympathetic refurbishment of the Fitters' Workshop.

The Megalo board and staff are extremely professional and highly regarded in the community. They have campaigned openly for tenancy of the Fitters Workshop over the past three years, behaving transparently, openly and fairly. I have therefore been very surprised that they have been put in the position of having to argue for an outcome that had already been agreed to and was on the public record.

Finally, I am aware that there is considerable disagreement in the music community about the suitability of the Workshop as a music venue. I request that the Inquiry seeks a comparative acoustic assessment of the many purpose-built musical venues in Canberra as alternatives for choral performances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Helen Ennis'.

Helen Ennis