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**Submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Inquiry into the future use of the
Fitter's Workshop in the Kingston Arts Precinct**

It gives me much pleasure to be able to make a submission to this Inquiry. I have been a member of Megalo Print Studio and Gallery for the last 10 or 11 years. I am a practising artist and have recently completed a postgraduate diploma in the Printmedia and Drawing Department of the ANU School of Art. Megalo has supported my practice throughout the past 10 years by providing help in the following ways;

1. access to equipment which is far too large, expensive and varied to have in my own home;
2. technical support and assistance whenever needed;
3. tuition in a wide variety of techniques;
4. introduction to highly qualified and high profile artists as tutors;
5. introduction to many other artists from within the ACT, interstate and overseas;
6. A venue for exhibiting my work and a place to see and experience a continuing stream of cutting edge contemporary art from the best printmakers in this country and internationally.

Megalo has been in existence for 30 years, albeit under several names and in sometimes expensive or inadequate accommodation. I believe it is important for both the visual artists of the ACT and the greater population of the Territory, that Megalo should be able to continue its excellent work for the community. To do this the print studio needs a permanent home so that the organization can go forward to serve the ACT with confidence and stability.

From a citizen of the ACT's perspective I believe that a suitable site for Megalo in the future is within the Kingston Art Precinct in close proximity to the Canberra Glassworks. This location would be most suitable for the following reasons:

1. The two organisations together would make a critical mass to attract visitors to the site. This would be beneficial to both the art lovers of the ACT and the many tourists to the Territory. It would make a very attractive place to which to take visitors to the city.
2. The proximity of other major art and literary institutions such as the National Library, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery of Australia would be of great benefit to a hub of practical art making such as would be created by the location Megalo close to the Canberra Glassworks.
3. An area where visitors can not only view and buy art made in the ACT by leading Australian artists, but also watch artists at work each day of the week making art, would provide added interest for any visitors and attract tourists.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my ideas to this inquiry.

Lex Beardsell

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