

From: Slater, Bernie
Sent: Thursday, 8 December 2011 10:19 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Fitter's Workshop enquiry

This is a submission for the **Inquiry into the future use of the Fitters' Workshop in the Kingston arts precinct.**

I am writing in support of the Government's decision to house Megalo Print Studios at the Fitter's Workshop in Kingston.

I have taken several groups of CIT Visual Art and Design students to Megalo to view their impressive (and historically significant) print archive, to meet visiting artists and discuss their work and for my students to experience a best industry practice studio. A common response is "I never knew this was here!" Whilst Megalo have some of the best equipment and staff expertise in Australia, their current accommodation leaves a lot to be desired. I feel the Fitter's Workshop in Kingston is the perfect fit for such a nationally significant organisation.

Megalo is such a vibrant and inclusive organisation, and this vibrancy would not only suit but enhance the creative activity of the Kingston foreshore. Megalo not only foster creative innovation in high-end art making, but also facilitate many community groups, schools, artists with disabilities and the general public to engage in the creative arts and to give art an important place in their lives.

For 30 years, Megalo has continued to grow and continued to be a positive influence in the lives of many Canberrans. As an established organisation with a national and international reputation, I feel that the next logical step for Megalo is to be housed in an appropriately prominent location. The Fitter's Workshop is a beautiful and significant building. It would be such a shame to continue to see it sitting empty for the majority of the year. The tenancy of Megalo in the Workshop would ensure that Canberrans will be able to access and enjoy this building year round. There are also obvious synergies with the Canberra Glassworks, the NGA and the NPG, and the daily activity of Megalo would be a valuable and invigorating addition to the Cultural Tourist trail within the Parliamentary triangle.

I hope you will support Megalo's tenancy in the Fitters Workshop.

Sincerely,

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