

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL PLAZA COMMUNITY FORUMS

FAMILIES AND BUSINESS OWNERS/ENTREPRENEURS

WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2015, 6PM – 7.30PM

FORUM OUTCOMES

Attendance

The first community forum held on Wednesday 2 September was attended by 29 people in total, recruited by market research company McGregor Tan on behalf of Renewal SA. The attendance comprised 14 people representing families with children of varying ages and 15 business owners and entrepreneurs. Eight representatives from Renewal SA were present and the event was facilitated by Daniel Thorpe from Gould Thorpe Planning Pty Ltd. A full list of participants is at Appendix 1.



Forum Objectives

Input was sought from these targeted demographic groups to review the community feedback collected during the large-scale public consultation in 2013 and provide their input and suggestions on the most recent concept designs for the Plaza prepared by ARM.

Forum Structure

Following a welcome and introduction from Daniel Thorpe, Georgina Vasilevski, General Manager People and Place Management, Renewal SA provided an overview of planning and urban design work completed to date on the Riverbank Precinct.

Daniel then explained the requirements of the workshop session and participants were given ten minutes each at four work stations to discuss the specific themes and note their suggestions on the provided plans or have them recorded by the Renewal SA table facilitators.

The four work station areas provided for discussion comprised:

1. Integrated Connections

- between North Terrace, buildings and river

2. Activations/Program

- major events space, markets/open air activities/cafes/open air cinema, big screens and other attractions for families

3. Uniquely Adelaide/SA

- including wineries, festivals, the arts, outback, churches

4. Climate/Landscaping

- interactive water fountains, low walling/windbreaks, shade critical for Summer

Key themes identified by participants were presented by table facilitators at a short plenary on conclusion of the working session and the forum was closed with an outline by Daniel Thorpe and Georgina Vasilevski on the next steps for the Festival Plaza and how participants can continue to be kept up to date.



Overview of Key Themes

The key themes identified in discussions at each table were summarised by the facilitators and presented below. The verbatim record of all ideas, suggestions and priorities given by participants, including those written on the plans provided and posted on sticky notes, is provided in Appendix 2.

1. Integrated Connections

- There was broad support for levelling of the Plaza to improve accessibility and wayfinding, covered walkways to provide all-weather access between places, cycling paths, family-friendly spaces and improved signage.
- The design of lights and use of lighting to improve safety and night-time use, express creativity and engage both adults and children were common ideas.

- Participants encouraged Renewal SA to ‘have fun’ and be bold with the design of the space to actively engage children and adults. This includes designing play equipment for people of all ages as well as providing changing experiences and opportunities for connection with the place.

2. Activations/Program

- Participants nominated cultural festivals (eg Bollywood Festival and those with a food focus), the need to include a variety of food options (eg a mix of fine-dining and street food), a focus on children’s activities and events, and the installation of temporary and permanent play equipment for people of all ages (e.g. table tennis, water feature, chess boards), as the priorities under this theme.
- Music was also a priority, including different genres eg symphony under the stars. A program of music was suggested, with buskers and multi-cultural themes.
- Markets, including Sunday and night markets, were suggested with specific themes rather than ‘something for everything’. A variety of food and crafts and different themes eg like the Bowerbird [market]. Music and timed features, eg ‘something happens’ on the hour.
- An outdoor business hub for workers and students was also a common suggestion, involving free access, seats/bean bags, free wifi and IT/power connections.

3. Uniquely Adelaide/SA

- Some participants felt that a well-designed, good space is more important than something ‘uniquely Adelaide/SA’. They felt that such a space would then develop over time into an authentic place that represented our State. In addition, it needed to be design for children and young people but reman relevant and interesting as people age and move through the different generations.
- Sustainability was seen as very important and something uniquely South Australian – and therefore an objective to strive towards in the redevelopment of the Plaza. This includes the design and use of renewable energy sources/solar and intelligent use of water.
- Incorporating our history into the design, including recognition (possibly through stories) of important people who’ve shaped SA, eg Don Dunstan.

4. Climate/Landscaping

- Instant shading will be needed as trees take time to develop. The spaces will need to be designed for all four seasons and shade/shelter should be designed as practical structures to enable multi-purpose usage. Grapevines can provide shade in summer and drop leaves and let sun through in winter.
- Playground and other equipment for all age groups to engage in unexpected locations as well as playgrounds that evoke imagination and interest, with novel designs for kids, ie trampoline pits. Pop up and changing play equipment (ie non-permanent) will keep the space fresh and interesting.
- The water feature should be designed with sustainability principles and use recycled water. It also needs to be located so that not everybody gets wet if they don’t want to.
- Grass selection and maintenance needs to be second to none, with clear ownership and regular upkeep. Indigenous planting should be integrated in the design with more evergreen trees planted to create a high amenity environment. In addition, edible plants and trees with information plaques could be used for education for families. Food gardens could also be included to give back to those less privileged in the community.

APPENDIX 1 – FORUM ATTENDANCE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2015

Community participants

Business Owners	Families
Hamish Edwards	Jessie Yates
Martina Harkness	Greg Penno
David Booth	Jason Martelli
Nicole Humphris	Rosie Bartlett
Brett Henriksson	Natalie Victory
Ryan Edwards	Darryl Crittenden
Nick Wells	Jane Ryan
Dane Robson	Greg Hutchinson
Ingrid Kaminski	Katharine McLeod
Jessica Dixon	Maria Deguia
Nathanial Mason	Tania Reich
Ria Mestiza	Jared McGlynn
Natasha Harvey	David Jarratt
Majed Rasheed	Michael MacTavish
Marie Diab	-

Renewal SA representatives

Renewal SA	Title	Forum Role
Georgina Vasilevski	General Manager	Presenter/Table Facilitator
Barbara Dickens	Manager Engagement	Table Facilitator
Emma Kibble	Senior Project Officer	Table Facilitator
Rachel Walsh	Manager Strategic Marketing Projects	Table Facilitator
Sonya Mir	Marketing & Sales Manager (Riverbank)	Table Facilitator
Gorica Krstic	Project Officer	Table Facilitator
Adam Joyce	Media Officer	Table Facilitator
Kosta Livaditis	Project Officer	Table Facilitator
Zach Cassidy	Project Officer	Photographer

Facilitator/MC

Name	Organisation	Role / Speciality
Daniel Thorpe	Gould Thorpe Planning Pty Ltd	Facilitator / Consultant

APPENDIX 2 – VERBATIM RECORD OF FEEDBACK

Work Station 1 – Integrated Connections

The following ideas were raised or written by participants and respond to the theme of how we can ensure better connections between the Plaza and other key destinations including North Terrace, buildings and the River Torrens.

Key themes:

- Levelling – positive, need grass [for] kids' running [space].
- Kids and [changing] levels can be dangerous – soft edges.
- Kids 'transport' option, eg light rail/train [as they can] get exhausted.
- Fencing.
- Converging from different spaces – space like a hub – wifi/power/connections.
- Free wifi.
- Safe area for small children to be 'contained' – furniture gardens.
- Covered connections – rain/weather [protection] – retracting shelter/movable shelter.
- Classy square not pop up.
- Power and data equipment crucial.
- BBQs – footy – nothing's replaced it.
- Not like Docklands.
- Cycling paths – covered bike storage/security.
- Family friendly priced/theme offerings in restaurants.
- Fringe/festival events in here.
- Elder Park – old RAH – Plaza – how do we connect?
- Permanent 'Lota's set up.
- Flat, one level – modalities.
- Undercover access – all weather.
- Better signage/wayfinding ie 2km to the Plaza.
- Make it kid-friendly – play – info.
- Design competitions/artistic.
- Water feature – non-slip.
- Have 'fun' with the space, trampoline pits, water feature, play equipment for all people of all ages.
- Events/entertainment – novelty – night.
- Need a screen – pop up OK but needs to look like it's part of the Plaza. Always associate with sport....will be public outrage.
- Lighting important – no darkness at all.
- Stigma of the area, not nice.
- Paddle boat destination across the River.
- Light shows for kids of all ages.
- Playground/sandpit.
- Tram to East End.
- Pictures in signage.
- Live feeds of what's happening in various precincts.
- Speakers/sound throughout the Plaza.
- Enliven the senses.
- Station Place – no straight benches, indented to provide privacy for meetings/gatherings.
- Overpass/underpass [for] King William Street.
- Fire pits.
- Better winter facilities.
- Wayfinding and signage.
- Flying fox.
- Revolving gallery space.

Sticky notes:

- Light shows, eg [as previously seen at] North Terrace and on the Entertainment Centre structure [Business].
- Kids play area. Sand - beach area. Movie nights [Families].
- Signage. Landmark indicators. Use cute sculptures for children to play on and use to find your way [Families].
- Viewing areas during construction process. 'Watch the space'. Printed shade cloth [Business].
- Interactive displays – areas that are suitable for young children [Business].
- Free activities are a must [Families].
- During construction, use images of new plan as perimeter fencing/shade cloth [Business].
- Water feature that squirts water similar to Glenelg [Business].
- Not attracted to 'pop up' food vans, maybe only 'markets' [Families].
- Signs with distance and road markers [Business].
- Safe areas for kids to play away from road and river [Business].
- Wifi access. Paddle boats to connect both river sides [Business].
- Display advertising upcoming events to encourage people to revisit [Business].
- Cycling path along riverbank [Business].
- Connections – families – events – markets – use lights/theme River. Flow into connections [Families].
- Activities to invite me – farmers/organic markets. Wine tasting, busking, moonlight cinema, markets, festivals, food [Families].
- Many people use the Torrens riverbank area for exercise. Consider including interesting, challenging and invigorating access for people who exercise [Business].
- All of the mock ups and ideas look fantastic. Excellent to even out space. Need to make sure there is permanent shelter [Business].
- Free bicycle hire? [Business].
- Toddler safe areas. Fenced toddler/children area. Playground equipment/fenced. Clean, roomy parents' room. Not a fan of wet children unless it is planned (in reference to water feature) [Families].
- Love the idea of the interaction with the water and bringing the arts out from the centre to the precinct [Families].
- Accessibility for all users: pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs, pets, children, bike paths (?) [Business].

Work Station 2 – Activations/Program

The following ideas were raised or written by participants and respond to the theme of activations and programming to draw people to the space, eg major events space, markets/open air activities/cafes/open air cinema, big screens and other attractions for families.

Key themes:

- Cultural Festivals – may have a food focus – Bollywood Festival.
- Variety of food options, eg restraint may have ‘take-away’ options/picnic packs (with deposit on the basket). Mix of fine-dining and street food.
- Make sure there’s something to takeaway eg walk to River.
- Shade is a must!
- Lighting (safety and vibrancy).
- Clean up the Torrens!
- Children focus, eg outdoor cinemas - kids focus, eg Come Out [Festival], Fringe, music.
- Atmosphere of the Oval but not there.
- Use as a meeting place.
- Activities – table tennis, play equipment, water feature, chess boards, (all permanent in the precinct).
- Give children options, different locations, follows harbour, eg Darling Harbour. Able to experience at own leisure.
- Night time – attract clubs to watch on the big screen, eg soccer and global sporting events, eg World Cup.
- Music – different genres, eg symphony under the stars. Program of music, buskers, multi-cultural theme. Night markets – with music, timed features, eg ‘something happens’ on the hour.
- Business – how can the Plaza work out to businesses? Sustainability for businesses. Curate/liaise between businesses.
- Adelaide Festival Centre – take programming from the Theatre out to the Plaza. Spilling out from the inside/integrate, eg kids’ choir.
- Sunday Markets – themed markets not ‘something for everything’. What to do in winter, eg eco-friendly heating. Variety of food and crafts and different – eg Bowerbird [market]. For men [too]. What to do with wet kids? Towels etc.
- Water feature – don’t love the idea. Small scale? Yes! – to let them ‘swim’.
- Outdoor business hub – free, seats, bean bags, wifi, hook in, ports etc. Mix it up. Students.
- Pop up pods – for retail, shops etc. Hire for markets, pop up etc. Consistent look versus different themes.
- Bubble soccer on River!
- Business looking to Plaza.
- Don’t let 6 tendencies dictate what the population wants in the plaza.
- Something big, eg Cirque du Soleil.
- Keep businesses open! Late dinners! Late kitchens!
- Students! Lots here!
- Encourage people to be active, eg yoga, gym equipment.
- Diversity of budgets – all scales to appeal, ie not all expensive, not all cheap.
- Docking stations!
- Capture feedback during construction, eg touch screens. An app or website – ‘give us your thoughts’.

Sticky notes:

- Activity on River and/or Plaza – yoga, sport, workshops, other – ‘keep Australia active’ [Families].
- Electricity. Wifi. Attractive for students [Business].
- Smaller scale fountain. Unappealing for adults. Wet kids – facilities for wet kids. Hate Victoria Square fountain [Business].
- Students. Food. Comfort and sustainability. Business hub – outdoor. Students – wifi [Business].
- Competition of bricks and mortar [Business].
- Carnival for kids [Families].

- Giant chess games [Families].
- Children playgrounds. Interactive, education boards [Families].
- Wine and cheese festival or similar. Multicultural event nights [Business].
- Promoting Dunstan's vision – art, music, drama etc, exhibitions. Tours? – old Parliament House etc? Adelaide Info Centre [Business].
- Picnic areas – BBQs, tables? [Business].

Work Station 3 – Uniquely Adelaide/SA

The following ideas were raised or written by participants and respond to the theme of Uniquely Adelaide/SA, eg wineries, festivals, the arts, outback, churches.

Key themes:

- Renewable energy sources/solar – very Adelaide. Water feature – dry State (bouncing water and LEDs).
- Don't be afraid to have fun.
- Markets – day and night – locally made.
- Simple space that allows great range of activities – versatile.
- Tour Down Under – hub/village centre.
- Utilise space on water/River (ie inflatable balls).
- Buskers/entertainment.
- Keep space open – less borders/trees.
- Sky walk – suspended walkway above ground.
- High adrenaline activities – speedboat?
- Incorporating history into the design – feature important people who've shaped SA (through stories).
- Undercover walkway to encourage pedestrian flows within/across space.
- Practical rather than arty (so it doesn't date). Creative without being time specific. Pop up art. The State's colours across the site.
- Food.
- Students.
- Multiculturalism.
- Wide open spaces.
- Festivals.
- Well-designed space (instead of uniquely Adelaide).
- Artworks.
- Promotion of upcoming events/cycling display.
- Moonlight cinema type events.
- Designed for very young people to be useful for when they grow up – focus on sustainability and multicultural diversity.
- Most sustainable environment created.
- Green space.
- Generational use.
- Business hub – outdoor meeting places with wifi etc.

Sticky notes:

- Flying fox between buildings and over river. Adrenaline junkies. Young and young at heart [Business].
- Big sandpits [Family].
- Ziplines. Trampoline pits. Play equipment for all ages [Family].
- Don't be afraid to be fun [Family].
- An app when you enter it notifies you [of] what's happening in the precinct, what's coming up, eg family events etc [Business].
- Clipsal is uniquely Adelaide [Business].
- Long term space still as good in 20 years' time. Peak space for our youth to bring generations through [Business].
- Cycling coffee shop to go around to people that are around having meetings [Business].
- Needs to be free to enter and keep cost down to encourage people [Business].
- Make it fun where adults can become kids – it will relax everyone – encourage family time and reduce stress [Business].
- Students. Food and wine [Business].
- Tour Down Under town centre for the village when in town. Promotes cycling [Families].

- Solar panels (tiles) on the Festival theatre and/or the ground. Supplied by Adelaide companies/technology [Families].
- Not making it segregated [Business].
- Random art work/pop up things that are quirky and attention grabbing but you don't necessarily need to 'get it' [Families].
- Inventive activities with kids – involving technology so need good wifi.
- Suspended walkway that is above the ground. Provides another layer to the Plaza [Families].
- Shelter. There are few places where you can go to that are sheltered [Business].
- Practical rather than arty, ie be careful of being dated [Families].
- I feel that Federation Square is not necessarily Melbourne but a well-designed space. I feel that it is more important to have a well-designed, good space that becomes uniquely Adelaide rather than initially designed to be uniquely Adelaide [Families].
- Need to see it when driving [past] - too many trees. Open it up and have market stalls (along King William Street) [Business].
- Values – how can we incorporate these into the design for future generations [Business].
- Not uniquely Adelaide – rather a well-planned space [Families].
- Be careful not to get rid of the nice, green areas [Business].
- How can we promote us as the most sustainable state? [Business].
- Federation Square has tried to be too clever – the utility of this space can be a simple space that allows activity [Business].
- Will parking and especially costs for events be an issue? [Families].
- The Festival theatre is a large space which could be iconic – uniquely Adelaide.
- Solar panels on the Festival Theatre – creatively and by South Australian companies [Business].
- Use the opportunity to create a great blank canvas [Families].
- Key figures in Adelaide history incorporated (additional to well-known names) [Business].
- Walkways undercover. High open and perhaps vine/greenery incorporated [Business].
- Sculptures/artwork [Business].
- Having the State's colours around the place – red, blue and yellow.
- Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula, Fleurieu Peninsula – not just Flinders [Business].

Work Station 4 – Climate/Landscaping

The following ideas were raised or written by participants and respond to the theme of climate and landscape when planning the Plaza.

Key themes

- Instant shading – trees take time to develop.
- Practical elements to shade/shelter, multi-use.
- Water feature – make it reusable ie recycle water (pop up lighting incorporated).
- Capturing stormwater to water the plants and trees.
- Changing rooms along with toilet facilities.
- Winter time – different activities (music/shows/markets) that are covered.
- Grape vines as shading = sustainable.
- All four seasons need to be considered.
- Recycling water feature.
- Edible fruit trees/herb garden (garden beds) for the kids.
- Solar power/fans.
- Australian native plants.
- Grass selection and maintenance to be of high quality/standard.
- Grass preferred over asphalt.
- Location of the water feature is important for those who don't want engage with it.
- Semi-fixed furniture options.
- Steam element of the water feature.

Sticky notes:

- Recycling [Business].
- Bike lockers/showers [Families].
- Solar powered [Business].
- No fences! Trees and nature play through good urban design [Families].
- Grass selection and maintenance needs to be second to none. Needs ownership and regular upkeep [Families].
- Playground and other equipment for all age groups to engage in unexpected locations [Business].
- Playgrounds that evoke imagination and interest, novel designs for kids [Families].
- Balls (large/see through) over the Torrens for kids [Business].
- Bee hive man for local honey sourcing [Business].
- Hedge-maze in a suitable location [Families].
- Indigenous planting integrated in the design [Families].
- Steam from the ground/water feature to add interest. Sound and light also [Families].
- Art and culture displays - interactive? - changing? - availability for exhibitions – open air? [Business].
- Fire pit. Trampoline pits [Families].
- Love idea for Elder Park amphitheatre design with the stage in the water [Families].
- Southbank style artificial beach [Families].
- More evergreen trees for high amenity environment [Families].
- Canvas screens that go over the top – retractable for climatic weather response as needed [Business].
- Cleaning the River [Families].
- 'All weather' shelter to enable the Plaza area to be used in the height of winter and summer [Families].
- A water feature that not everybody gets wet if they don't want to [Business].
- Water sprouts/pop up fountains with lighting shows etc. Border and compliment Riverbank Plaza (don't hide behind Festival Plaza) [Business].
- Location is key for the water feature. Not to get wet if you don't want to [Families].
- Pop up and changing play equipment keeping new ideas frequent "non-permanent" [Business].

- Other options rather than water feature for children – squishy floor used in playgrounds [Business].
- Family change room facilities for water feature [Business].
- Capturing rain water that falls on the Plaza to water plants that are added [Families].
- Edible plants and trees with info plaques explaining species as a form of education for families [Business].
- Instant shading – pull down? permanent? [Business].
- Energy (electricity) that powers lighting is from solar, wind generation and promotes local SA technology [Families].
- Trying to find a medium for summer and winter, shaded areas and covered for both [Families].
- Removable shade, removable wind breaks [Families].
- Have novel ideas for taking friends down there [Business].
- Promoting sustainability [Business].
- Ensure there is sun in winter and shade in summer – needs to be adaptive [Business].
- Undercover, Southbank, Brisbane style walkway linking places undercover [Families].
- Places for children to play that doesn't involve them getting wet [Families].
- Recycling water feature [Business].
- Needs to be the most sustainable project in Australia – can be promoted – legacy for the future – places SA as the continuing leader in sustainability – solar panel bike paths [Business].
- Semi-permanent seating options [Families].
- Grass areas need to be maintained and if possible extended. Australia, particularly South Australia, flora. Drinking fountains. Pet fountains [Business].
- Shade – grapevines provide shade in summer and drop leaves and let sun through in winter. Cross flow ventilation for structures (face north) [Business].
- Feng Shui incorporate: metal, plants, soil, wood [Business].
- Clean up the Torrens!! Clean water would expand the use of the precinct 100% [Business].
- Fresh area, lots of greenery, attractive spot, practical for four season applicability [Business].
- Historical interactive info – multicultural, immigration, CBD photos (historical), prominent figure (Dunstan?) [Business].
- Fringe acts. Footballs fans, BBQs. Attention – no fenced playground or sand pit! Use foliage. Wine tasting!
- Considerations for festival entry fees: why not offer free entry to attract families, students etc. Entry fees limit attendance [Families].
- Food gardens to give back to those less privileged in the community = children awareness of gardens [Families].
- Elder Park converted to an amphitheatre surrounding a stage [Families].
- Zipline across the River. Don't be afraid to have fun! [Families].