



# Cultural Precinct **FAQ**

as at November 2015

## What is the Cultural Precinct?

As a destination for both locals and visitors, the Cultural Precinct will be a place where people come together to engage with arts, culture and each other. The Cultural Precinct will include an arts museum, performing arts centre, artscape, arts hotel, dining and retail. The current 16.9 hectare site at Evandale will be transformed into an array of buildings and structures devoted to civic, cultural and public use over the next ten to 15 years.

## Why do we need a Cultural Precinct?

Attendance at The Arts Centre has grown from 100,000 visitors annually in the late 1990s to 700,000 visiting the precinct in the last 12 months. We have reached capacity. The city art collection has outgrown the existing venue, with \$26 million worth of artwork that is largely unable to be displayed.

The Gold Coast is Australia's sixth largest city and headed for a population of more than 700,000 in the next decade. We need a Cultural Precinct with expanded capacity for the arts and more. Such a precinct will unlock the city's creative potential, contribute to a strong community spirit and attract people and investment.

## What are the outcomes for our city?

The Cultural Precinct will offer diverse and innovative arts experiences, nurture artistic development, generate commercial activity, provide creative job opportunities, celebrate and strengthen our distinctive identity, and become a cultural tourism destination.

## When will the Cultural Precinct be built?

Building the Cultural Precinct at Evandale will be completed in stages over the coming ten to 15 years. Council has approved planning, design and early works to enable the \$37million Stage 1 to be completed before the city hosts the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

## What is Stage 1 of the Cultural Precinct?

Stage 1 will be ready to host artistic and cultural programming ahead of the Commonwealth Games in April 2018. It will include:

- **An Amphitheatre** – a garden theatre with stage and event platform, catering for audiences of up to 5000 and a wide range of civic events and performances
- **AA rated art gallery** – adapting the existing Riverside Building to provide an enhanced Gallery exhibition space, and places for creative partnerships, civic receptions and a café
- **Initial Artscape works** – surrounding an enhanced Evandale Lake and activated by artistic programming, markets, festivals, cinema and family recreation
- Detailed design is also being prepared for a pedestrian and cycle bridge connecting the Cultural Precinct with nearby Chevron Island and on to Surfers Paradise. This will enable construction of the Precinct's **Friendship Bridge** to proceed when funding is secured.

## When will work begin on Stage 1?

Stage 1 early works will begin in early 2016 and includes site preparation, including demolition of Council's existing administration with completion in late 2017.

## Where is Stage 1 located?

The Evandale Administration building and Council civic offices will be demolished to make way for the outdoor stage and artscape, while two floors of the existing Riverside building will be converted for art gallery use.



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## How will the building works affect The Arts Centre?

It's business as usual at The Arts Centre Gold Coast, with no changes to the building or programming planned for Stage 1. We will continue to present first-class arts performances and experiences, provide education and community engagement, and nurture and showcase local practice and talent.

## How will the building works affect Gold Coast City Gallery?

The art gallery will operate in the existing space until Stage 1 building works are complete and then move to the Riverside Gallery space. Gold Coast City Gallery will continue to present quality visual arts exhibitions, provide educational and community engagement, manage the City Collection, and nurture and promote local visual arts practise across the city.

## Will the lake be protected?

Yes. The lake will be retained and enhanced with improved landscaping and new café facilities around the water's edge.

## Is the Friendship Bridge being built?

No, at this stage there is no funding to build the bridge from Chevron Island to the Cultural Precinct. The design for the bridge will be finalised in readiness for construction while funding is being secured.

## Will parking be impacted or reduced by the Cultural Precinct?

No, as part of Stage 1 there will be no reduction in the number of car parks currently available. As part of future stages Council anticipates that basement parking will be provided under new buildings for people with disabilities, VIPS etc while new above and below ground parking spaces will be created on the corner of Crombie Ave and Bundall Road for visitors, however there is no definitive timeline as to when these works will take place.

## How will Benefactor and Supporter funding be affected?

Donations received from our valued Benefactors and Supporters will continue to fund existing young artist development programs, community engagement activities, professional artist and mentor costs, gallery acquisitions, local artist opportunities and more. Opportunities to give directly towards the Cultural Precinct development may become available in the future.

## How will the Cultural Precinct benefit local performing and visual artists?

Long term, the vision for the Cultural Precinct is that it will become home to resident arts organisations, such as professional dance and theatre companies. In the meantime, City of Gold Coast and The Arts Centre Gold Coast are laying the foundations for professional artistic practise to develop via arts funding, mentoring and development programs, as well as providing employment and opportunities to connect with other artists. Already, we are programming more activities around Evandale Parklands, providing employment for artists.

The Cultural Precinct will provide opportunities and outcomes for the wide variety of creative talent residing in our city.

### Further information contact:

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