

UNIVERSITY SQUARE DRAFT MASTER PLAN



PHASE 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016



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This engagement summary has been commissioned by The City of Melbourne and complete by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy specialising in community engagement:

Every effort has been made to accurately represent participant feedback and insights within this document. For recommendations or questions, Please contact: urbanlandscapes@melbourne.vic.gov.au

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1. PLANNING FOR TREES



2. BARRY STREET
NEW PARK SPACES



3. LEICESTER STREET
ROAD WITHIN A PARK



4. THE PLAZA AND
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5. WATER TERRACE



7. DELHAM STREET PARK FRONT
AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR



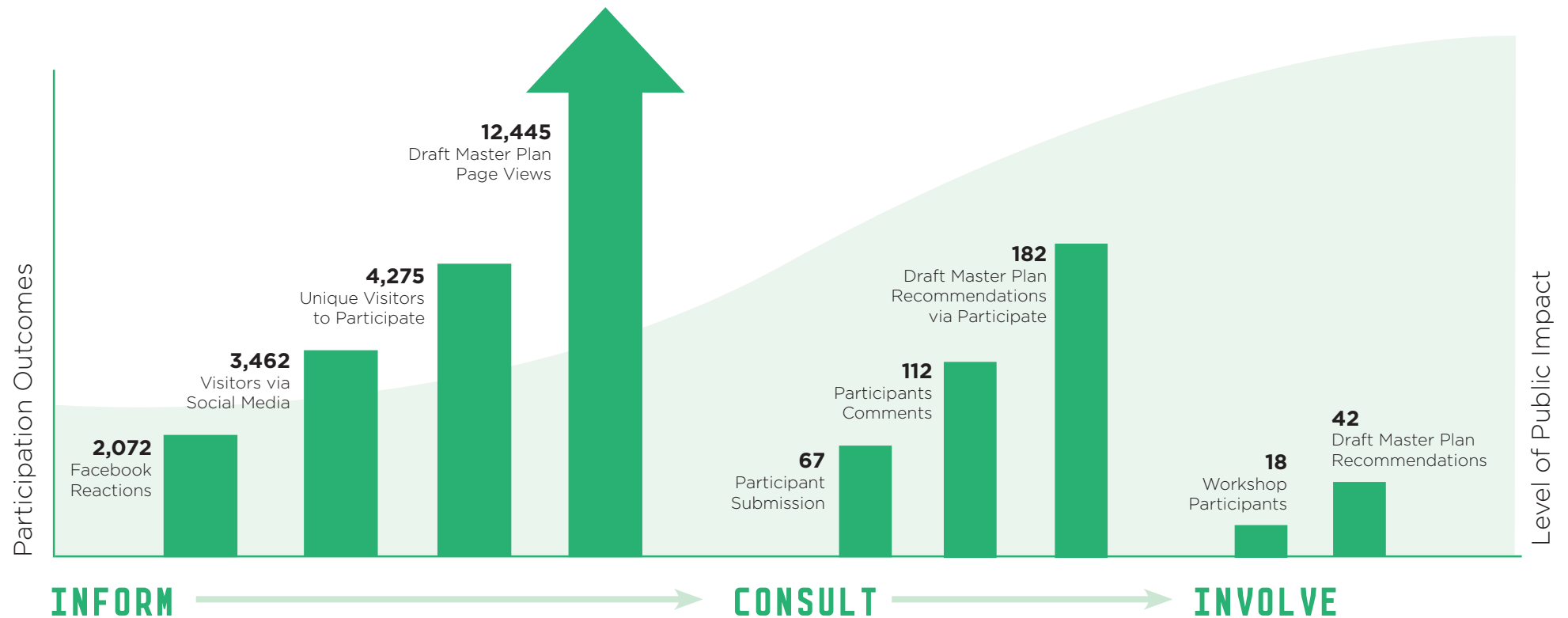
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PART A: ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



*Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants have access to all relevant project documentation. **Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,275 unique visitors, with the interactive Draft Master Plan receiving 12,445 page views.***

*Through Participate Melbourne, participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project sections. **A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.** Another 2 submission were placed via email.*

*Stakeholders were invited to attend two workshop sessions. **A total of 18 participants took part in the workshops and contributed 42 recommendations.***

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Overall, the 87 formal **participants contributed 227 recommendations** relating to the Draft Master Plan. 80% of these recommendations were submitted through Participate Melbourne.

63% of participants said they work in Municipality. 45% participants said they live in the municipality, and just over 20% identified as ratepayers. Over 90% of those aged 30+ worked in the municipality and **100% of people under the age of 30 were studying.**

Participants were asked to associate a score indicating their level of support for the proposed actions outlined in the Draft Master Plan. **The average score for the Draft Master Plan was a 3 out of 5 - translating as ‘(I) Support some parts of it but not others.’**

Participants directed nearly 60% of their recommendation towards five principle areas of interest, these included:

1. The overall **design and placemaking** features within the action areas (18.5%). This included considerations as to the kinds of activities, spaces and seating that would be included in the future park, as well as specific design recommendations relating to the action areas.

2. The **maintenance of the existing elm trees** within the park (13.2%).
3. The management of **traffic and parking** as a result of proposed changes to the areas streets (9.7%)
4. The **preservation of the existing paths** in The Green (8.8%).
5. New **Planting and Greenery** (7.9%). This included consideration for the type and variety of trees.

Outside of General Comments which received the highest number of comments (65) and recommendations (79), The action areas that received the most interest from participants were:

1. **The Green:** 18 comments, 35 recommendations
2. **Leicester Street:** 14 comments, 23 recommendations
3. **Planning for Tree:** 13 comments, 24 comments.
4. **The Plaza:** 13 comments, 19 recommendations.

Each action area of the Draft Master Plan is reviewed in Part C of this document (starting from page 20).

ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Comments in this section have been arranged from the highest number of recommendations received to the lowest. This section provides an overview of the most common recommendations from participants to improve the Draft Master Plan.

- **Design and Placemaking:** Participants recommended reviewing the proposed design for the Plaza, Water Terrace and Green. It was considered that more could be done to enhance the Plaza and Water Terrace and make it more attractive to users. Participants did not want to see significant change to the current design of the Green.
- **Maintaining Existing Trees:** Participants felt that more could be done to extend the life span of the existing elm trees in the Green. While many understood the need to transition these trees, they wanted a better understanding of the useful life expectancy.
- **Parking and Traffic Management:** Overall, participants were happy with the proposed changes to parking and roads however they expressed concern for students, families and visitors looking to access the area in the future. They asked whether low cost parking might be provided in proximity.
- **New Planting and Greenery:** Participants were supportive of the proposed new green spaces and increased number of trees. There was a mixed response from participants requesting European vs. native varieties.
- **Accessibility:** Participants recommended a range of improvements to support pedestrian safety and access to the park by prams and wheelchairs.
- **The Green:** Overall, participants did not agree with removing trees from the central lawn area. They were concerned that by opening up this space there would be insufficient shade in summer and the area would be used for group sports - affecting the quiet enjoyment of the park.
- **Protecting Wildlife:** Participants were concerned for native wildlife and recommended a plan be put in place to re-home possums, bats and birds if the elm trees are removed.
- **Historic Features:** Participants wanted to see historic features of the park maintained. This related the Temperance Fountain, the choice of European trees in the planting, and the layout of the paths.
- **Interim Planting:** Participants recommended an interim solution that would keep tall trees in the park - providing shade for users - while the new trees matured.
- **Metro:** Participants wanted more information on how the proposed Metro station might impact the site and change the configuration of the Plaza.
- **Maintenance:** Participants were concerned about litter and graffiti in the park and wanted to understand how the space would be managed.
- **Respectful Use:** Participants wanted to ensure that the area would not be used for team sports or loud activities.

PHASE 4 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Phase 4 community engagement involved a number of elements with the digital engagement platform - Participate Melbourne - at its core. These elements were:

Online Information Platform

*Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants could find all relevant project documentation. **Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 4,850 unique page views**, with the interactive Draft Master Plan receiving 12,455 page clicks.*

Online Comments Section

*Participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project section (e.g. Water Terrace, Leicester Street, The Green). **A total of 112 comments were lodged by 67 participants.***

Community Workshop

*Stakeholder were invited to attend two workshop hosted by The Space Agency. **A total of 18 participants took part in the workshop sessions.***

Social Media

*Social media posts by the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts **attracted 3462 visitors to Participate Melbourne.***

Direct Engagement

The City of Melbourne is working with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian State Government – both of whom are financial partners in this project.

Other key stakeholders include:

- Carlton Residents' Association
- Melbourne Metro Rail Authority
- The University of Melbourne
- Graduate House
- The University of Melbourne

MEDIA SUMMARY

The community engagement initiative was featured on:

- [Herald Sun Online](#) (23 August, 2016): 'Carlton's 'pretty barren' University Square set for \$9m makeover with solar-powered charging stations'
- [ArchitectureAU](#) (26 August, 2016): 'Melbourne's 'hostile and forbidding' University Square to be transformed'
- [Australian Design Review](#) (2 September): Parks of the future: new green spaces for Carlton and Southbank

These two sources **attracted 149 visitors to the Participate Melbourne** online engagement portal.

Social Media

The project was pushed through the City of Melbourne Social channels (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter). Across the course of the engagement, **3462 people were engaged by social media posts** and clicked through to Participate Melbourne.

Facebook post by the City of Melbourne received a total of **2072 reactions** - including likes and shares.



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The engagement attracted a **total of 87 participants** who shared their insights through formal process - namely: through the online engagement portal, community workshop or via email.

Formal Participants	N	% of Total
Participate Melbourne	67	77.0%
Community Workshop	18	20.7%
Email Submission	2	2.3%

Table 1: Submissions by format.

Overall, **participants were more likely to be female (62.1%) and under the age of 55 (68.9%)**. There was a strong representation of people under the age of 30 (35.6%).

Gender	N	% of Total
Male	41	47.1%
Female	54	62.1%
Other	8	9.2%

Table 3: Participants' stated gender identity.

Age Group	N	% of Total
Under 30	31	35.6%
Between 30 and 55	29	33.3%
Over the age of 55	15	17.2%
Unknown	11	12.6%

Table 4: Participant age profile.

63% of participants said they work in the municipality. 45% participants said they live in the municipality, and just over 20% identified as ratepayers. Over 90% of those aged 30+ worked in the City of Melbourne and **100% of people under the age of 30 were studying in the city.**

Relationship to the City	N	% of Total
Live	42	48.3%
Pay rates	20	23.0%
Work	55	63.2%
Visit	26	29.9%
Study	38	43.7%
Own a business	8	9.2%
Unknown	1	

Table 5: Participants' stated relationship to the City of Melbourne.

Relationship to the City	< 30		30 -55		55 >	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Live	13	46.4%	17	85.0%	6	54.5%
Pay rates	4	14.3%	9	45.0%	5	45.5%
Work	16	57.1%	18	90.0%	13	90.9%
Visit	12	42.9%	7	35.0%	4	36.4%
Study	28	100.0%	7	35.0%	1	9.1%
Own a business	0	0.0%	5	25.0%	1	9.1%
Unknown	11					

Table 6: Participants' stated relationship to the City of Melbourne - segmented by age.

LEVEL OF SUPPORT

Participants were asked to associate a score indicating their level of support for the proposed actions outlined in the Draft Master Plan.

The average score for the Draft Masterplan 3 out of 5 - translating as ‘(I) Support some parts of it but not others.’ These scores are explored in detail in Part C: Recommendations.

Score Card:

1. Do not support it at all
2. Do not support most parts of it
3. Support some parts of it but not others
4. Support most parts of it
5. Strongly support it all

Actions Areas	Comments	Average Score	1 (Lowest)		2		3		4		5 (Highest)	
			N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
General	37	3.5	5	13.5%	2	5.4%	10	27.0%	10	27.0%	10	27.0%
Planning for Trees	13	2.1	6	46.2%	3	23.1%	2	15.4%	1	7.7%	1	7.7%
Barry Street New Park Spaces	10	3.9	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	4	40.0%	4	40.0%
Leicester Street	14	3.1	2	14.3%	2	14.3%	4	28.6%	4	28.6%	2	14.3%
The Plaza and Grattan Street	13	3.0	0	0.0%	6	46.2%	2	15.4%	4	30.8%	1	7.7%
Water Terrace	11	2.7	1	9.1%	3	27.3%	5	45.5%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%
The Green	18	2.2	8	44.4%	1	5.6%	8	44.4%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%
Pelham Street Parkfront	7	3.0	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	1	14.3%	2	28.6%	1	14.3%
Creating Social Spaces	1	2.0	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Building a Living Laboratory	2	4.5	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%
Integrated Public Art Vision	1	5.0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
TOTAL	127	3.0										

Table 8: Participant indicated support level for action areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participant responses ranged from 5-200 words. Each submission has been carefully reviewed by an independent examiner in order to extract individual recommendations and place them into an appropriate over-arching theme.

Overall, the 87 formal **participants contributed 227 recommendations** relating to the Draft Master Plan. 80% of these recommendations were submitted through Participate Melbourne.

Responses	Participants	Comments	Recommendations
Participate	67	112	182
Workshop	18	42	42
Email	2	2	3

Table 7: Number of participants by formal submission type and number of suggestions made by participants by formal submission type.

- 35% of recommendations did not correspond to a specific action area. They have been combined into a separate category named 'General Comments.'
- Most of the General Comments were submitted as part of the workshop sessions.
- Of the proposed action areas, The Green received the highest number of comments (18) and recommendations (25).
- Creating Social Spaces, Building a Living Laboratory and Integrate Public Art Vision did not receive sufficient comments to perform a meaningful analysis.

Recommendations	Comments	Recommendations
General Comments	65	79
Planning for Trees	13	24
Barry Street New Park Spaces	10	13
Leicester Street	14	23
The Plaza and Grattan Street	13	19
Water Terrace	11	18
The Green	18	35
Pelham Street Parkfront	7	8
Creating Social Spaces	1	3
Building a Living Laboratory	2	2
Integrated Public Art Vision	2	3

Table 8: Number of participant recommendations by action area.

KEY THEMES

Following the review of participant recommendations, each entry was individually categorised into an appropriate theme to assist with data interpretation and comprehension.

Theme	Recommendations	% of Total
Design and Placemaking	42	18.5%
Maintaining Existing Trees	30	13.2%
Parking & Traffic Management	22	9.7%
Existing Paths	20	8.8%
New Planting and Greenery	18	7.9%
Accessibility	14	6.2%
The Green	14	6.2%
Protecting Wildlife	13	5.7%
Historic Features	12	5.3%
Other	11	4.8%
Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety	8	3.5%
Interim Planting	7	3.1%
Metro	7	3.1%
Maintenance	5	2.2%
Respectful Enjoyment	4	1.8%

Table 9: Number of participant recommendations by action area.

Participants directed nearly 60% of their recommendation towards five principle areas of interest, these included:

1. The overall design and placemaking features within the action areas (18.5%). This included considerations as to the kinds of activities, spaces and seating that would be included in the future park, as well as specific design recommendations relating to the action areas.
2. The maintenance of the existing elm trees within the park (13.2%).
3. The management of traffic and parking as a result of proposed changes to the areas streets (9.7%)
4. The preservation of the existing paths in The Green (8.8%).
5. New Planting and Greenery (7.9%). This included consideration for the type and variety of trees.

These themes and their corresponding participant recommendations can be explored in detail within Part C of this document.

Within the action areas, the themes have on occasion been split when there is sufficient participant to warrant a deeper exploration of their considerations.

PART B: APPROACH



PROJECT CONTEXT

Background

The City of Melbourne is leading a project to transform University Square in partnership with the University of Melbourne and the Victorian Government.

University Square was set-out in the 1850s along with two other 'London-style' squares – Lincoln and Argyle squares. University Square is characterised by its mature Elms. These trees, planted in the 1880s, are reaching the end of their useful life. Drought, extreme heat and age have taken their toll on these trees. Some 40% of existing Elm Trees at University Square have been assessed as having less than 12-months of useful life expectancy remaining.

In the next 15 years, the population of this area is expected to double, which will have a significant impact on the density of buildings and the reliance on public open space.

Now is a good time to think about how we can improve University Square for all users and create a climate-adapted landscape for the future.

Draft Masterplan

The University Square Draft Master Plan outlines how we intend to transition the current landscape into a 21st century space that responds to significant demographic and contextual change, while recognising the rich history of the site.

Shaped by extensive community feedback, the draft master plan aims to restore a failing landscape and creates new spaces that serve the local community. The draft master plan outlines 10 actions that form the basis of our vision for University Square.

The master plan outlines a new vision for University Square that will:

- Create a bigger park by increasing public open space to meet the needs of a rapidly growing, changing and more densely populated community.
- Respond to our changing climate by using open space to redirect and reuse storm water, capture solar energy, increase tree canopy

cover to reduce the urban heat island effect and to contribute to the ecological and human needs of urban space by using understorey plantings.

- Provide for a greater range of use and activity to meet different needs at different times
- Restore a failing landscape and create a new open space hub that better serves the local community including residents, students, workers and visitors.

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The master plan has been shaped and informed by detailed community and key stakeholder engagement. Starting in 2014, an extensive four-phase community engagement program was planned and conducted based on the following key deliverables:

Phase 1 - introduce the project: the why and how, and tell us how you use University Square and what changes, if any, you would like to see.

Phase 2 - ideas plan: here's what you told us and here are the City of Melbourne's strategic objectives – did we get it right?

Phase 3 - Draft concept plan

Phase 4 - Display of draft master plan

Phase 3 - Outcomes

- Phase 3 community engagement took place between August 25 to October 5 2015.
- In total, 149 participants provided comment on the draft plan. These comments translated into 243 recommendations towards the draft plan.
- The website was the most common feedback medium for both number of participants (77%) as well as the number of comments (70%). The number of website visitors (4806) versus feedback from respondents (115), was 2.39% of website visitors. Participants were predominantly workers (57%), students (41%) and residents (34%), and in the age brackets of 26-35 (27%) and 18-25 (23%).
- There was a significant number of generally positive comments, including support for the overall plan. The greatest identified negative outcome to achieve the positive change was the loss of established Elm trees.
- The Green (139) received the most comment of all the precincts; followed by The Plaza (86), Leicester Street (63), Barry Street (62), Water Terrace (34) and Pelham Street (33).



Chart 1: Community engagement timeline

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The following community engagement objectives were identified and were based on the IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) spectrum - Inform - Consult - Involve:

- We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.
- We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision.

Inform and connect

- To deliver a broad, genuine, innovative and robust community engagement process - more than a traditional local government approach.

- Ensure people have the information they need to take part in engagement activities.
- To validate strategic directions and introduce the potential of the project.
- To provide accurate information about proposed changes to traffic and car parking.
- To provide accurate information about the declining Elm population at University Square and propose solutions for a new generation of trees.

Involve all Stakeholders

- Enable input from all community members including residents, students, workers and visitors.
- Enable input from key stakeholders and project partners.

Provide many ways to engage

- Enable people to have input in a variety of ways (more than one engagement method).
- Provide regular updates.
- Ensure easy and approachable contact with the project team.

Be inspired and unique

- To capture the way people used University Square and what they thought about University Square.
- To capture people's vision for the future of University Square - 'What's your Vision?'
- To inspire and generate ideas for the look, feel and activity in the new public space.

ACTION AREAS



The University Square Master Plan is a blue-print for the future of University Square.

It sets the direction and plan to transition the landscape and sets the vision for University Square.

At the core of the draft master plan are the following 10 key action areas.

1. PLANNING FOR TREES

Create a new urban forest at University Square, with the addition of almost 250 new trees. To maintain the square's distinctive leafy profile, we must strike a balance between retaining and removing the declining mature elm trees in order to start planting new avenues of trees to keep the park looking green for generations to come.



2. BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

Increase the size of the square by closing Barry Street to traffic and car parking. Expand the lawn, plant new trees, establish new garden beds and create 'new park spaces' with additional seating, communal tables and movable furniture. These spaces can be suitable for small events, food vans and public art installations.



3. LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

Reduce the width of Leicester Street and maintain northbound traffic only to retain essential bus services, bicycles and traffic while enlarging the square. Leicester Street will become a 'road within a park' that can be easily crossed by pedestrians and is lined with trees. The smaller road will also allow space for new shared perimeter paths and a dedicated bike lane.

ACTION AREAS



4. THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

Build a new heart for University Square in a re-designed plaza. New features include diverse trees and gardens, a recessed basketball half-court, table tennis and chess boards. Communal tables with Wi-Fi and charging points will create an outdoor study space, while barbecues and picnic tables provide space for socialising and relaxation beside a new cafe.



5. WATER TERRACE

Create a transition from The Plaza to The Green by designing a Water Terrace. The new space will include trees, gardens and aquatic plantings with a focus on water. The space will feature water jets and misters, public art and play.



6. THE GREEN

Expand and improve the square's much loved lawn area. Remove the existing central and diagonal paths to create a single unified lawn space. Build new perimeter paths along Leicester and Barry streets to become new pedestrian thoroughfares for access through the park and to adjacent sites and buildings.



7. PELHAM STREET PARKFRONT

Replace the current single central entrance and create a new park entrance and address at Pelham Street. Pelham Street itself will be transformed into a green corridor linking University and Lincoln squares, by replacing central street parking with new trees. The median strip will also be reconfigured as a water sensitive garden.

ACTION AREAS



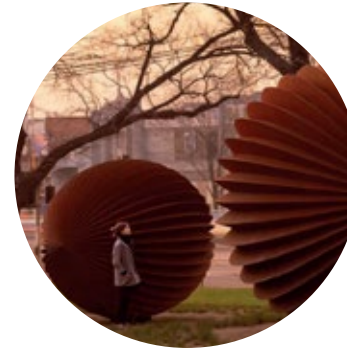
8. CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

Design, provide and locate park elements that meet the needs of social, accessible and connected spaces in the new park including seating, lighting, bicycle infrastructure, picnic and barbecue facilities, drinking fountains and bins. Focus on both permanently fixed and movable park elements and incorporate technology to meet the needs of an education and innovation precinct.



5. BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

Provide opportunities and infrastructure that encourages research and prototyping in fields such as alternative energy sources, biodiversity, air quality, heat-island-effect and connect with the University's research aspirations.



10. INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

Integrate art into University Square from the design phase through a strategic creative vision that enables art to be a fundamental component of the site's design, grounded in the essential values and priorities underlying the reimagination of the space. Implement an art program that is inclusive, coherent, well-considered in relation to the evolving

PART C: RECOMMENDATIONS



GENERAL COMMENTS

65 Comments, 79 Recommendations

The highest number of comments and recommendations submitted by participants related to the overall proposal - as opposed to specific action areas. These comments and recommendations were primarily contributed by workshop attendees as the sessions were not specific to action areas.

Overall 54% of respondents either supported most parts of the Draft Master Plan or strongly supported it all. The average score associated by participants was a 3.5 out of 5.

The primary concern of participants was the removal of trees to form The Green and the removal of existing pedestrian paths that intersect the path along its centre and diagonals.

Participants recommended doing all that is possible to maintain the existing elm trees for as long as they can be preserved, and ensuring strong contingencies are in place to support native wildlife if trees do need to be removed.

Participants were in favour of extending the park and introducing new planting. Their main concern was the interim plan for trees and shade, and ensuring that there would be sufficient cover in the park for users as the older trees decline and the new trees reach maturity.

A number of participants were concerned by the impact of the new metro station on the amenity of the area.



Image 1: Overall Concept Plan

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	5	13.5%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	5.4%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	10	27%
4. Support most parts of it	10	27%
5. Strongly support it all	10	27%

Table 10: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: General Comments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

The Green (10 comments)

Overall, participants liked the idea of a large lawn area. They were, however, concerned that without trees to provide shade the space would be underutilised in summer and would be difficult to maintain during drought. Some participants were concerned that a large open space would disturb the serenity of the park, as it might be used for group sports. There was also concern that the space might be booked for public events. One participant raised the need to provide garbage bins in proximity to the green to keep it clean.

Existing Paths (9 comments)

While there was general support for a large lawn area, a number of participants wanted to maintain the central and diagonal paths. While the primary concern was that without paths crossing the green, new desire lines would form and the park would look shabby. One participant highlighted that the paths did more than allow for pedestrian movement, they divided the park into different spaces that could be used for different purposes - as opposed to a large space that might become a football oval or be taken over by one activity. Another participant said that the current path layout was important because of its historical legacy.

Maintaining Existing Trees (9 comments)

Participants were in favour of maintaining the existing trees as long as possible. While some participants recognised the need for the elm trees to go, many wanted to see these replaced with interim planting that would maintain shade cover in the centre of the green. Some participants wanted new testing to understand better the useful life expectancy of the trees.

New Planting and Greenery (8 comments)

Participants were in favour of creating the new park space and increasing the number of trees and greenery in the park. Participants were keen to understand better the types of trees being proposed, how they would be irrigated, and how tall they would be when fully established.

Protecting Wildlife (8 comments)

Participants were concerned about the future of native wildlife in the park and how the native bird and possum population would be relocated if the elm trees are to be removed. Overall, participants wanted to see a proposal for how existing wildlife in the park would be protected and transitioned.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

Parking and Traffic Management (8 comments)

While generally in favour of the changes to the roads and removal of parking, participants were concerned that it would make it more difficult for those who are obliged to drive to the area or who live locally and own a car. Participants were interested to know if there was to be added provision for parking elsewhere (on campus), and what impact the traffic changes were likely to have on surrounding streets. One participant raised their concern with the 401 bus route, recommending it be relocated for pedestrian safety.

Metro (6 comments)

Participants were concerned that the time frame and disruption caused by the Metro Rail project would affect the transition of the park and the enjoyment of the area for some time to come. Participants recommended an updated plan when the proposed design of the station is issued to demonstrate how the plaza area would function.

Interim Planting (3 comments)

Participants were in favour of the interim planting strategy. They asked what the time frame would be for re-planting and how shade could be maximised over the period when old trees are dying and new trees are growing.

Historic Features (3 comments)

Participants wanted the historical character of the park to be maintained. They recommended a focus on planting European trees over native varieties, and maintaining the historic layout. One participant asked about the future of the Temperance Fountain and how this would be included in the design.

Water Terrace (3 comments)

Participants were concerned that the design of the water terrace would restrict pedestrian movement. One participant was concerned that it may be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Respectful Enjoyment (3 comments)

Participants wanted to ensure that the park would continue to be a place for respectful enjoyment of leisure activities. They were concerned that the large lawn area might be taken over by team sports. This would impact on the tranquility of the park. One participant was concerned that the new space would become the 'University's park' and local residents and workers would be pushed out. Another participant suggested that the basketball court would make the area noisy and affect other park users.

GENERAL COMMENTS

What Participants Said

Maintenance (3 comments)

Participants were concerned about the ongoing management of the park and what would be done to keep it clean and remove graffiti. With many secluded areas in the design, it was seen that this might increase anti-social behaviour. One participant noted that the current drainage of the park is insufficient and will need to be addressed if the Green is to function.

Accessibility (2 comments)

Participants recommended ensuring that there were wheelchair and pram compatible ramps to access the park. One participant asked whether there would be additional accessible parking bays in proximity.

Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety (2 comments)

Participants recommended that fully separated cycle paths would be safer for users. There was concern that with painted lanes, cars parked illegally or performing drop offs might block cyclists.

Other (2 comments)

Other recommendations included incorporating the wood from the elm trees into a public artwork, and installing deterrents preventing the area being used by skaters.

PLANNING FOR TREES

13 Comments, 28 Recommendations

This section of the Draft Masterplan received the lowest average score of the action areas, with a participant support level of 2.1 out of 5. Of the 13 participants who commented on this section, 46.2% did not support the proposal at all.

Participants did not agree with the removal of the central elm trees. They recommended that everything possible be done to prolong their useful life expectancy. They also suggested that the current layout of trees should be maintained with new planting to replace the older elms one they have died.

Participants said that if the trees were removed, the overall aesthetic and character of the park would be compromised. A group of participants considered the layout of the elm trees to be an important historic feature that should be continued in the new design.

Furthermore, participants were concerned that removing trees would impact local wildlife. A group of participants recommended a native wildlife plan be prepared and implemented to protect animals during the park's transition.



Image 2: The Green

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	6	46.2%
2. Do not support most parts of it	3	23.1%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	2	15.4%
4. Support most parts of it	1	7.7%
5. Strongly support it all	1	7.7%

Table 11: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Planning for Trees.

PLANNING FOR TREES

What Participants Said

Maintaining Existing Trees (7 comments)

Several participants asked how the existing elm trees that form the avenue in University Square might be preserved - recommending that everything be done to maintain the existing trees. Among this group, three participants expressed doubts that the useful life expectancy of these trees was accurate.

New Planting and Greenery (6 comments)

A number of participants recommended that a staged approach to planting should be applied, allowing for new trees to replace the declining ones over time. Two participants agreed of the importance of planting new trees and expanding the canopy cover in line with the Urban Forest Strategy. One participant requested to see more detail of the types of trees that would be planted, and another participant requested that no London Plane Trees be included in the design as they stimulate hay-fever.

Protecting Wildlife (5 comments)

Participants were concerned about the future of the possum population that currently live in the square's elm trees and how they will be properly transitioned into a new habitat. Participants requested a native wildlife plan for the park.

Historic Features (5 comments)

Participants flagged the historical and cultural significance of the current layout of elm trees in the square - stating that it was important to preserve the character of the park. One participant flagged for the City of Melbourne to preserve its old trees and not modernise the area. One participant expressed their desire to keep the avenue of trees and the diagonal paths.

Interim Planting (4 comments)

Participants suggested that a more appropriate interim plan for trees would see new planting become established as the older trees died. They were concerned of the amount of time it takes for trees to reach maturity, and the lack of shade in the new park if established trees were removed.

Respectful Enjoyment (1 comments)

One participant noted that the current layout of the trees maintained the respectful use of the site - ensuring that there was not too much activity (group sports) and that the park was a relaxing and quiet space. They expressed concern that by removing the trees, the use of the park would change for the negative.

BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

10 Comments, 13 Recommendations

Participants were generally supportive of the proposed draft plan for Barry Street. 80% of participants said that they either supported most part of it all supported it all. The proposal received an average support score of 3.9 out of 5.

There was not a stand out recommendation from participants, rather their feedback was spread out across a few themes including parking and traffic management (5 comments), accessibility (2 comments), and new planting (2 comments).

While generally supportive of removing parking places, participants wanted to understand the implication this would have on people accessing the area and if additional parking would be provided elsewhere.



Image 1: Barry Street

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	10%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	10%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	4	40%
5. Strongly support it all	4	40%

Table 12: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Barry Street New Park Spaces.

BARRY STREET NEW PARK SPACES

What Participants Said

Parking and Traffic Management (5 comments)

Two participants supported the removal of parking spaces, and one participant flagged their concern - particularly for students that need to drive to class. Two participants requested further detail of how future parking arrangements would be managed to ensure that residents, families and visitors to the area would be able to access nearby parking.

Overall (3 comments)

Three participants expressed their satisfaction with the proposed vision for Barry Street. One participant highlighted what an asset this new space would be for the University and future residents.

Accessibility (2 comments)

A participant was concerned that the layout might make it difficult for students to access campus buildings. It was also requested that sufficient space be incorporated into the design to allow ample access for people using wheelchairs or prams - with particular attention to the height of the curbs.

New Planting and Greenery (2 comments)

One participant was concerned that the tall trees in this section would prevent people from viewing the facades of buildings. Another participant recommended breaking up the pavement with more greenery and mixed height planting.

Footpath Trading (1 comments)

One participant recommended activating the pedestrian space with a kiosk to sell coffee or fruit. They also suggested this could be an area for a small stage for buskers to add another layer of activity and enjoyment.

LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

14 Comments, 23 Recommendations

The proposal for Leicester street received mixed feedback with many participants supporting the initiative while others raised concerns over parking and traffic management, cycling and cyclist safety and accessibility. Overall, the this action area received an average support score of 3.1 out of 5.

Regarding traffic management, participants thought that removing the roundabout would remove an important speed controller. One participant recommended installing traffic lights. Similar with Barry Street, the removal of parking spaces was a concern to some participants.

Pedestrian safety was of concern to some participants who thought a pedestrian crossing and more lighting in this area was needed.

There were a number of comments regarding the proposed cycle lane. Participants suggested that allowing cycle traffic in both directions would be advantageous. Some participants were concerned that a painted bike lane was insufficient for cyclist safety, particularly as this road was to be shared with a busy bus route. They recommended installing fully separated lanes.



Image 4: Leicester Street

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	2	14.3%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	14.3%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	4	28.6%
4. Support most parts of it	4	28.6%
5. Strongly support it all	2	14.3%

Table 13: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Leicester Street Road within a Park.

LEICESTER STREET ROAD WITHIN A PARK

What Participants Said

Parking Traffic Management (9 comments)

Overall, participants were concerned that changes to the roads would result in traffic problems, particularly in side streets (Pelham). Three participants thought that by removing the roundabout, traffic speeds would not be suitably controlled. One contributor suggested adding traffic lights. While one way access was generally supported, one participant suggested that the road should remain two way for cyclists. Two participants expressed concern that removing parking and not replacing it elsewhere would make it more difficult for students to access the campus.

Cycle Lanes and Cyclist Safety (6 comments)

Three participants wanted to see a south-bound cycle path installed. They were concerned about the current high use of cycling infrastructure in the area and how this plan would consider future use. Two participants recommended fully separated cycle paths to increase cyclist safety - particularly as cyclists will need to share the road with one of Melbourne's busiest bus routes.

Overall (3 comments)

Two participants agreed with the proposal and considered the extension of the park onto Leicester Street to be a great initiative. One participant requested to see 'before and after' photos to accompany the renders.

Accessibility (3 comments)

Participants raised concerns over pedestrian safety, flagging the need for pedestrian crossings as well as overhead lighting to illuminate the area at night. One participant suggested that the 401 bus route should be re-directed as it poses a risk to pedestrian safety.

New Planting and Greenery (2 comments)

While agreeing in principle with the road within a park, one participant flagged the amount of time it would take for this avenue to appear in full. They suggested a more immediate solution be investigated. Another participant did not think that the current plan for ground cover planting would be successful because of lack of light once the tree canopy is established.

THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

13 Comments, 19 Recommendations

The proposal for the Plaza and Grattan Street received a support score of 3 out of 5. Overall, participants were not impressed by the design and thought that it could be made more exciting.

There was a mixed reaction to the placemaking ideas, with some participants concerned that this might become a new destination for skateboarders, that the basketball half court would be noisy, and that the cafe was unnecessary.

With regards to the cafe, participants felt that it was important to keep public spaces for the public and disagreed with adding a private enterprise into the picture.

Overall, participants felt that the area needed less gravel and concrete as well as more shade.



Image 5: The Plaza

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	6	46.2%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	2	15.4%
4. Support most parts of it	4	30.8%
5. Strongly support it all	1	7.7%

Table 14: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: The Plaza and Grattan Street.

THE PLAZA AND GRATTAN STREET

What Participants Said

Placemaking (7 comments)

Two participants did not want to see the basketball court installed. They were concerned that this would create noise and impact on the tranquil enjoyment of the space. One participant enthusiastically supported the idea of a basketball court - noting how popular the one at RMIT was with students. Another participant was concerned that the area might attract skateboarders and recommended installing deterrents. There were suggestions for other placemaking initiatives for this area including kids and adult play equipment as well as a public BBQ.

Design (6 comments)

Overall participants thought the design for the plaza was okay but could do more to be special or unique. Participants thought that too much gravel in this area would make it unappealing for visitors to dwell. They suggested more shade and green in this area.

Cafe (5 comments)

Overall, participants did not want to see a cafe in this space. They flagged that there was sufficient provision in the area and that a private business in a public space was not a desired outcome for the plaza. One participant supported the idea of a cafe saying it would add to the areas vibrancy.

Accessibility (1 comments)

One participant was concerned for pedestrian safety when crossing Grattan Street and recommended an improved pedestrian crossing.

Metro (1 comments)

One participant was concerned that the future metro rail station would significantly change this area and cautioned that the design of this space should take into consideration the placement of the Parkville station.

WATER TERRACE

11 Comments, 18 Recommendations

The water terrace received an average support level of 2.7 out of 5. Overall, participants thought the design could have been more imaginative - recommending a design that allowed adults and kids to play in the water, or to create an iconic and eye-catching water feature such as the fountain in the Exhibition Gardens.

Participants were particularly concerned that the design and placement of the water terrace would block pedestrian access to the lawn area. They recommended a design that was more integrated into the landscape.

Participants desired more tree cover in this area to provide shade as well as additional benches and seating beside the water so that users could dip their toes in the water.

The issue of ongoing maintenance was raised with concern for how the site would endure a prolonged drought. It was flagged that if the space needed to be closed because of water restrictions, this would leave a large empty space in the centre of the new park.



Image 6: Artists impression of Water Terrace

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	9.1%
2. Do not support most parts of it	3	27.3%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	5	45.5%
4. Support most parts of it	2	18.2%
5. Strongly support it all	0	0%

Table 15: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Water Terrace.

WATER TERRACE

What Participants Said

Design (7 comments)

Overall, participants liked the idea of a water feature but did not think the design went far enough - stating that they thought it was too simple and uninspiring. One participant suggested making the water feature more iconic such as the fountain in the Exhibition Gardens. Another participant suggested making the feature something that kids and adults might be able to 'run through' and play in. Participants suggested adding more benches in this area or places where visitors could dip their toes and cool off. They were keen to minimise the amount of concrete and have as much green in the space so that wildlife would fill the area and visitors could listen to the sound of birds. One participant suggested incorporating an element of the areas Aboriginal history into the design.

Pedestrian Movement (6 comments)

Participants were concerned that the water terrace would block North-South pedestrian movement through the park and saw it as an inconvenience. They asked if consideration had been made to compensate for students needing to quickly get to campus buildings. One participant suggested that the feature might be better integrated into the landscape to allow for North-South pedestrian movement.

Maintenance (2 comments)

Participants were concerned about the effects of drought and water restrictions - suggesting that in the next prolonged drought this feature might be turned off for an indefinite period - making this a large unused space in the new park. One participant was concerned about the cost of maintaining water features and whether this was an appropriate spend.

Shade (3 comments)

Participants were concerned that there was not sufficient shade around the water terrace for people to enjoy the area in summer.

THE GREEN

18 Comments, 35 Recommendations

The Green received the highest number of participant comments and recommendations of the proposed action areas. Overall, The Green received the second lowest score, with an average support level of 2.2 of 5.

Of particular issue to participants was the removal of the existing paths that intersect the park vertically and diagonally. Participants were concerned that if the paths were to be removed, new desire lines would be created by users who need to cross the park in a hurry.

Participants did not approve of the removal of the mature elm trees and recommend that as much as possible should be done to preserve them.

While they generally agreed with the idea of keeping a large lawn area, participants thought the size of The Green was too big and there would be insufficient shade for users. As a large open space, participants flagged that it may become an area for team sports. This form of activity was unwelcome as it would affect the peaceful enjoyment of the area.

Participants were happy that the fountain was being incorporated in the new design, but overall felt it should be kept in the same location with the same paths intersecting around it.



Image 7: The Green

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	8	44.4%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	5.6%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	8	44.4%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	1	5.6%

Table 16: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: The Green.

THE GREEN

What Participants Said

Existing Paths (11 comments)

Participants overwhelmingly wanted to see the existing layout of paths retained in the final design. Participants were concerned that changing the path would alter the character of the park and would be an inconvenience to users. Some participants understood that with the addition of the water terrace and expansion of the park onto the current roads, meant that the central North South pathway would not be as important, however the diagonal paths would be still useful. Participants were concerned that if formal paths were removed, messy desire lines would form in their place.

Maintaining Existing Trees (9 comments)

Overall, participants wanted to maintain the existing configuration of trees and do as much as possible to keep existing trees healthy. They recommended planting new elms along the avenue as old ones needed to be removed. Participants did not want to see any trees removed unless they were dead - not just in decline. They suggested further research might establish a firm date as to the useful life expectancy of the current trees.

Design and Placemaking (7 comments)

Participants were generally unhappy with the proposed design of The Green. As with the removal of the paths and the existing elm trees, participants wanted to see this area maintained rather than transformed. Participants stated that they were currently happy with the layout and recommended keeping large trees at the centre of The Green to offer shade. Participants were concerned that one large open space would become a venue for team sport and this kind loud activity that would change the character of the park.

Lawns (4 comments)

Participants did not agree with the idea of a large lawn area, instead wanting there to be more shade cover and more spaces where different activity could take place. Mostly, participants wanted the lawn areas to be shaded by trees.

Temperance Fountain (4 comments)

Participants wanted to see the fountain maintained in the future design of the space, recommending that it be made functional again.

PELHAM STREET PARKFRONT AND BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

7 Comments, 8 Recommendations

The average support level of participants for this action area was a 3 out of 5. Participant responses were mixed with half the participants supporting the initiative. A number of participants in this section raised their concern over the proposed tree removal in The Green.

What Participants Said

Maintaining Existing Trees (5 comments)

In this section, a number of participants expressed their concern for the removal of the central elm trees. They asked whether sufficient experts had been consulted to establish that the trees were in decline and whether more could be done to prolong their life expectancy. One participant recommended that if they must be removed, they should be replaced with similar European trees - stating that there is a high provision of native trees in Royal Park.

Overall (2 comments)

Two participants said they thought the proposal for this area was a great idea. One participant requested the Temperance Fountain could be made functional again.

Shade (1 comments)

One participants questioned whether the line of gum trees in the proposal would provide sufficient shade for park users.



Image 7: Pelham Street Park Front

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	1	14.3%
2. Do not support most parts of it	2	28.6%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	1	14.3%
4. Support most parts of it	2	28.6%
5. Strongly support it all	1	14.3%

Table 17: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Pelham Street Parkfront and Biodiversity Corridor.

CREATING SOCIAL SPACES

1 Comment, 3 Recommendations

This action area received the lowest number of participant comments and recommendations. Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comment to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Design (3 comments)

One participant provided three recommendations on how the design of social spaces might be improved. They suggested that keeping concrete to a minimum and providing more shade would allow people to use these space year round. Furthermore, it was recommended that wooden park benches be kept in the park as they were warm in winter and cool in summer. The participant was concerned that having a commercial cafe or kiosk in the park would make the space more noisy and disrupt the tranquility of the park.



Image 8: Plaza

Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	1	100%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	0	0%

Table 18: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Creating Social Spaces.

BUILDING A LIVING LABORATORY

2 Comments, 2 Recommendations

Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comments to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Overall (2 comments)

Participants were interested in the living laboratory proposal. One participant said they loved the idea of obtaining baseline data from monitors in tree hollows. Another participant was interested in how small species - bugs and insects - will be affected by the tree removal and if there was a provision to maintain the current ecosystem, namely by keeping some decaying trees.



Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	0	0%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	1	50%
5. Strongly support it all	1	50%

Table 19: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Building a Living Labarotory.

INTEGRATED PUBLIC ART VISION

2 Comments, 3 Recommendations

Unfortunately, this area did not attract a sufficient number of comments to preform a meaningful analysis.

What Participants Said

Overall (3 comments)

Participant commenting in this section suggested that the public artwork should be an iconic and visionary piece - that avoided too much colour or 'of the moment' design trends. They flagged how timeless pieces of public art were generally minimalist in their design and pointed to Chicago's Millennium Park as a good example of how to mix conventional public space with interesting and provocative artworks. They also suggested that a larger piece might fit into the design of the Plaza, where it would both fill the empty space and also have greater impact from the street.



Participant Support Level	N	%
1. Do not support it at all	0	0%
2. Do not support most parts of it	0	0%
3. Support some parts of it but not others	0	0%
4. Support most parts of it	0	0%
5. Strongly support it all	1	100%

Table 20: Participant's indicated support level for Draft Masterplan action area: Integrated Public Art Vision.

THANK YOU

This engagement summary has been commissioned by The City of Melbourne and completed by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy specialising in community engagement:

*Every effort has been made to represent participant feedback and insights accurately within this document. For recommendations or questions, Please contact:
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