

Attention: Growth Management Team, Planning and Land Use Services  
Department for Trade and Investment  
GPO Box 1815, Adelaide SA 5001

Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

**RE: Feedback on the Discussion Paper for Greater Adelaide Regional Plan**

The Arts Industry Council of South Australia (AICSA) is an independent voice for the Arts. As the state's independent, sector-wide representative arts body, the Arts Industry Council of SA (AICSA) is extremely valuable to the South Australian arts sector. AICSA was constituted as an incorporated institution in 1991. The Council receives no operational funding from the government, and derives its support from the industry through member subscriptions, fundraising, sponsorship and in-kind donations.

There are many elements of the *Greater Adelaide Regional Plan Discussion Paper* that highlight forward thinking and a cohesive vision for the future, notably addressing the increased need for equitable housing, and a greener and climate resilient focus. We are specifically interested in how arts and culture play a part in social cohesion, living locally and the quarantining of spaces within public infrastructure for Arts and Cultural activities as part of this plan. There are other outcomes the State Planning Commission should consider.

Some key considerations in response to the paper are;

- First Nations collaborations and leadership within the plan is essential, especially when considering cultural heritage and community engagement, the natural environment, public and social housing and quality of life.
- Prioritising arts and cultural spaces within main street rejuvenation plans and new developments as part of a living locally strategy. Noting that these spaces need support not just in infrastructure but ongoing maintenance and activation budgets, and how commercial development models can assist here. For example, there are many councils across Australia that mandate a 1% spend on public art in any new development over \$2million. How could a similar standard be adopted here but focus not only on public art but also the activation of theatres, galleries and live music hubs.
- Local government is best placed to administer these ongoing activities as they know the needs and values of the local community they serve. The Department for Trade and Investment should fund local government to have arts and cultural initiatives within the specific allocated funding for place making and vibrancy within all planned developments. Commercial offerings are also central to the conversation and should be

considered within funding landscape, there should however be no expectation for Local Government to raise funds for creative place making within new and newly activated developments.

- We recommend expanding the remit (and funding) of organisations like Renew Adelaide with a further commitment in suburban areas, contributing to a more equitable and socially cohesive community.
- There are models globally where smart planning of arts and cultural spaces with an integrated approach sees huge benefit to retail, hospitality and small business trade. The *Greater Adelaide Regional Plan* must consider and outline how arts and culture contribute to the jobs creation and a strong economy.
- Strategic infills are the priority. Suburban sprawl is antithetical to social cohesion and arts and cultural community engagement. We encourage you to consider deeply within this plan how residents living locally engage with each other in their communities, and the importance of spaces for public gatherings and storytelling. Urban density is an important factor, there is a reason why some of the greatest culturally vibrant cities are densely populated. It is important to highlight the need for increased public and community housing as many artists are low income earners and renters, and ensuring artists can live and work in cities and neighbourhoods will benefit all.
- In regenerating neighbourhoods we must consider how to support community spaces that already exist to continue, displacement of arts and cultural spaces such as the Bakehouse Theatre on Angas Street in the CBD, and Rumpus in Bowden, over the last couple of years has had a significant impact on community.
- More flexibility in zoning for street scapes, main streets and infill areas for arts and cultural spaces would be of benefit. A consideration for a minimum amount of space (3%) that is quarantined for arts and cultural activities and broader civic spaces in any urban environment is needed. Acknowledging that they don't fit neatly into other zoning requirements or commercial financial models like hospitality and retail trade.
- We can't let the market dictate what the development of arts and cultural spaces look like, as often these spaces are not commercially viable. Developments need to make it easier for operators to run arts and cultural spaces, and the easiest way to do this would be to implement free or highly subsidised rent for these spaces within community – their business model isn't measured on commercial success and can't afford to run on commercial rental agreements. Adopting a model similar to how we quarantine green space within a community is needed, and the benefits arts and cultural activities deliver to community cohesion should be considered.

In summary, significant investment needs to be made into facilities and infrastructure for arts and cultural spaces amidst the planning for new housing developments, regenerated neighbourhoods, and urban activity centres.