

## 7.1 Petition re Victorian Youth Arts Precinct Adjacent to Gasworks Park

A Petition/Joint Letter containing 63 signatures, was received from Christine Fetterplace, and presented to a Council Meeting on 6 July 2022.

The Petition states the following:-

We believe the proposed Victorian Youth Arts Precinct is an overdevelopment of the former Multiplex site adjacent to the Gasworks Park.

According to the plan on the internet the development covers most of the site with no open space. A theatre is one thing but a Precinct with two theatres, rehearsal spaces, a cafe, box office and other facilities is not needed and is in the wrong place.

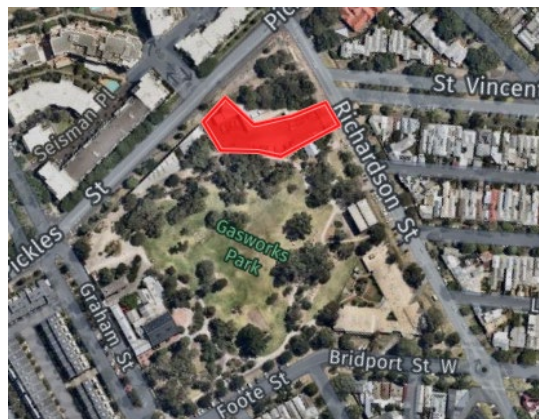
There is no provision for car or bus parking. This will cause problems for all residents in the area with up to 50 productions a year proposed with seating for 350 in the main theatre.

The wall which separates the development from the park is to be removed according to the plan.

We the undersigned ask the Council to make sure this wall is not demolished or reduced in height. It separates the Park area, which is managed by the Council from the adjoining Precinct, which has never been part of the Park and will be managed by the school.

### OFFICER COMMENT

Albert Park College and Victorian College of the Arts are building a Youth Arts Precinct (YYAP) in the old Multinet Depot next to Gasworks Arts Park.



The project is State Government funded and will provide learning, performing and practice spaces for young artists. Construction is anticipated to be completed in Quarter 4, 2024.

Under section 16 of the Act, the Minister for Education is exempt from obtaining planning permits for government schools therefore, the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) do not require a Council planning permit. For this reason, the community has not been provided with an opportunity to comment on the development.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 6 JULY 2022



At this time, the full plans for the project have not been released and the VSBA is currently developing a communications plan to share the details of the project with the community.

Current information on the project can be found on the [VYAP website](#) and [VSBA website](#).

VSBA and the architects (Jackson Clements Burrows Architects) have indicated that there is an opportunity to open the site to the park, similar to how Gasworks Theatre integrates with the reserve. Ideas include lowering or removing sections of the wall and having entrances directly into the park.

The wall is within the heritage overlay that applies to the Gasworks precinct and is also included within the area on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. Heritage Victoria would be able to inform the project team of any approvals that would be required.

Officers have begun work with VSBA to determine ownership for each section of the brick wall, as it crosses various title boundaries.

It is recommended that Officers enter discussions with the VSBA to better understand the design and the potential impacts to the wall. These discussions would also clarify wall ownership and heritage requirements.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the Petition.
2. Thanks the petitioners for their Petition.
3. Notes that the project is being built by the VSBA and therefore is exempt from any Council Planning Permits.
4. Notes that the wall in question has some heritage overlays and that the VSBA project team should consult Heritage Victoria if alterations are planned.
5. Asks Officers to enter into discussions with the VSBA to further understand the intention for the design and confirm ownership of the brick wall.
6. Encourages the petitioners to contact the representatives found on the [VYAP website](#) and [VSBA website](#).

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil