

Brighton Secondary College

Project Brief: Performing Arts Hub – 2023 Vision

Key Proposition

Brighton Secondary College Performing Arts Hub - 2023 Vision: to create a modern purpose built performing arts centre – a hub of learning, culture and celebration for BSC students and the community.

Emerging designers and architects will be invited to submit design specification to activate the process of fulfilling our 2020 vision. The design specification must include all drawings, dimensions, environmental factors, ergonomic factors and aesthetic factors. Attention must be given to the existing structures and buildings of the school site to ensure alignment with current designs formations.

Project Overview

Brighton Secondary College (BSC), a leading state school in Victoria, is seeking government, commercial and community support to construct a new and innovative building space – a Performing Arts Hub (PA Hub). A facility envisioned for our 1250 students and the wider Bayside and surrounding community to use, enjoy and share in enriching the artistic and cultural opportunity and diversity within our community.

The school would use the PA Hub for school productions and musical performances, school assemblies, information nights and student presentations, lectures and guest speakers, the annual Chorales night, VCE exams, and fund-raising events. In addition to their direct involvement, all of these occasions present opportunities for students to learn and experience the important work involved when staging an event and performance.

For the broader community a PA Hub opens opportunities for group theatre, dance performances, cinema, guest speakers and lectures, primary school graduations, school productions, awards ceremonies and presentations during week nights and on weekends.

Historical & Practical Context

For the past 12 years, BSC has been working towards improving its physical environment to better accommodate our students' learning experience as they journey through the school. A worn out 1950's science block was replaced with a modern Science, Arts & Technology building. A VCE Centre was built to accommodate senior students providing interactive and quiet spaces for study and intellectual rigour.

Towards the end of 2019 we saw the completion of the purpose built East Wing accommodating years 7 & 8 students and will include spaces for the school's administrative infrastructure. Adjoining this wonderful new building with its modern teaching facilities is an old 1950's fashioned school hall currently named the school's performing arts centre (PAC). Designed with 1950's rationale when the student cohort was less by half and constructed with asbestos lining, it is no longer fit for the requirements of 21st century learning setting and progression.

The building's harmful construction properties confirm it has no potential for renovation or renewal. Left to deteriorate without being replaced, it will increasingly become an OHS hazard to the community especially the students and teachers who work in and around the building. This old building needs to be replaced with a new modern structure to extend teaching and learning opportunities better aligned with modern and future focused employment opportunities.

Purpose

The purpose and vision of this project is to continue to upgrade the school's building and grounds in accordance with its vision as a leading school inclusive of its students (and community) and teaching a high standard comprehensive and relevant curriculum. The purpose is directly connected to the school's mission, values and strategic plan (2022-2025).

Mission: To develop future-ready global citizens; preparing young people to become adaptable, empathetic, critical thinkers who will thrive in the world beyond school.

Values: Excellence. Curiosity. Respect. Integrity. Empathy. Teamwork.

Strategic Plan: To improve the learning growth of all students in line with the school's mission, values and vision by continually improving teacher practice excellence whilst respecting individual student personal learning needs.

BSC's PA Hub - 2023 Vision directly expresses providing our students with modern facilities which enable the teaching of skills, both technical and creative, to meet a global platform of learning and achievement. Like the other newer buildings and modern facilities of the school, a new PA Hub continues the school's mission of developing young people to be ready for employment opportunities of the present and the future. This can only be achieved with the full breadth of modern facilities enabling the best possible teaching practice resulting in the best possible outcomes for students.

The school's buildings and grounds must reflect its mission, values and journey towards the future. An old, deteriorating PAC no longer reflects the school's positioning as focused on preparing students for the future, as adults working in the future, contributing to society, locally, nationally and internationally. A new PA Hub must in itself make a physical statement which:

1. Defines the school's physical environment in a contemporary and forward-thinking manner.
2. Defines its mission and path into the future.
3. Defines its core business: educating young people.
4. Defines a whole community through active engagement.

Building Detail

Performance, Theatre & Presentations:

- 1200-1400 tiered theatre seating (part moveable)
- Stage at floor level (includes potential for portable moveable staging)

- Stage curtain
- Adaptable Stage lighting
- Up-to-date and future ready audio visual facilities
- Theatre style acoustics
- Moveable lectern
- Sound room/viewing deck
- Gallery space

Teaching & Learning:

- Music tutorial rooms
- Classrooms dedicated to teaching music (2-3)
- Rooms to store musical instruments & performance props
- Drop down projection screen
- Overhead projection unit
- Storage capacity for exam tables & chairs
- Examination spaces

Accompanying Infrastructure:

- Insulation & climate control
- Reception/Foyer area
- Office space (x 1)
- Kitchen (including cabinetry, dishwasher, stove & oven)
- Window to kitchen connecting foyer area for use as a snack bar during events.

Target Audience

A new PA Hub will primarily serve to enhance the learning opportunities for the students of BSC. Students at all levels studying pathways into performing arts, music, art and technology, science and engineering, will benefit from a new modern facility. It is envisioned that every student will receive learning and cultural benefits from having a modern PA Hub at their school.

A new PA Hub for students also provides the local community with a Performing Arts & Cultural activity space. Currently there is no modern facility for the local community to use. All facilities and buildings are old dating back to early and mid 20th century design and construction, well out of date for current community expectations. The buildings currently serving the local community for performances, art and presentations are:

Trinity Uniting Church, 15 Black St Brighton
 St Leonard's Uniting Church, 2 Wolseley Gve Brighton
 Brighton Town Hall, Cnr Wilson & Carpenter Sts Brighton
 Billila Mansion, 26 Halifax St Brighton

It is envisioned that in the spirit of the school's mission and values, the PA Hub will also serve the community as a cultural and recreational facility. Community groups such as the Brighton Theatre Company and Beaumaris Theatre Inc. could use the Hub. In addition, several local primary schools would have use of a PA Hub at BSC for school productions and performances, saving them the cost and logistics of travelling to facilities outside the local area. These schools include Bently West PS, Gardenvale PS, Brighton Beach PS and Black Rock PS, all of which have endorsed the PA Hub - 2020 vision.

Process

Having established the need for a new PA Hub and its ability to serve the students, families and wider community, the process to ensure the PA Hub – 2023 Vision is realised the following steps need to be taken:

1. Research & garner community support for a new PA Hub (2020 - 2021)
2. Concept Plans/Specification Design (2021).
3. Establish Budget & Funding (2020-2022).
4. Seek support and negotiate funding from multiple sources including sponsorship (2020-2022).
5. Confirm funding provisions (2020-2022).
6. Construction commences.

Please refer to supplementary documents for further information.

Performing Arts Hub – 2023 Vision Team

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