



ARTS AND CULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

Location: Sutherland Entertainment Centre

Date: 24 September 2019 commencing at 6.10pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Nicholls (Chairperson) together with Councillor Forshaw, Sue Bunt (Engadine Musical Society), Pauline Curby (Sutherland Shire Historical Society) Bob Peet (Miranda Musical Society), Col Peet (Miranda Musical Society), David Delaney (Sutherland Theatre Company), Michael Gooley (Arts Theatre Cronulla), Jonathan Karanikas (Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra), Peter Kahn (Sydney Tramway Museum), Robert Mander (Community Representative), Peta Campbell (Community Representative), Natalie Ettingshausen (Ettingshausen's Dance School), Rita Doran, Lindsay Domonford, Brayden Kenny (Root Partnerships), NBR Architects & representatives – Andrew Tripet, Barry Flack & Richard Stuart.

Council Staff: Belinda Hanrahan (Manager Arts and Culture), Deborah Best (Manager Library Services), Caryn Schwartz (Team Leader Visitor Services and Admin, Arts & Culture), Mark Naylor (Strategic Development Co-ordinator), Paul Mourtos (Senior Project Manager Construction)

Belinda Hanrahan declared the meeting open.

2. Acknowledgement to Country

Belinda Hanrahan welcomed those in attendance and acknowledged the traditional land owners, the Dharawal people.

3. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Councillor Boyd, Councillor Provan, Councillor Simone, Councillor Steinwall, , Tim Dennis (Sutherland Theatre Company), Lyn Buckman (Shire Music Club), Bruce Watt (Sutherland Shire Historical Society).

4. Quorum – minimum of four voting members including one Councillor

In accordance with the Charter for the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee, a quorum, being a minimum of eight (8) voting members (which must include at least two (2) Councillors) was achieved.

5. Disclosures of Interest

None noted.

6. Confirmation of Minutes from the previous meeting, held on 27 February 2019. Decision: (Cr Nicholls / Cr Forshaw)

That the Minutes of the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

7. Presentations

Belinda Hanrahan delivered

- a summary of Sutherland Shire Council's commitment to the Arts in the Sutherland Shire, including Sutherland Shire Council's \$34 million approval of the project one week ago.
- the value of strategic partners and community groups to the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee operations.

Brayden Kenny presented:

- Sutherland Entertainment Centre upgrade including:
 1. Project update
 2. Consultation Feedback
 3. Design Presentation by NBRS Architects & Richard Stuart
 4. Summary of Key Design Features
 5. Questions

As a result of the presentations, the following comments/discussion was received:

- Ground Floor - main access is facing on to Peace Park
- Key features – Lifts, access behind stage, stairs behind stage, piano in climate controlled storage off stage, storage for scooters and frames.
- Black Box – will become a multi-use room.
- First Floor – the current offices will now become an activated public space, including a rehearsal and workshop space.
- Richard discussed the green room space.
- The north side over the park will have a bar overlooking the park.
- Second Floor – keeping existing stairs, more sound locks, dress circle, fire stairs will be opened up. Two chorus rooms, two holding rooms, stairs and cross overs are secure which highlights a much needed upgraded in duty of care for students/children.
- In total 4 occupied levels including a basement and 3 levels – all accessible.
- Summary of key design features – better efficiency of ushers, better sight lines and maximising comfort and leg room, comparable with most regional theatres, generous depth of stage, orchestra pit is under discussion for a manual pit, full counterweight fly system which will result in safe and flexible operations. Stage has been expanded and widened with no crossover on stage – the crossover is now behind the stage.
- The dock could be managed as an extra holding space if managed well.
- Level 3 – Using existing cat walks. Very good access from fly gallery, plant rooms as well on level 3, existing projector room has been re-configured. There will be full tech capability however the focus is on infrastructure built in ready for equipment and various user groups. Existing lighting rig will be re-purposed.

Specific Questions:

Sue Bunt – What are the seating numbers without an orchestra?

Answer: 650 minimum to allow for maximum comfort.

Natalie Ettingshausen – Seating – is there an option for seat types like airlines and people pay more/less.

Answer: Richard advised it becomes discriminatory – we need to maximise inclusiveness.

Natalie Ettingshausen – elevation of stage?

Answer: Richard advised - currently approx. 1400, it will be dropping to approximately 1 metre.

Sue Bunt – Sound box – how many will it hold.

Answer: Richard advised potentially 6 people, but designed to take 2 wheelchairs.

Peta Campbell – asked if there will be a wet space?

Answer: No.

Cr Foreshaw – noted the stage advances compared to current stage.

Richard noted the hard wearing weathertex floor for dance.

Sue Bunt & Natalie Ettingshausen commented on the benefits of good flooring for dance.

Jonathan Karanikas – SSSO – Will the SSSO benefit with the flytower? He was advised that an acoustic consultant will be working on all users.

Jonathan also asked can the wings be closed off for a performance?

Answer: Richard advised the wings will be open and they will be a 1.5 metre space from the side curtains. It is something that will be looked at after the opening to test the sound.

General Feedback:

Sue Bunt – From the Engadine Musical Society perspective stated that she thought the community was going to get a lot more than she thought they would get in relation to amenities, comfort, fly tower and provisions back stage. She is very happy with the proposed plans.

Natalie Ettingshausen – Stated that she has never been so excited to be at a Council event. She is extremely happy with the proposed plans. Happy with the amazing space, especially for November and December dance school times. Safety has been considered with kids and everything else on her wish list. The only exception is the wish for extra seats, but she understood the project constraints.

David Delaney – from a community member perspective – Very Good. He is supportive of design. It takes performers into good consideration.

Rita Doran & Lindsay Domonford form the Choral Society – looks amazing but felt that they wouldn't be able to afford it for their events. They asked if there would be the ability for a smaller concert.

Answer: Richard advised that they could use the stalls only and Belinda advised there would also be the ability to use the foyer.

Pete Campbell – Excellent disabled access and well considered. Question regarding lift capacity.

Answer – to be advised – hoping for 16+ people. Also the ground floor and level 1 will also be accessible by ramps and stairs.

Question regarding handrails and accessibility for walkers etc.

Answer – working to code but trying to avoid guard rails and work with slope and better levels.

Andrew Tripet – the foyer will be very important for the new look and to add to the impression of the building. Banners will also be incorporated into the new design. Timber will soften the current brutalist concrete look.

Cr Forshaw – it is important to bring the inside out and make it look attractive for all.

Brayden Kenny – Park adjoining

- Planned to have performance spaces – Belinda added there will still be flexibility to have Music in the Park.
- Brayden advised that there will be more flexibility with different areas. Eg. Outdoor cinema, night markets/music, more inviting green space and it will become a natural extension of the building.

8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes (27 February 2019)

No business arising from previous minutes

9. Correspondence

Nil correspondence.



ROOT PARTNERSHIPS

Advisory+
Project Management

Sutherland Entertainment Centre Upgrade

Arts & Culture Subcommittee Meeting 02

24th September 2019

Agenda

01 Item – Project Update

02 Item – Consultation Feedback

03 Item – Design Presentation by NBRS & Richard Stuart

04 Item – Summary of the Key Design Features

05 Item – Questions

Project Update

- Jul Budget & Scope Reset.
- Aug Project 'State Significant' (SSDA)
- Oct Report to the Department of Planning.
- Feb Submit the SSDA
- April Tender

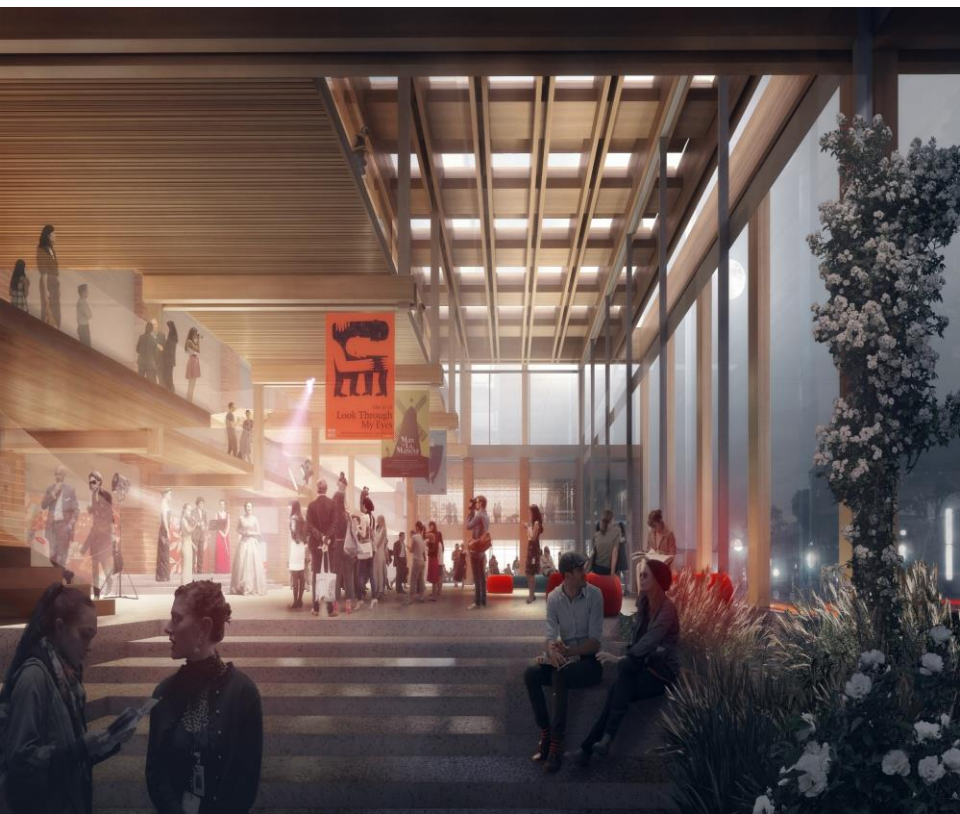
Works commence in the 2nd half of 2020.

Design Review Panel, Community Consultation & User Group Workshops

- Lifts
- Accessibility
- Seat comfort; leg room & armrests
- A full Fly Tower
- Obstructed stage
- Raked seating
- Inadequate amenities
- Wider wings
- Foyer too big (DRP)
- Student holding areas
- Better backstage facilities
- More storage



View from Eton Street



Foyer



View from Peace Park

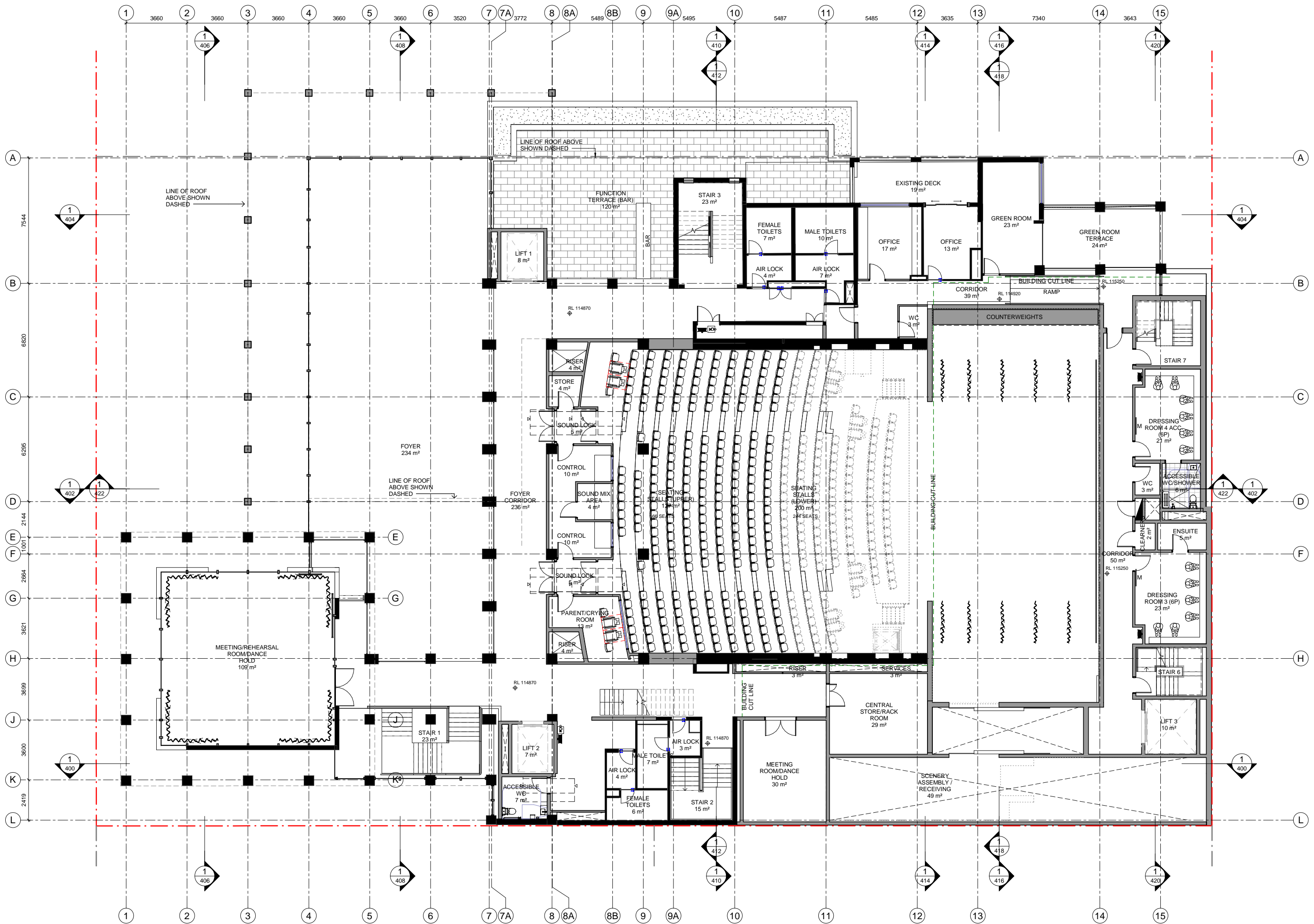


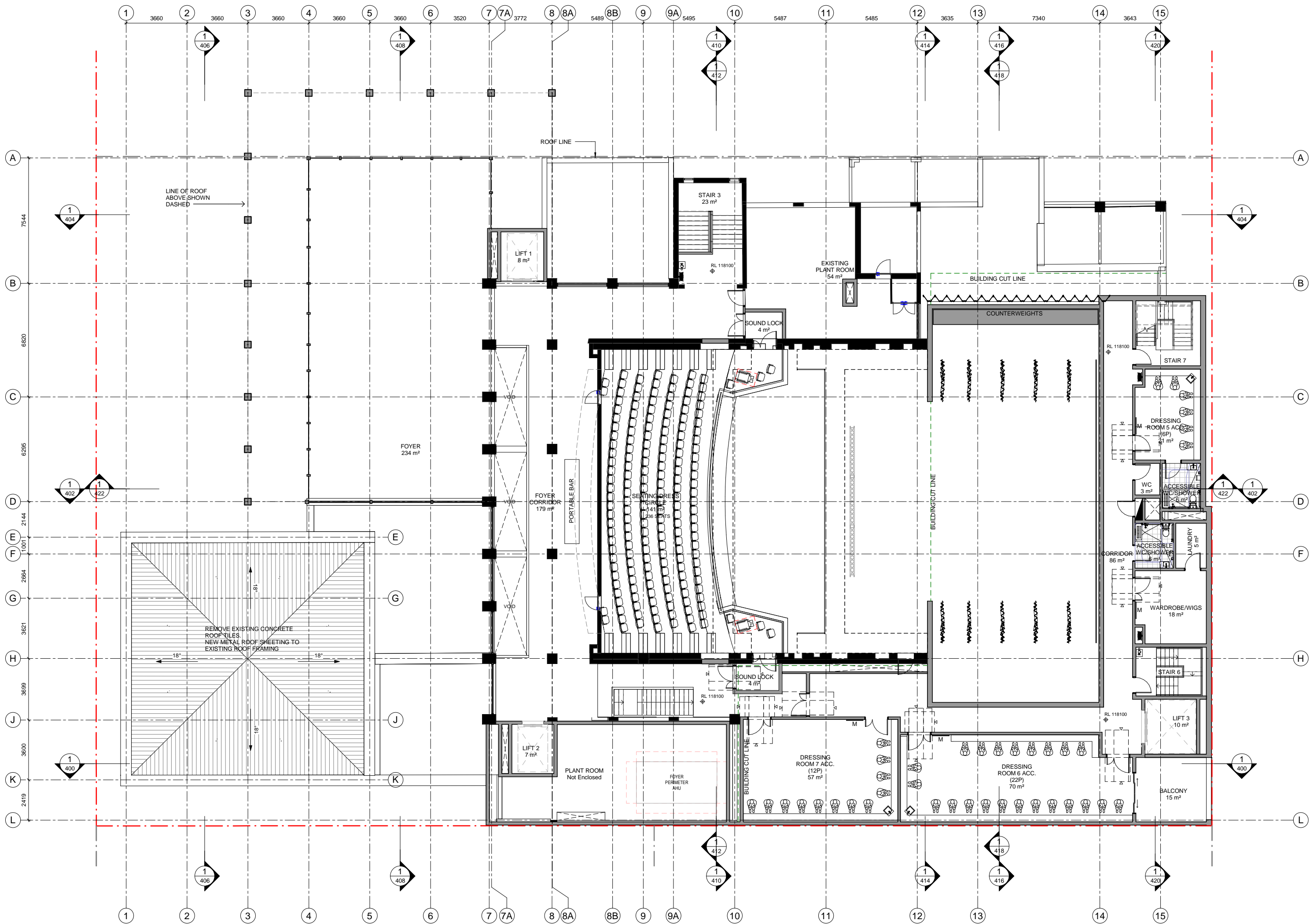
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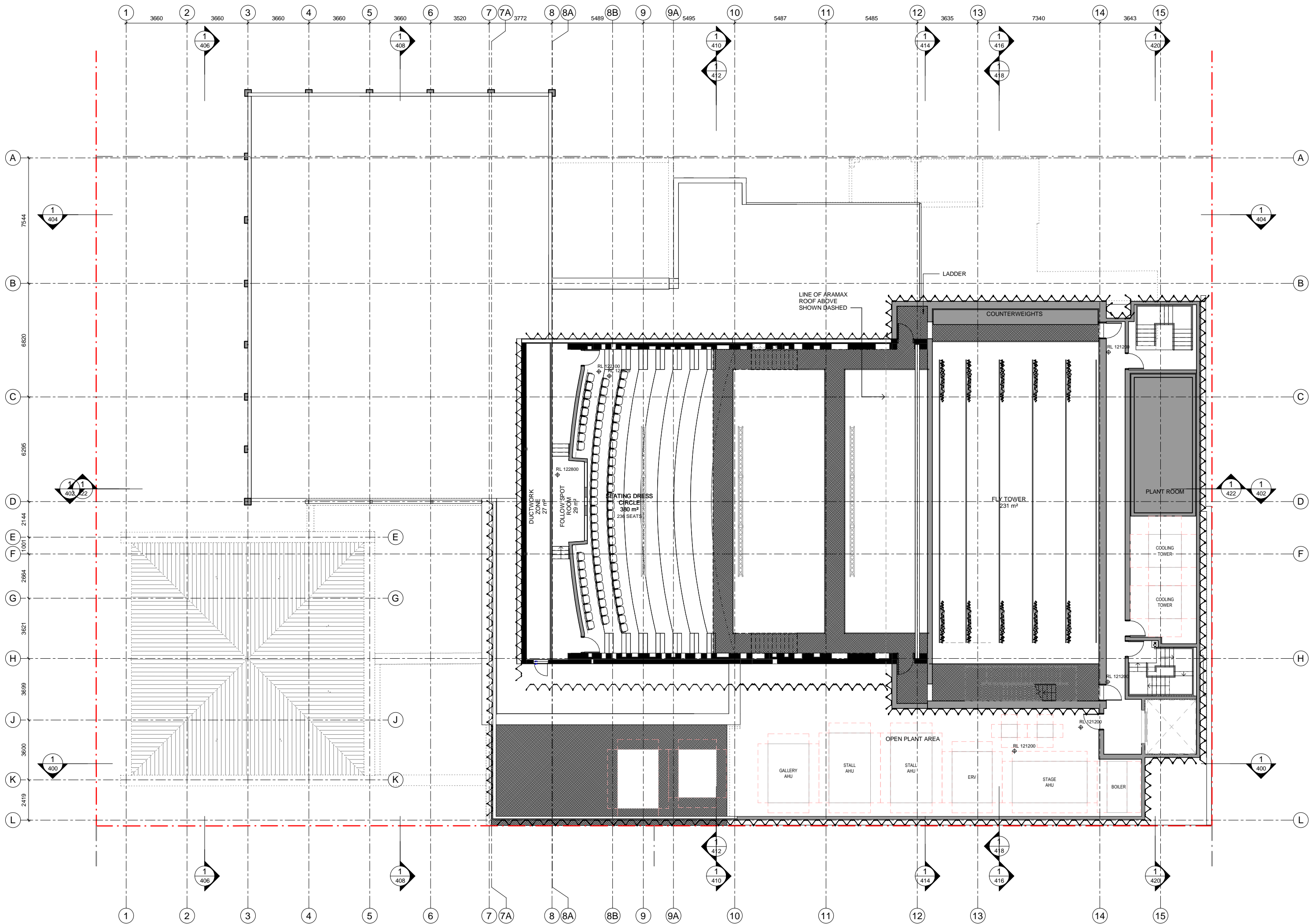
This architectural floor plan illustrates the layout of a theatre building, organized into a grid system with horizontal lines 1 through 15 and vertical lines A through L. The plan includes the following rooms and areas:

- Auditorium:** Seating stalls (upper and lower), stage, and forestage.
- Foyer and Lobby:** Foyer (265 m²), foyer terrace (107 m²), foyer stair (21 m²), foyer/meeting room (92 m²), and foyer store (9 m²).
- Kitchen and Service Areas:** Kitchen (42 m²), plate up (21 m²), store, cool room, freezer, and cleaners.
- Stage and Performance Areas:** Stage (234 m²), forestage (33 m²), and various sound locks.
- Support Spaces:** Box office (9 m²), FOH office (19 m²), FOH store (9 m²), piano store (6 m²), scenery assembly/receiving (49 m²), and various storage rooms.
- Restrooms and Amenities:** Male and female toilets, family toilets, accessible WC, and a company/stage manager office.
- Other Features:** Lifts (1, 2, 3), stairs (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9), auto doors, and a loading dock.

The plan also shows structural details such as the line of roof above shown dashed, building cut lines, and various levels (RL 111190, RL 111420, RL 112400).







Summary of the Key Design Features

- 650 seats
- Recessed orchestra pit (no lift)
- More leg room
- A full Fly Tower with counterweight rigging
- Two foyer lifts and a back of house lift
- Proper disabled access to seats
- Existing kitchen upgraded for compliance
- Level One Roof Terrace Bar
- Bar on each level
- On grade access from Eaton St through to Car park.
- Separate amenities for guests to performers on every level.
- Comfortable seating with armrests
- Improved sightlines
- Preservation of war memorial & heritage items.
- Peace Park upgrade
- Improved Back of House
- Large Holding/Chorus Rooms
- Large unobstructed stage with wings
- BOH / FOH separation and security
- Easy access from Eton St to Main Entry

Questions?

ROOT PARTNERSHIPS

Advisory+Project Management

Sutherland Entertainment Centre Refurbishment - Stakeholder Workshops Feedback and Outcomes

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY		
	THE FACILITY	"Community Pride" "Transcendent" "Excellent" "Modern" "A Destination" "Vibrancy" "Safety" "Inclusive" "Welcoming" "Safe" "Modern" "Community Centre" "Green space coming in" "Impressive" "Event" "Welcoming" "Accepting" "Inspirational" "Safe" "Performance Venue"
	FOYER	Connection to Eton Street, Park / Bars
	ACCESSIBILITY	Important to all groups – disabled / elderly / parents with prams / schools / theatre
	SAFETY	Very important to school, dance and music groups – current situation is not good
	CAFE	Important to activate the area / connection to park / greater use of foyer / a destination
	FUNCTION ROOMS / MEETING ROOMS	The need for more meeting rooms which can be used by the public and Council
	THEATRE	Capacity / comfortable seats / good sight lines
	STAGE	Needs to be larger than current size
	WINGS	Need to be larger than current size
	FLY TOWER	Provides more options / opportunities / attraction to external users
	ORCHESTRA PIT	Recess / or pit?
	DRESSING ROOMS / HOLDING AREAS	Holding change areas / dressing room in the back of house area / close to toilets
	LOADING DOCK	Better loading facilities is required
STAKEHOLDER	AREA / ISSUE	COMMENTS
WORKSHOP 1 – SEC & SCC STAFF – 9 May 2019		
	Community Pride	
	Foyer	Strong connection to the park required / Hire out for functions / Council functions - Mayoral Ball / Staff Recognition? / Photo gallery
	Accessibility	Disabled Elderly – require direct / wide access from street (if lift is not working) – arrive in buses all at once / 1 lift may not suffice (lift needs to be large) / Need storage for frames, walkers & scooters / multi cushions Mothers – need storage for prams

	Seating capacity	700 seats keeps coming up / seat quality
	Cafe	Important / Strong connection to the park / would activate this area
	Bars	Big and long / serve snacks as well / restrict varieties of beverages – (feed fridge from behind?) Bar on FFL terrace looking over the park would be fantastic / spreading the load from GFL
	Bar Storage	For tables & chairs
	Box Office	Could be an extension of the bar. Tickets collected on night. Most sales on line.
	Cloak Room	Not required
	First Aid Room	Not Required - Can be located in FOH Office
	FOH Office - Operational	4 Staff / Briefing area / First Aid / Check in / Briefing / Walkie talkies
	FOH Staff lockers	10 people
	FOH Store	Tables/ chairs / catering equipment
	Toilet facilities	Ensure there are plenty of female toilets. Should look at refurbishing as many existing toilet areas as possible, rather than building new toilets
	Sound locks	To incorporate ushers cupboards
	Fly tower	Preference for full fly tower – Provide for more options / can fly things out of the way and use stage for another function. Counterweight system is cheaper. Need to price difference between counterweights and winches. Cost for additional shaft height
	Orchestra Pit	Only used by Musical Society – provide recess or full pit? If remedial work is required to the SW line under the floor in this location, could a pit be done as part of this work?
	Relocate existing administration office. Space to become leasable function / meeting room	The current area could be better utilised as another function / meeting room due to it's close relationship with the Foyer. Look at relocation into existing flat on site. Would not work well if located in main Council building – staff duplication.
	Dressing Rooms / Chorus Rooms	Can look at reducing the number of dressing rooms, maybe increase in size to double as holding areas. Schools and dance groups require about 5-6 holding areas, with toilets close by.
	Civic	Buses arrival and management is currently an issue – Maybe need to park buses elsewhere - SCC management issue. Relocating pedestrian crossing? - SCC separate issue.
	Peace Park	Water feature – Cuts off pedestrian flow. Any changes need to be handled sensitively. Children play in water feature / Maintenance is an issue. Used for performance and markets. Will be used more due to higher density residential living

WORKSHOP 2 - FRONT OF HOUSE & CIVIC – 16 May 2019		
SCC STAFF	One word description Of the proposed facility	“Transcendent” “Excellent” “Modern” “A Destination” “Vibrancy” “Safety” “Inclusive” “Welcoming”
	Top 5 things you would change	<p>1 – Welcoming & clearer orientation on arrival / Entrance into the building / Entrance & façade should be inviting and flow easily / accessibility /</p> <p>2 – Raked seating & good sight lines / More foyer space / Modernised look & feel – internally & externally / Upgrade of amenities</p> <p>3 – Appealing & improved functioning bar & F&B / Working air conditioning / Connection to park / Adequate storage to assist operations</p> <p>4 – Aesthetics of building improved / Accessibility for all people and machinery & props & BOH / More flexible – various event use / Front entrance & foyer</p> <p>5 – Accessibility to all floors / Storage that is functional / Open & lighter / make park spaces more usable – less levels / Interface & interaction with park</p>
	Core facilities SEC must provide	Theatre / diverse program experience / Cultural hub / active use by the community / Better seating & accessible seating / more room in foyer for a better dining experience / Air conditioning / Café / Bar / High level venue for live theatre & performance / High level café / restaurant experience / Destination that people want to visit & experience
	What user groups should be prioritised in the design	Local community arts groups / local school / commercial performing arts hirers / SEC programmers / External entertainment providers / community groups / elderly / disabled / Elderly / Schools / Local theatres / Well known performers encouraged to put on shows
	Other facilities that would work well in the new SEC	Riverside (Functional foyer & theatre options) / IPAC (theatre with fly tower) / Service lift / Big long bar / Need to capture the feeling of attending a special occasion / experience / Quality of fit out
	Relationship of spaces within and around the new facility	Open connection to park / welcoming / Visible inside from outside / Vibrant & functional BOH / Visible activity front of building / Theatre has close relationship to the foyer space, kitchen & rehearsal rooms / Foyer needs to be welcoming & inviting people to enter the SEC / Somewhere to congregate, enjoy a meal or light snack / Performing spaces to be readily accessible to rehearsal spaces & from foyer and café / bar areas
WORKSHOP 3 – BACK OF HOUSE & CIVIC – 23 May 2019		

DANCE GROUPS	One word description Of the proposed facility	“Safe” “Modern”
	Use 4 to 6 times per year 800 – 1,000 patrons September to November period	
	Top 5 things you would change	1 – More & larger change rooms & holding rooms – maybe 5 that could hold 60 in each 2 – Stage height & size (at least current dimensions with additional wing space) 3 – Raked seating on GFL & dress circle 4 – Able to fly backdrops 5 – safer stage door access, toilets, backstage & performers
	Core facilities SEC must provide	More changerooms & holding rooms / 800-1000 seats / safe access for children, parents & toilets
	What user groups should be prioritised in the design	Local community groups / dance schools, schools & musical societies / theatre
	Other facilities that would work well in the new SEC	More wing space/ double use of loading dock as holding / change rooms
	Relationship of spaces within and around the new facility	Café inside / outside like Hazelhurst / Connection to park
	Foyer	Bar important / pop up cafe
	Stage	400 students come on stage at finale
	Fly Tower	Would drop scenery if available
	Security	Current back door – very hard to control
	Holding areas / Dressing Rooms	Need lots of spaces to hold groups of about 50 – 60 - close to toilets (some groups need to change – pop up tents currently used) / include TV screens to entertain children while waiting / mirrors & lights
	Other Venues that work well	NIDA / Riverside
SCHOOL USERS	One word description Of the proposed facility	“Community Centre” “Green space coming in”
	1 day – Fill all seats – restrict 2 tickets per family	Kindergarten to Year 6
	Auditorium	Screens both sides of stage / Adjudication desk
	Holding areas	Changing clothes is currently a problem / toilets close by / pop up tents currently used
	Security	
	Loading dock	Hire trucks for props – typically 6-8 ton trucks

MUSIC FESTIVAL	2 weeks booking 12 nights / 10 rehearsals + matinees	500 students 1.5hr Concerts
	Foyer	Generally bars are not used
	Stage	Current stage is too small – bring in mega deck / cyc to project onto / 500 student on stage at finale (canon) / multiple access to stage / not many props
	Wings	Important – need to be wider
	Holding areas	9 holding groups / 30 per group with access to toilets (multi gender) Students generally come dressed
	Safety	Current back door a problem. Currently students are brought to foyer for collection by parents
	Fire exits	Need large exits – (350 in BOH)
	Accessibility	Currently hirer platform lift to access stage from auditorium
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA	One word description Of the proposed facility	“Impressive” “Event”
	4 concerts per year 330 – 400 patrons	Morning rehearsals on the day 40 musicians / 30 choir normally – 50 for the Messiah Pre talk – before performance – 50 – 70 patrons
	Auditorium	Separate concert hall? / Good acoustic engineer / Timber floor to auditorium?
	Foyer	Bar important
	Stage	Should be lower / currently tight - increase size of stage / use riser occasionally - 2 risers 300 & 600 AFL / Accessibility of bringing instruments onto the stage. / Tarket floor
	Acoustic shells	Could be flown in if fly tower
	Orchestra pit	Orchestra could be remote
MUSICAL SOCIETIES / THEATRE	Use 2 to 3 times per year Engadine Musical Society – 1per year 400-700 patrons	
	One word description Of the proposed facility	“Welcoming” “Accepting” “Inspirational” “Safe” “Performance Venue” “Impressive” “Event”
	Top 5 things you would change	1 – Bigger stage with adequate wings / raked stalls / lift for patrons 2 – Fly tower / Fly tower / more comfortable seating with more leg room

		3 – Proper dock – level with stage / Wings / Legs / Fly tower 4 – Lots of ladies toilets / Dressing Rooms / Laundry / Green Room / Stage Door / Better BOH facilities & dressing rooms 5 – Lift for patrons / Dock / Building access / case storage / manageable hiring costs 6 – Orchestra pit
	Core facilities SEC must provide	Larger stage / fly tower / Loading dock / female toilets / Lift / Orchestra pit / Good access for patrons and to BOH / Professional stage & facilities / fly tower / theatre space / adequate BOH facilities / lift for patrons / comfortable seating / large foyer
	What user groups should be prioritised in the design	The performing groups, local or from elsewhere Local theatre / Musical groups / Ballet & dance / Schools / Seniors
	Other facilities that would work well in the new SEC	Orchestra pit
	Cry rooms	Should really be called viewing rooms –users - mothers / disabled / premium seating
	Stage	12 x 10 deep stage is just OK
	Wings	Could work with a 3.0m OP wing, if there was a substantial savings in not demolishing that wall.
	Fly tower	Visiting companies would require a fly tower
	Loading Dock	Dock leveller required / sink required