

Public Submissions

Creative Infrastructure Framework

ARTS AND
CULTURE



Nillumbik Draft Creative Infrastructure Framework: Response on behalf of Montsalvat

2 Nov 2023

Introduction

Montsalvat welcomes the invitation to respond to the *Nillumbik Draft Creative Infrastructure Framework*. The resulting document will be useful as a guide to Arts policy for the next decade, identifying alternative creative spaces and activities in the municipality.

Montsalvat would like to acknowledge the support that we have received from Nillumbik Council, from both its staff and elected members. We have appreciated the input from the Board observers and senior staff from Council, in particular Nicole Johnson, Manager Community Partnerships and more recently Saleh Hadi, Coordinator Arts and Cultural Development Community Partnerships.

Other joint projects such as the prestigious Nillumbik Prize and the current MOU with Council have also assisted in providing mutual support in furthering our shared creative pursuits for our communities.

It is pleasing to see that the Council has referred to Montsalvat as a “creative anchor” in the Creative Cluster in Eltham. We believe that Montsalvat has much more to share as an important arts, culture and creative organisation that began here 90 years ago. It has developed a vision that retains the best of what was and aims to engage the local and wider community in promoting and experiencing arts, culture and related education.

Montsalvat is on a path of bold evolution to consolidate our financial sustainability, expand our community inclusivity and increase our creative ambition. Like Nillumbik Council and the artistic community more broadly, we face challenges that make it clear that we cannot do this alone.

Montsalvat is situated on 5 hectares of land and includes over 33 buildings. Montsalvat has spaces which can be used for classes in disciplines such as ceramics, drawing, painting, drama, music, film and photography. There is potential to develop schools for music, drama and painting, based on the Clay Talk model which is very successful. There are also outdoor spaces which are very suitable for festivals, community celebrations, children’s holiday activities and sculpture exhibitions.

The following discussion comments briefly on some possible points for further alignment between Nillumbik Council, the creative community and Montsalvat and some opportunities for further exploration and are included as examples.

Key Challenges

Montsalvat broadly agrees with the eight Key Challenges as outlined in *the Creative Infrastructure Framework* and acknowledges the significant community engagement that underpins these challenges. Local government is often approached for ongoing support for the arts, itself often challenged to balance the diverse range of other responsibilities. This section clearly articulates the need for partnerships, greater advocacy and more adaptive uses of existing infrastructure.

Montsalvat also shares many of these challenges and is prepared and very willing to work with the Council and the creative community to further address these issues.

Strategic Direction 1. Optimise the use of existing Council facilities

While this strategic direction is primarily an issue for Council, Montsalvat strongly supports this Direction. The sound principle of multipurpose facilities has been an adopted concept by all three levels of government for some time. The idea of single use buildings is neither logical nor affordable. The proposed action of upgrading and re-purposing current facilities is strongly supported.

Montsalvat's strategic direction is to also utilize our creative spaces more efficiently and with a greater diversity of uses. We are keen to explore with Council and the community Montsalvat's facilities to achieve greater cultural activity.

Strategic Direction 2. Building Partnerships

The strategy that most resonates with the Montsalvat team is the second of the four key strategies *Building Partnerships*. A strategic partnership should be designed to provide mutual benefit – including a shared understanding of each other's goals, requirements and responsibilities, and also financial and resource arrangements.

A partnership could lead to the sharing of facilities, securing more effective funding and resources, achieving greater levels of creative collaboration and aiding the Shire's desire to develop more contemporary and emerging art forms.

Montsalvat shares the principles of *Equity and inclusion, Recognition of First Nations and Playing to your strengths* and supports their identification in the Framework. We are working to make all areas of Montsalvat accessible and to encourage participation by all members of the community regardless of ability, gender, age or ethnicity. For example, our ceramic center ClayTalk, is currently providing programs for children, beginners and advanced levels, and also for people with a disability and for disengaged youth. ClayTalk is also registered as a NDIS provider. Montsalvat would welcome the opportunity to further work with Council and the community to expand into other areas through a Council partnership.

In the past we have had First Nations Art exhibitions, book launches and performances. We see the opportunity to engage further with local First Nations artists and we are hoping to include performances by an indigenous theatre company in the near future.

For Montsalvat, working to our strengths means working collaboratively. For example, recently we received funding in collaboration with Nillumbik Council for a volunteers Expo at Montsalvat which was run successfully with the Council staff and other participating organizations.

Montsalvat is developing partnerships with other arts organizations and the Shire might also benefit through these wider associations. For example, Victorian Opera conducted a workshop with young people in 2023 and began the process of writing a new opera. This will be further developed next year. There is interest in introducing circus skills to Montsalvat, initially as a school holiday program.

Many multi-cultural communities are keen to celebrate their arts, food, and other traditions and Montsalvat and Nillumbik in partnership would be an attractive host.

Montsalvat has a number of gallery spaces, suitable for exhibitions, performances, films and the like. There are some artist studios which could be made available on a short-term basis so that practicing

artists could experience working amongst other artists or as an arrangement for affordable spaces for artists exhibiting their work.

The need for advocacy and funding is one that Montsalvat experiences as a not-for-profit arts organisation. A New Approach (ANA) published study results which promote collaboration between the three levels of government. This emphasizes the role of local government alongside the State and Commonwealth. The same research project has also examined the newly emerging and future philanthropists and their need to have more engagement with the arts and cultural endeavors they will support. The role of skilled people who now have the time and want to contribute to their community and other volunteers and association members present opportunities to explore different approaches to advocacy, funding and resources. These areas are particularly relevant to both Nillumbik Council, the creative community and Montsalvat, and are best served by working together.

Montsalvat would like to suggest developing a version of partnership that fits into the themes of “playing to our strengths” exemplified by building on strength of existing arts clusters. Of the three clusters identified, the Eltham cluster map demonstrates the comparative strength and diversity of art forms. Montsalvat lies at the heart of this cluster.

Strategic Direction 3. Celebrating Nillumbik’s art collection

Nillumbik Council has a long-standing commitment to its local artists and the collection that has been developed and nurtured over many years. Montsalvat supports the view that this collection should be celebrated and showcased to the local and broader community.

Montsalvat would be keen to develop an agreement with Council to exhibit part of its collection on a rotating basis, in addition to utilizing existing infrastructure in the Shire.

Strategic Direction 4. Strengthen creative clusters and support creativity in all its forms

There are significant and clear synergies between Montsalvat and the Council in achieving this objective. It equally applies to Montsalvat’s strategic direction as articulated in our Strategic Plan 2023-25. Our response to this *Creative Infrastructure Framework* has articulated our desire to further work with Council and the creative community to activate our spaces and to provide genuine and proactive support for our artists in all creative endeavors.

Conclusion

Montsalvat and Council are entering Year 3 of a pilot MOU that has seen a productive level of functional connection and support between our respective teams, and the delivery of a range of shared initiatives. It has been a constructive and positive bridge to build.

Montsalvat supports a deeper, jointly beneficial level of partnership to be incubated within the context of this Framework – one which expands mutual support and shared outcomes as referenced above. We believe that such a partnership would be advantageous to the creative community that we are both here to support and encourage.

Such partnerships are not established overnight, and in the context of our organisations’ refreshed relationship, we recommend we work together to establish just such a partnership as a logical next step for both organisations. This may well unlock creativity we have not yet imagined and could provide a model for other municipalities who face the challenges we are both seeking to address.

MATT JONES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

An Artistic Alternative

I would like to suggest to Nillumbik Shire Council an alternative option to consider to the provision of a Regional Gallery for Nillumbik. Should Council not be fully committed to the significant establishment and annual operational costs of a Regional Gallery then the following alternative may be of interest:

My proposal is an extension of the Eltham Community and Reception Centre to provide space for a Municipal Gallery to enable the display and storage of the Nillumbik Art Collection.

A possible location for an extension is as shown on the attached aerial view. The intention is that the existing Walter Withers Gallery would also function as a section of the connected Municipal Gallery, when not being used for other purposes.

This option could provide:

- A local Municipal Gallery for the permanent display of the Nillumbik Art Collection
- Potential for an amazing, creatively inspired gallery / community space
- Additional arts and cultural activities within an established community precinct
- Increased visitation and utilisation of a major iconic Nillumbik community asset
- A relatively quick, easier, popular and accessible solution
- A more financially achievable outcome, with establishment and annual operational savings
- A multi-use space for music performances, displays and arts events (e.g. Nillumbik Prize)
- Ability to regularly rotate artworks from onsite storage to maintain visitors' interest
- Permanent or temporary outdoor sculpture displays, within landscaped garden settings
- Possible visitor information services to encourage increased tourism into the Nillumbik region
- Sale of works by local artists, potters, woodworkers etc., to support Nillumbik creative industries
- Sharing of artworks with other gallery spaces, such as in St Andrews, Hurstbridge and Montsalvat
- Use of existing onsite Council staff, office and catering facilities
- Use of existing onsite parking areas

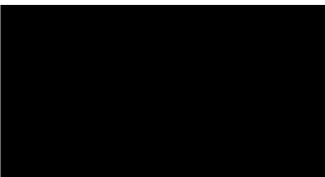
It is suggested this option would satisfy:

Nillumbik Shire Council's commitment to investing in the arts through strategic objective two of the Council Plan 2017-2021; *Active lifestyles and artistic expression are fostered through participation and innovation.*

This strategic objective is augmented by the Arts and Cultural Plan 2018 - 2022, which talks to the objective through three goals:

- Public and participatory arts as an everyday experience
- Develop and grow creative and cultural industries; and
- Support and promote arts and cultural activities that maximise access

I respectfully request this proposal be considered when deciding whether to establish future Art Gallery facilities for the Shire of Nillumbik.



Suggested location for a Nillumbik Municipal Gallery,
as an extension of the Eltham Community and Reception Centre



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while also reflecting the history of the early settlers in the area and the more recent mix of cultures that together has created the unique sense of identity and atmosphere in Nillumbik today.

municipality.

Together these principles anchor this Framework in an inclusive, respectful and pragmatic approach.

In order to achieve whole of Nillumbik Council support for this framework, the proposed actions should be mirrored across the Economic, Social and Environmental Strategic Plans, where a particular action would assist achieve one or more planning stream's KRAs.

Participate Nillumbik

Creative Infrastructure Framework - Tell us your thoughts

Oct 09, 2023 - Nov 03, 2023

Project: Creative Infrastructure Framework

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 459

Exported: Nov 08, 2023, 02:50 PM

Exported By: [REDACTED]

Contribution ID	Do you have any additional thoughts on the four strategic directions outlined in the Framework?	Do you any additional feedback on the eight challenges identified in the Framework?	There are 28 actions in the Framework and time frames allocated to each. Do you have any additional feedback on these?	Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share for consideration?
24526	<p>To truly celebrate Nillumbik's art collection we need to build an Art Gallery at 895 Main Road Eltham as endorsed by the Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Feasibility Study Report 5th June 2019.</p>	<p>Challenges 1,2,3,4,7 and 8 will all be overcome by building a state of the art Gallery at 895 Main Road Eltham.</p>	<p>Number 13 suggests that our art collection, which all Nillumbik rate payers have paid for, should be exhibited in other municipalities, not our own. Talk about adding insult to injury. Number 19 Refer to the Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Feasibility Study Report 5th June 2019 and begin the process of achieving a state of the art Gallery on 895 Main Road Eltham for our collection, bequests and travelling exhibitions.</p>	<p>Stop spending our rates on surveys that ask us for feedback that you then ignore. How many times does the community have to tell you we need an Art Gallery and that we want it built at 895 Main Road Eltham. We are privileged to have an Archibald Prize winner in Peter Wegner from Diamond Creek. If we had a Gallery the 50,000 people who visited the Mornington Gallery to view the Archibald Prize could visit Nillumbik when we host it.</p>
24525	<p>The 4 strategic directions seem sensible to me. But they are only important in practice if the Council recognises that they represent a major change from its historic and current behaviour. For example:</p> <p>a. Optimise the use of existing Council facilities: many Council facilities are currently unused for much/most of the day. A major reason for this is that many of them are single use facilities rather than being shared by multiple organisations whose activities happen (or could happen) at different times.</p> <p>b. Build partnerships: as far as I am aware (and somewhat ironically), no stakeholders outside of Council were involved in the production of the draft document.</p> <p>c. Celebrate Nillumbik's art collection: this art collection is in storage hidden from view and, as far as I am aware, has been for many years.</p> <p>It is also worth pointing out that the 4 strategic directions are essentially directions for the Council, not for the community as a whole. For example, the direction is 'Celebrate Nillumbik's art collection', not 'Celebrate Nillumbik's art'. This focus on the Council, rather than on Nillumbik or its population, then carries through most of the rest of the document, including the actions.</p>	<p>The 8 challenges seem sensible to me but 8 headline challenges is too many. My suggestion is that 1 or 2 of the challenges should be elevated above the others to give more of a sense of direction. More specifically, I would make either challenge 1 (Suitability of Council's existing arrangements and Council's role in supporting creativity) or challenge 3 (Lack of exhibition spaces) as THE key challenge, and then let this drive the overall shape of the proposed future actions.</p>	<p>I think that it is premature to comment on the proposed actions when the strategy (aka the strategic directions and challenges) are still up for debate. But it appears to be too much of a list of subjects to be explored rather than setting any clear milestones or outcomes (other than more reports). One test of a good action plan is whether or not the reader can summarise its essence after reading it and I don't think that a list of 28 'explorations' achieves this. I would much prefer to see a small number of the actions highlighted, with clear desired outcomes. For example, if the Council were to commit to undertaking a proper, public review of existing lease arrangements (action no. 8), this would, in my view, be a serious step forward.</p>	<p>It is actually quite difficult to comment on the draft document because it largely comprises a series of reasonably uncontroversial statements and principles (e.g. who could be against optimising the use of existing Council facilities or against an inclusive approach?). But I don't actually feel that it takes us forward much because it doesn't directly take a clear stance on some of the key issues.</p> <p>First, it doesn't provide any historical context. For example, many of us in the community have long thought that a key issue is what to do with the site of the old Shire offices in Eltham (which has now been vacant for almost 30 years) and whether or not a dedicated gallery space should be built there. This issue has been periodically discussed by Council, culminating in a 2019 feasibility report. But none of this is discussed in the draft framework and its only proposed action on the subject (action no. 19) is effectively to repeat the 2019 exploratory exercise in 2029 or later.</p> <p>Second, it doesn't provide a clear statement of either priorities or choices. Continuing the example above, taking a stance on whether or not a dedicated gallery space should be built at the site of the old Shire offices in Eltham is surely an important thing for the Council to do. The Council's position prior to this draft framework was clear (see their August 2022 decision): they were against such an initiative for the foreseeable future, instead preferring to focus on smaller initiatives. When I read the draft framework, I assumed that it effectively took the same position (as the subject is only discussed in passing). But the document doesn't actually explicitly say that and, when the relevant Council officers were asked about the subject, they denied this and said that building a purpose-built, gallery-grade exhibition space was part of their plan (citing action no. 19). But it is clearly not a priority in the document. On this important issue, the draft framework is simply confusing.</p>

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				<p>In passing, I understand that committing to a clear stance re a dedicated gallery space at the old Shire offices or elsewhere is difficult for the Council: on the one hand, it has enormous attractions and would (I suggest) have widespread popular support (and what other Melbourne municipalities don't have a dedicated gallery space?); on the other hand, it would require major investments of time and money when the Council is already strapped for both. But I don't see how kicking the can down the road resolves the issue. How about trying to find a third way centred on seeking partnership solutions with the community; for example, the Council being willing to lease the land and to support its development for creative purposes if there were a reputable and serious community group who wanted to try and move such things forward?</p> <p>Third, it doesn't give a clear sense of how things need to change. For example, why is it necessary to say 'optimise the use of existing Council facilities'? Why isn't their use already optimised? Is the Council really going to try and change the situation and/or its behaviour?</p> <p>Fourth, the document is all about the Council's objectives and actions rather than about the community's possible objectives and actions. By contrast, I would argue that an important role for Council is simply to enable parts of the community to do things. There are lots of people around Nillumbik who are deeply committed in one way or another to the creative arts and enabling them and/or creating partnerships with them should surely be a major theme.</p> <p>Summarising all this, the bottom line is that effective strategies and frameworks are all about making choices, saying what is going to change, and giving a clear sense of direction. I don't think that the draft framework achieve this, even though I like much of what it says.</p>
24523	<p>Building a partnership with Nillumbik's creative community is essential in order to genuinely implement all four strategic directions outlined in the draft Creative Infrastructure Framework. As such, the Nillumbik Art Museum Committee (NAMC) invites members of Nillumbik Council and its Arts Officers to discuss and work together on realising Nillumbik's long-standing need and desire for a dedicated, industry-standard art gallery being built at 895 Main Road Eltham. This is what the majority of Nillumbik's art communities want and needs, and this is</p>	<p>All eight challenges identified in the Framework are important issues that need addressing in order to support our local artistic communities, and it is important that the Framework is thorough and accurate in its assessment process.</p> <p>The Nillumbik Creative Infrastructure Framework claims on page 40 that the cost of a Municipal Gallery is prohibitive for Council, however Council hasn't publicly gone through the process of assessing the actual cost of</p>	<p>Many of the 28 proposals within Council's draft Creative Infrastructure Framework have the opportunity to serve and assist with particular needs within our creative communities, however the most significant sector of our arts community is not being fairly represented by only presenting Option 19 as "Explore options for delivering a purpose-built, gallery-grade exhibition space to display the collection and works of established artists."</p> <p>The options have already been explored. This is what the</p>	<p>The Nillumbik Art Museum Committee wants to work with Nillumbik Council to achieve the long-held community ideals and goals of building an art museum at 895 Main Road Eltham. The Committee believes that if a sincere evaluation is taken of the existing needs and community expectations of this site and its function, then together we will be able to create a significant artistic landmark, which will be cherished by the 96,900 people participating in Nillumbik's Arts and Cultural Development programs as stated in Council's 21/22 annual report, and this arts</p>

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	<p>what the majority of Nillumbik's art lovers want and needs. These existing wants and needs were confirmed by Council's own 2019 Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Feasibility Report, and were verified by its community consultations, attracting significant support: with more than fifty people attending the Eltham session in 2019, and the vast majority of people in the 2019 Eltham session were established artists and arts organisations, and the twenty people that attended the Hurstbridge session were also representative of the arts community. And these clearly articulated needs and wants have also been confirmed by NAMC's own Feasibility Report, which assessed more than twenty galleries across Australia and overseas, comparing fifty different criteria to assess different operating models, attendance, gallery configurations, storage requirements, curatorial approaches, public transportation links, and multiple other criteria, and determined that the community owned land at 895 Main Road Eltham is the perfect site for a dedicated, industry-standard art venue.</p> <p>The Nillumbik Art Museum at 895 Main Road Eltham can achieve the strategic directions outlined in the Framework by building partnerships and offering a curated artistic program that connects and reflects the artistic programs of Montsalvat, Dunmoochin, and the Baldessin Press and Studio. The Nillumbik Art Museum can also offer a workspace and exhibition space for the many local artists who would like to be a part of Nillumbik's Artists Open Studios, but are currently unable because of accessibility issues associated with their private studio spaces.</p> <p>The Nillumbik Art Museum at 895 Main Road Eltham will celebrate Nillumbik's art collection by offering a dedicated space where a curated selection can be shown, as well as offering adequate space for the entire collection to be stored onsite, and an archival space where people can gain insights into the restoration and conservation process.</p> <p>The Nillumbik Art Museum at 895 Main Road Eltham will strengthen creative clusters and support creativity in all its forms by offering a truly diverse range of spaces: a gallery for Nillumbik's existing art collection, a gallery for touring exhibitions, a community gallery, an interactive gallery with retractable seating, a gallery shop where local artists can sell their artworks, and seven artist studio workspaces for artists who are either emerging, mid-career, established or</p>	<p>building a Municipal Gallery in Nillumbik, or made any of these costings available to the public. Back in 2019, the previous Nillumbik Council voted against developing a business case for an art gallery at 895 Main Road, Eltham, even though this site was assessed as the most suitable site for an art gallery in all of Nillumbik by Council's 2019 Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Feasibility Report. Which now means that Council doesn't have any site-specific costs in order to assess whether the cost of a Municipal Gallery is prohibitive or not.</p> <p>This same Framework also fails to mention that most art galleries are funded via contributions from a variety of Local, State, Federal and philanthropic sources, so the actual cost to Nillumbik Council to build an art gallery on a community-owned site could be less than expected.</p> <p>Using the Shepparton Art Museum as an example: this art venue was built in 2021 for \$50 million: and this new building was partly funded by Greater Shepparton City Council (\$15.35 million); the Australian Government (\$15 million); Victorian State Government (\$12.5 million) and private philanthropic and community support through the SAM Foundation (\$7.5 million).</p> <p>The size of Shepparton Art Museum is approximately 5,300m², whereas the proposed building for the Nillumbik Art Museum sited at 895 Main Road Eltham is half this size, at approximately 2,600m². So it stands to reason that the total cost of building the Nillumbik Art Museum at 895 Main Road Eltham could be less than 30 million dollars, and if adopting the same funding model used by Shepparton Art Museum, then the cost to Nillumbik Council could be less than seven million dollars. To put this amount in context, Nillumbik Council spent 65 million dollars in general and sporting infrastructure projects in 2022.</p>	<p>2019 Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Feasibility Report mentioned in detail. Nillumbik's artistic community has already extensively consulted with Nillumbik Council and voiced its considered needs across the twenty-seven years of 895 Main Road Eltham being available as a site for an art gallery. And these needs have been further articulated by the Nillumbik Art Museum Feasibility Report.</p> <p>So in order to deliver a purpose-built, gallery-grade exhibition space, this Framework needs to move beyond 'exploring options,' and begin outlining a set of defined goals in a distinct timeframe, and this is what the Nillumbik Art Museum Committee would like to achieve in its discussions with the Nillumbik Council and its Arts Officers.</p>	<p>venue will continue to engage and connect with locals and art tourists for generations to come.</p>

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	indigenous from each of the wards within Nillumbik. The Nillumbik Art Museum will offer an education program based on the established curricula of primary and secondary schools, so that children from all over Nillumbik can broaden their learning, understanding, and experience of Art and History. The Nillumbik Art Museum would be inclusive and embrace a diverse range of art mediums to reflect the diverse needs of Nillumbik's artistic communities, and will serve as a creative beacon to audiences across Nillumbik and beyond.			
24522	Please give number one priority to building a purpose built museum of art for Nillumbik. This prevaricating has gone on for too long ; decades of delays and endless think tanks suggest that the council has other priorities. Please prove this wrong and act on the findings of the 2019 Nillumbik Art Gallery report recommendations.	Sporting facilities have been disproportionately funded in Nillumbik, when the importance of culture can not be overstated. Money should not stop a project like this. Its value is beyond monetary value.	Number one...a Nillumbik Museum of Art. This is the highest priority for this shire and this community. Timeframe is urgent now, after decades of talking and vacillating. There is no time to lose in progressing this would be project.	Nillumbik so desperately needs a central arts hub, a "home base" for the arts. At present the arts community (such as it is) has fragmented and is seriously struggling to survive. Many talented artists have left the shire for want of an audience. We want our Nillumbik artists to stay here, to thrive and inspire others to realise their own creativity. Our children's futures will depend on their creative abilities across the board, and the arts is where it begins. Please act on this now!
24521	The urgency for ACTION to DESIGN and BUILD a new Council Gallery suitable for Professional Contemporary Artists in the shire is URGENT. Its very embarrassing that one does not exist already. The ideas presented in the draft to "possibly extend Edandale or create something of this description in diamond creek" are not sufficient. It needs to be a purpose design, purpose built space that the shire can be proud of, that will attract contemporary artists to visit from the whole of Melbourne and Victoria, and it needs to be properly FUNDED with Curators employed, a proper marketing strategy and creative arts working staff engaged so that it will enable Eltham and surrounds to become a contemporary place to visit and work from for artists. The Nillumbik shire is huge and also services North Warrandyte - I live in North Warrandyte. We pay rates - we receive no benefits in terms of an artistic venue or other funding (we were not even on your map in the draft!) - I would be happy to see Eltham as the home for such a purpose built gallery. Please look at other Council galleries for quality of care given to contemporary artists, management and professionalism. Ie. Incinerator Gallery, Marroondah Arts realm/ Federation Estate, Bayside Gallery, Footscray Art Centre. Etc.			
24520	The urgency for ACTION to DESIGN and BUILD a new Council Gallery suitable for Professional Contemporary Artists in the shire is URGENT. Its very embarrassing that	see previous comment	See my first comment	

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	<p>one does not exist already. The ideas presented in the draft to "possibly extend Edandale or create something of this description in diamond creek" are not sufficient. It needs to be a purpose design, purpose built space that the shire can be proud of, that will attract contemporary artists to visit from the whole of Melbourne and Victoria, and it needs to be properly FUNDED with Curators employed, a proper marketing strategy and creative arts working staff engaged so that it will enable Eltham and surrounds to become a contemporary place to visit and work from for artists. The Nillumbik shire is huge and also services North Warrandyte - I live in North Warrandyte. We pay rates - we receive no benefits in terms of an artistic venue or other funding (we were not even on your map in the draft!) - I would be happy to see Eltham as the home for such a purpose built gallery. Please look at other Council galleries for quality of care given to contemporary artists, management and professionalism. Ie. Incinerator Gallery, Marroondah Arts realm/ Federation Estate, Bayside Gallery, Footscray Art Centre. Etc.</p>			
24518	<p>1: Optimise existing Council Facilities: Fine!... although could be read as more of the same?...which does not work! Facilities should include "Council-owned land", but the draft tends to subdue this. 895 Main Road, Eltham exists, but earned a 'Red Dot' in the draft until amended to 'Not-Applicable'. Why, one might well ask, is this so? To upgrade existing facilities for Fine Art is problematic, high cost for highly compromised outcome... Security, air-quality, accessibility, flood, fire, storage etc amount to significant upgrades. The existing buildings are far from being functional, spatially or visually appropriate for fine art exhibitions.</p> <p>2: Build Partnerships: Council is aware that the Nillumbik Art Museum (NAM) has been an urgent request for over three decades, and has a Committee developing plans for procurement, in Partnership with Council. The draft makes not endeavour to acknowledge the NAMC, and has made no approach to individual members or the NAMC. The notion of a purpose-built Gallery is relegated to a long term 6-10 year plan, and no short-term plan has been acknowledged for exploring the Gallery with NAMC. The NAM Committee represents a broad range of the Nillumbik Community, plus the creative community, but this facility has not been considered worthy of exploring Building a Partnership with. The Draft could acknowledge and explore Building a Partnership with the NAMC in the short-term of the</p>	<p>1: Council's existing spaces do not include appropriate spaces for the storage, safe-keeping, security, or technical needs of fine art. Nillumbik urgently needs a purpose-built Gallery.</p> <p>2: Needs of ALL creatives should not mean doing nothing on account of any one thing not being able to do something for everyone. We need purpose-built to enable at least one thing to be done well... possibly two or three.</p> <p>3: Lack of exhibition spaces: The Shire has Archibald standard painters, and always has had, but no suitable place for such works, I am also embarrassed and join those others that have expressed same at draft-feedback sessions.</p> <p>4: Emerging forms of art can be dealt with in a NAM, in the context of other art forms. We need to have a facility that is a leading exhibitor of contemporary art. The emerging community consciousness also needs to be aware of the first-nations heritage, and a new gallery can deal with these issues without compromise... with Wurundjeri input.</p> <p>5: NAMC can assist Council with fund-raising... but a plan for a gallery that is sustainable, through partnering with Council as a Charitable Trust (or similar option) in conjunction with the Council's DGR Status.</p> <p>6: Advocacy for the Shire creative, and other, activities can be promoted very effectively via a NAM.</p> <p>7: Greater representation and inclusion is in-built into the</p>	<p>I (Barry Pearce) have submitted a response to this section, but once it sent, it confirmed that the earlier portion was not included... so it is attached here. There was no opportunity to return to the beginning of the survey.</p>	<p>The current Committee for the Nillumbik Art Museum is ready to form a Partnership with Council to explore ways that Nillumbik can be a leader in creative human endeavour... and places a Gallery at 895 at the centre of the proposal. The NAM Committee is keen to Form that Partnership as a short term goal towards a Gallery. I am eager to see that happen, and invite Council to contact NAMC to explore the proposal. The NAM has wide support from community groups and the creative centres.</p>

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	<p>program... and this could resolve many issues the are presented as challenges in the Draft.</p> <p>3: Celebrate Nillumbik's Art Collection: There is only one way to effectively exhibit a community fine-art collection, and that is in a secure, air-controlled, spatially and functionally appropriate indoor room... often referred to as a GALLERY. The community have been requesting this commodity for decades, but the Draft again defers this to the Long-term. The proper place for art-pieces to be displayed, would then also encourage more acquisitions... and these could valus much more than capital costs of a gallery,,, and w have already missed out on the opportunity to acquire many millions of dollars worth of our heritage. The matter is urgent! The calls are loud! The community art collection should be available within the SHIRE... WITH NO WASTED STORAGE FEES... and no need to go outside the Shire, and pay \$60 to see one item from the collection. Having no Gallery of merit in the Shire, many people regard as an 'embarrassment', and that word has been used, again, by others at feedback sessions for the Draft. WE NEED A purpose-built Gallery... in the short term.</p> <p>4: Strengthen Craetive Clusters... and creativity. Eltham is a creative Cluster, as shown in the Draft. 895 Main Road is in an activity centre. The land is not in a flood plain. I has not been vacant for 20+ years, with a Gallery proposed and (strangely) the idea disappeared, with records of the work done remaining... including the community enthusiasm. Strengthen the Cluster... the site is accessible with close transport, it compliments the Eltham Library, Trestle Bridge, Historical Precinct, Activity-Centre facilities, and is the better site in the Shire and AVAILABLE!??? Why then does the Draft pretend the site is Not Applicable... and worse? "Supporting creativity in all its forms" is what we all endorse, until the cry comes "We will not do a Gallery, because it does not do dance!" The NAMC has a gallery that can do dance, and what we need is to support 'creativity'. We do not need more of nothing, because a proposal to DO CREATIVE ACTIVITIES WELL, may not do everything. That is where the co-operative mutual support of a framework happens, NAM supports Montsalvat, Baldessin, Dunmoochin, Nyora etc and we all promote each other.</p>	<p>NAM proposal, including including the very best in the very best... as an addition to the current useful, but not inspirational fine art spaces.</p> <p>8: Let us aim to represent the best of fine art for all in the Shire to enjoy, and to inspire the Shire and the good folk of the Shire, to aspire to project the best characteristics of human endeavour. THE BEST! Let the Shire continue to be a leader of the creative aspirations. AND GO!!!</p>		

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	<p>Optimise the use of the Main Road Site</p> <p>Build a Partnership with the NAMC in the short (immediate) term</p> <p>Enable Nillumbik's Fine Art Collection to be shown, and complimented with acquisitions, within the Shire.</p> <p>Strengthen the Creative Cluster in Eltham. whilst promoting tourism to all other venues and facilities within the Shire.</p>			
24517	<p>There are no tangible steps towards planning and constructing a fully functioning professional Art Museum and permanent storage for the Nillumbik art collection. As an internationally recognized contemporary artist who has exhibited in galleries such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Ga Atlanta and had residencies in France and other venues. For me, the current facilities and strategy will offer no incentive to exhibit in the shire where I reside. I have discussed this with other professional artists in the shire and many feel as I do. It is becoming urgent that Nillumbik Shire, have the inspiration and vision to plan and act on this over the coming years. Procrastination and delay is not an option.</p>	<p>How about building a new art ship instead of patching up a leaky boat and expecting it to sail in stormy seas? Cost is a poor excuse. When there is a disproportionate expenditure on sporting facilities in the shire ie. \$65m on a new construction program in 2022 on swimming pools, basket ball stadiums and regional trails etc.</p>	<p>Revise the priority of the 28 actions to place a new professional Art Museum firmly at Number 1.</p>	<p>I dread to think what the iconic Sydney Opera House would now look like if the current lot of bullet dodgers running the council were charged to make a decision and act. Please just get on and action what the findings of the 2019 Nillumbik Regional Art Gallery Report report recommended.</p>
24516	<p>Strategic directions are terrific. Some notes:</p> <p>1. Accessibility of information and hiring costs to artists are your main issues here. I love #6 & #7 of the proposed actions: currently information about which Council owned spaces are available, and the process of leasing a Council owned space is quite opaque and difficult to find. There is no central list of venues, pricing, and even how to find who has the key to the door. (Try Eltham Living and Learning Centre to see how impossible it is to find pricing easily, and try any of the community halls to find access to the venue.) Information is spread over multiple web pages on the Council website.</p> <p>As an example: imagine you want to book a space at the Hurstbridge Hub, your dates are flexible and the type of room you'll book is cost dependent. Then go to 'Bookable Nillumbik' to look for prices and availability, and see how long you can go before you give up. The process is dreadful.</p> <p>A well-designed info pack for hiring Council facilities that includes for each venue; parking, loading zones, disability access, location of keys and equipment etc. would be useful.</p> <p>Addressing #8 of the proposed actions: One reason Council owned spaces are underutilized is the cost to artists. One musician has commented to me that if she were to run a local performance, tickets should be around</p>	<p>Nailed it. I see a clear line of reasoning from the Artbeat consultations through the summary documents into this framework. Identifies the challenges really well and connects beautifully to evidence in the What We Know summary document.</p> <p>2. What we do really well is provide opportunities for amateur, early professional and community artists; from small arts and community grants to Open Studios and supplying a venue for the Rotary Art Show. What we don't do well is supporting mid to late career professionals. Performers and visual artists look outside the Shire to exhibit their work; there is no place for them here.</p> <p>Another thing we need to work on is including non-cultural players into the audience. I noticed [REDACTED] the number of men (usually with young sons) who came repeatedly and who had never been to an art gallery before. They were initially interested in the shipping container, but found they enjoyed the exhibitions. These people feel very uncomfortable in traditional galleries, as if they don't belong. There is scope to link the arts to sports, trades, shopping areas and business to pick up new audiences. [REDACTED]</p> <p>The people who are very comfortable in community gallery</p>	<p>Include professional level artists at the very beginning of the mid and long term actions, particularly #16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28</p> <p>#25 & #26: When partnering with other Council departments such a Eco Dev and Capital Works, artists at the beginning stages of large projects can embed creative thinking and creative elements within a project, rather than have art tacked on at the the end like an afterthought.</p>	<p>Sustainable creative hubs and creative spaces, to be successful over the long term, cannot be expected to rely solely on creative producers/artists for both cultural and financial input. Creative hubs need to be a financial and cultural mini-ecosystem where businesses subsidise venue costs for artists and art workers, and the artists and art workers supply the cultural capital that fuels interest and trade in the nearby businesses. I note that there is often pushback to the idea that cafes and bars can be part of a cultural centre or gallery, (the arguments centre around competition to local traders and/or Council doesn't want to deal with places that serve alcohol,) but we have no problem with this at a sports venue. Why? This thinking needs to change. Individual football players are not expected to bear the cost of their sporting facilities. There needs to be a similar model for the arts. In addition, this thinking is the only way experimental work (and I include performance work; theatre/music/dance/multimedia) and contemporary work can have a place in Nillumbik.</p>

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	<p>\$20, but using a Council owned space blows the cost up to \$60, which people were not willing to pay. So the performance doesn't go ahead. The Courthouse Poetry readings are over because of the bureaucracy involved every month to secure the space which included repeatedly applying for a Council grant which WAS THEN USED TO PAY BACK TO COUNCIL FOR THE VENUE. (Apologies for the all caps, but this is an appalling loss of a cultural event over ridiculous paperwork.) At Hurstbridge Hub, a small office space was \$200 for the day. There needs to be alternative ways to fund these spaces: maybe an on-site coffee shop or bar, (I know the local traders will hate it, so there needs to be a way to involve them,) that doesn't lean so heavily on artists.</p> <p>2. Very happy with #12, 16 & 17 of the proposed actions. Further partnerships that could be explored could be with local traders associations and chambers of commerce who are looking for creative placemaking works and events to bring people into retail centres. The local wineries are also an unexplored partnership; there is scope for a central point where art is shown and all the local wines are available for tasting: something in Diamond Creek (maybe Eltham) around the Open Cellars and Open Studios events as an introduction to the regions... which might align with Option 2 of Strategic Direction 3: the Diamond Creek Community Hub. It's situated at the gateway to our wineries.</p> <p>4. Very happy with proposed action #25 I would like to see small rooms given to local writers who need, on a regular basis to get out of their homes and have a quiet (free or very low-cost) area in which to write. I'm thinking Hurstbridge and St Andrews, near the bush and near places to grab some lunch.</p>	<p>spaces are the artists we already cater well to, which I've mentioned above; they recognise such spaces as theirs. These spaces are labeled as 'inclusive' when they're open to everyone; but not everyone feels welcome. The current offerings in Nillumbik are not welcoming for contemporary art, professional artists and non-cultural players who might like to be involved in creative events but not know how. (I make exception for some of the excellent initiatives Council made during the pandemic such as poetry on footpaths and musicians playing prior to Zoom meetings etc.)</p>		
24515	<p>Frustrating... This site has cut me off twice now... and does not allow a copy of the work to be kept.</p>	<p>1: Suitability of existing spaces: Not even close for accommodating significant Fine Art, The Community Centre can be adapted to a community art show, with difficulty, but the Art Show will need to expand, and a place for presenting fine art will be required. Most existing venues are inappropriate visually, spatially, functionally, technically and inaccessible or on a flood plain, or worse. If we are serious, we will begin exploring a real solution to our urgent community problem... NO PURPOSE BUILT GALLERY! Council needs to take it's leadership role seriously, and listen to, and support the community voices... and the passion it contains.</p> <p>2: The needs of ALL creatives can easily be used as a</p>	<p>1 to 9: Fine! The checklist might begin NOW by listing what is being requested... with accessibility, cost, local demand, and proximity all in mind. NAMC want to engage in all of this! 11 fine!</p> <p>12: Montsalvat is a beloved institution, and we all wish to advance the institution. One useful means would be to operate a Gallery in conjunction with Montsalvat. This could be achieved as a partnership with mutually complimentary events and attributes. Upgrading Montsalvat galleries for fine art is another expensive program, and could easily have a compromised outcome. Let Montsalvat develop what is does best!</p> <p>13: Yes! Link with Heide, Potters, Tarrawarra in a trail</p>	<p>Many... but the best way for all this to happen, is for the draft, and Council, to Build a Partnership with NAMC. The NAMC is calling out for this to happen. Please let it happen!</p>

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		<p>reason for doing nothing. "We can't do that, because it does not cater for dance... or???" The leadership needs to concentrate on advancing the CREATIVITY within the Shire in whatever way it can, and find a way to find an Art Gallery, for example, that can accommodate dance.</p> <p>3: Lack of exhibition spaces: Say no more!</p> <p>4: Emerging art forms need special attention, and a gallery space equipped to make exhibiting possible and simple. A NAM is urgently needed to accommodate such an endeavour, in a proper manner.</p> <p>5: Funding and Resourcing is another reason for Building a Partnership with NAMC. The NAMC has ideas and plans to assist Council with this., and conceptual Business Plans that are worth Council exploring.</p> <p>6: The Council needs to communicate with the NAMC, and partnership with advocating.</p> <p>7: Greater representation and inclusion can be achieved by a partnership with NAMC that represents a broad range of the community, including the creative community. It is there for the taking. TAKE IT!!!</p> <p>8: More diversity of spaces could best be achieved by beginning to add ONE good space, rather than adding to the numerous compromised spaces. Build a purpose-built space for creativity to thrive.</p> <p>THE FRAMEWORK HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED TO ENSURE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PROVIDED THAT ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES. The Report ignores the most important notion that the community is demanding... A purpose built gallery.</p>	<p>that includes Nillumbik as a creative centre... with NAM as a link in the chain... directing visitors also to Baldessin, Dunmoochin, wineries and to Nillumbik's unique Green Wedge and environment.</p> <p>14: NAMC can advance Philanthropic, private and fund-raising, in Partnership with Council, as a Charitable Trust in conjunction with Council's existing DGR Status!</p> <p>15: The Community Art Collection should be available within the Shire. Collaboration with adjoining Municipalities is fine, if Nillumbik is an equal partner. If not, collaboration is... ? NAM aims to attract, not just neighbours... Nillumbik, but also State and National exhibitions... and beyond... plus tourism.</p> <p>16: Health and social services is another aspect of what a NAM functions as. Mental health and optimism is NAM...</p> <p>17: Funding can be explored thro a partnership with NAMC!</p> <p>18: Fine!</p> <p>19: ... and coming in at No 19 is the winner! However, the draft does its damdest to place No 19 into the long-term stakes at a 1 to 100 (maybe 1 in 1000) odds,,, and a purpose-built gallery at 895 Main Road at 1 in 1000000000000 odds. Why is this so?</p> <p>20: Add NAMC! NAM can do this also!... and is doing so!</p> <p>21 to 27: Fine,,, and NAMC can assit in achieving this.</p> <p>28: Co-working spaces are provided for in the NAM, where Nillumbik artists are an integral part of the NAM and the local-to-National art movement.</p>	
24514	The need for a dedicated gallery for the art collection is identified in the framework but does not appear to be a serious consideration in the short to medium term	As a consumer of art, the lack of easily accessible exhibition space should be a priority	<p>1: The Civic Drive space is difficult to access with public transport</p> <p>3 & 4: Re-purposing a meeting room would be a "mini gallery" only and is unlikely to attract tourism</p> <p>5 to 8: Agree</p> <p>14: Should be explored in relation to a dedicated gallery</p> <p>19: Exploration of options has been going on for many years, but nothing has happened. The regional gallery feasibility study as recently as 2019 identified the need. I think it should be given a higher priority and serious consideration. The old council office site at 895 Main Road Eltham would be an ideal site</p> <p>24:</p>	Nillumbik has a strong and proud history of creativity which should be nurtured. The provision of a dedicated gallery is well overdue and would provide a creative hub for both artists and art consumers
24513	all are critically needed!	More support for professional artists in the area is needed. the focus seems heavily towards hobbyist artists. this is also excellent but need to support local professionals too	we need a contemporary exhibiting space for the collection and for new works to be shown (library space is totally inadequate). it is a big problem that the community	see last answer

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			would greatly embrace. utilising unused spaces for residencies, studios also a great idea. connecting local professional artists with indigenous leaders and also updating the heidelberg art trail to fit more contemporary interpretations, new artist interventions would be a great art initiative that embraced the rich historical arts culture and added focus on contemporary artists too.	
24512	Another commissioned report to outline strategic directions for procrastination. All basic good suggestions to establish positive action hopefully.	Blatent disregard for the requirement of a permanent space for multi exhibitions in lieu of band aid projects	Seriously, considering the obstacles presented in achieving these objectives it is extremely disappointing to note this infrastructure framework is at ground zero when a prospective implementation is offered for 6 - 10 years.	There are many projects of this nature already carried out at other councils where sustainability has been objectified and offered for observation to be utilised by Nillumbik. There are a substantial number of Philantrophers available to offer funding for artistic projects. The CEO, Carl Cowie, in a recent article in CEO made reference to the progress for infrastructure in 2023 in Nillumbik by rolling out a \$65m injection for sports. Mr Cowie has the unique opportunity to progress the "arts" in Nillumbik and add that achievement for his portfolio. One word from him to Lindsay Fox, Beeson or Myer foundation would cement his longevity of appreciation by Nillumbik. An entrepreneurial attitude and positive plan to achieving recognition for the Art Heritage of the Nillumbik is urgently required. Many notes have already been taken by you at your presentations for consideration. Enough of the commissioned reports... action is now required.
24511	<p>This submission is lodged on behalf of the Eltham Concert Band. We are an ensemble of over 50 musicians based at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre (ECRC). We perform two major concerts per year there, as well as playing out as part of a number of performances throughout the year, both within and outside Nillumbik. Our repertoire ranges from classical to popular and we frequently partner with a variety of other local musicians for performances. Our membership ranges from school students right up to very senior Australians; and although our ranks include musicians from both professional and amateur backgrounds, we are proud to be an amateur community band which caters to all playing abilities.</p> <p>We welcome the approach to embracing strategic directions on arts and culture within the Nillumbik community, and agree that the approach taken generally in the Framework Draft Report can be helpful in realising the creative aspirations of both the local Nillumbik community, as well as visitors from outside Nillumbik seeking to enjoy the arts and culture of the community.</p>	<p>We agree with the challenges identified in the draft report, which could lead to several potential issues and challenges.</p> <p>However, we also note that once again, the focus in relation to these limitations are very strongly tilted in favour of "exhibition spaces" for visual art. We consider the lack of consideration in relation to performance venues to be alarming. Although Key Challenge 2 notes that the needs of all creatives are not being met, it is disappointing to see that the draft report itself also appears to fail to recognise these needs.</p> <p>Key Challenge 3 (lack of exhibition spaces) is a real concern across Nillumbik. But this raises an additional issue: Typically – and very much exemplified in Key Challenge 3 – we consider that the focus in several of the key challenges is in relation to outputs. A significant amount of time from creatives is spent on incubating works, whether this is in studios or production spaces, being painted, sculpted, recorded etc, or rehearsed in rehearsal venues. The display of artistic outputs is very</p>	<p>We do not intend to comment on these at length.</p> <p>Specifically, we wish to comment on Action 3. The action in the draft report considers re-purposing one of the meeting rooms at ECRC to provide a dedicated and affordable exhibition space for emerging artists, and to exhibit works from Council's art collection.</p> <p>We support and understand the Council's position in relation to the ECRC as a venue capable of a number of uses across the arts. However, we also note the limited council-owned facility space for community bands and recognise that as facilities are used more frequently for visual art, this impacts the ability for other art forms to be showcased, or developed.</p> <p>We also wonder whether all avenues for funding the development of more permanent facilities for Nillumbik's art collection have been considered: since it appears that a priority problem being addressed in the draft report is the rehousing of this collection, and the collection is of considerable value, surely a cost-benefit analysis exists</p>	<p>Throughout its long existence, Eltham Concert Band is and has been very grateful for the support it receives from Nillumbik Council and its predecessors. We are privileged for the support which we receive from Council and its staff who operate the ECRC. We wish to emphasise that the band would not be viable without the support we receive. The use of the venue for rehearsals is made possible by the fact that we have storage (both above and underneath the auditorium) for our extensive percussion equipment and for our library of some 600 scores, including the separate parts for each of the over 50 musicians that may be performing. Eltham Concert Band has been growing steadily recently, both in terms of audience and of members. It is particularly satisfying that we are attracting younger players. We are enormously content with the size and quality of the ECRC as a performance venue, which we believe is most appropriate to the size and demographics of our audience. Our performances always fill the performance space at the ECRC, and we note efforts by Council to improve accessibility to the venue in recent times. And while we are not the only band to benefit from this facility, we</p>

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	<p>We note that “art” in the singular, which has not been defined in the draft report, appears to be specifically visual art in the forms of traditional paintings and sculpture (and potentially photography). The draft report very much prioritises visual art over other media in the arts. Whilst Strategic Direction 3 focuses on bringing the audiences to enjoy Nillumbik’s creative offerings, the strategic direction focuses on “gallery-grade facilities” to the exclusion of all others. The consideration of other media, in particular the performing arts, do not benefit from this description, since the “gallery-grade” qualifier is not helpful for arts other than traditional visual art. The commentary on pages 38-41 of the draft report cements this perception.</p> <p>We also note that “culture” is not defined, either. We find this to be confusing, as, according to page 6 of the draft report, the objective of the strategic directions is ‘to deliver on Nillumbik’s aspirations for Arts and Culture’. Sociology defines the term “culture” as the complex system of beliefs, values, behaviours, customs, norms, symbols, and material products that are shared by members of a society. Culture encompasses everything that people learn, create, and transmit from one generation to the next within a particular social group. As a fundamental concept in sociology, it shapes human behaviour, shapes social interactions, and helps to define the boundaries of social groups. We share our concerns that the impact of a narrow approach to artistic media not only leads to a correspondingly narrow approach to culture, but also may be less than consistent with Principle 1 of the draft report, since visual media may be of little benefit to participants who are visually impaired.</p> <p>We do not support the draft report’s preferential treatment of visual art.</p> <p>It is broadly agreed that the artistic focus of the Nillumbik community has historically been visual art. This is reflected in the many facilities, artist studios, colonies and exhibition spaces already noted in the draft report. However, this takes focus away from the growing artistic output from other media. To a degree, the draft report minimises the impact and importance of performing arts within Nillumbik. For example, the Eltham Jazz Festival – a successful annual weekend of music around the Eltham central business district – is not deemed important enough to even be mentioned in the draft report. Nor are calendar fixtures such as the Eltham Festival, or the Hurstbridge</p>	<p>much the end of this process. Key Challenge 8 (more diversity of spaces for creativity) could potentially reflect this limitation, however, there does not appear to be a great deal of information explaining what this is to encompass. For Nillumbik entities in the performing arts, space required for creative development is required to be considerably larger than for other entities.</p> <p>Rehearsal space for ensembles can also vary. What is considered reasonable for someone playing a small instrument like a flute is not necessarily going to be appropriate for someone else playing a larger instrument such as timpani, drumkits, or mallet percussion.</p> <p>A band such as ours has also a history of collaborating, either as a one-off or on a more frequent basis, with musicians such as pianists or harpists who may require additional space again compared to singers whom we also perform with.</p> <p>This is before we consider storage space for materials including music, musical instruments, and audio equipment. Where musical instruments needed are large enough or extensive enough that they cannot be transported from home storage by individual members, onsite storage is an essential expectation of a community band.</p> <p>We note that other performing arts groups (such as theatre or dance groups) may require larger spaces when considering storage for sets, costumes, props etc.</p> <p>We would recommend that thought be given to additional key challenges which consider the problems of rehearsal and other incubation spaces, as well as storage facilities.</p>	<p>for a newly dedicated facility, rather than a repurposing of an existing facility which may serve to displace existing users?</p>	<p>believe that it is imperative that a centre so well suited to our ensemble is able to continue to serve the role it has played in the Nillumbik community for so long.</p>

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	<p>Wattle Festival.</p> <p>It also appears that the focus on Nillumbik's collection assumes that only durable outputs are under consideration. We have discussed further in a subsequent question the problems associated with only considering outputs as part of this work; but we suggest that for presentations which are not as durable as visual art, the broader term "curation" may be more appropriate and more encompassing than the term "collection" alone.</p> <p>Finally, we note that the online availability of the arts is not addressed in the draft report, beyond a cursory note to make a calendar/directory available. We believe that this is not consistent with the broader aim of enabling "more contemporary and emerging art forms to become part of Nillumbik's creative offer", as explained in Strategic Direction 2.</p> <p>We enthusiastically support Strategic Directions 1, 2 and 4.</p> <p>However, we recommend that Strategic Direction 3 needs to be re-worded to better convey a media-neutral approach to the arts. An example of this could read as follows:</p> <p>3. Celebrate Nillumbik's arts collection and curation Allow for the public exhibition availability of Nillumbik's arts collection and curation in secure and comfortable, gallery-grade professional facilities (including galleries, performance spaces and online) to support greater levels of audience attraction and local tourism. Enable more contemporary and emerging art forms to become part of Nillumbik's creative offer.</p>			
24509	<p>I agree that the further development of an interconnected, visible, supported, diverse, resilient and distinctively creative community in Eltham is necessary for Nillumbik creatives and the Shire.</p>	<p>These eight challenges fall roughly into 4 groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities for creatives from multiple disciplines to meet, to create and to exhibit their work. As 'creatives' encompasses a wide range of skills and initiatives, eg artists, musicians, designers, writers, publishers, film makers, photographers, then multiple use facilities should provide for multiple users and varied audiences. The facilities should be substantial and purpose designed and additional funding should be sought from government and private sources where needed.. Funding for a central facility as well as grants for individual projects is a necessary part of the plan – for learning, promoting and building. • A continuing two-way conversation between creatives 	<p>The Framework timeline places 'exploring' opportunities to build a purpose-built facility as "long term" ie 6-10 years. Actually deciding on a design and building it would take much longer. Why not prepare to build the facility now by seeking funding and inviting designs (design competition) for an art centre which would honour Nillumbik's artistic history, enable our community and visitors to learn about our creatives.</p>	<p>Already stated.</p>

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		<p>and council to enable ongoing feedback from and to the creative community. Representatives from varied creative sources should work with council members to achieve common goals..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to develop varied art forms and artistic enterprises. Council could achieve this aim by providing workshops, targeted assistance and promotions to grow Nillumbik creative industries, thereby facilitating tourism as well as nourishing Nillumbik's cultural history. Each of these factors will contribute to a strong artistic culture and increased tourism in Nillumbik. 		
24508	<p>I personally feel very encourage by the Nillumbik Creative Infrastructure Framework and am excited by the pro active position council is taking to connect and listen to local artists in the area. I attended the meeting at Edendale farm. The discussion was dominated by the lack of Municipal Gallery in Nillumbik. This issue has been ongoing for many years. It is understandable that people feel so strongly about it, as it has become a symbol of the lack of true value for the arts in the area. Having said that I believe that exploring other possibilities with partnership is a good way to go. There are various different gallery models that can be encouraged, from State, Municipal, Commercial, private galleries, Artist Run Initiatives (ARI's) Pop up Galleries to the Open studio. A focus on contemporary art and young emerging art is key to energising art in the area.</p>	<p>Communication and advocacy from Council is the key to moving forward. Identifying current spaces suitable for exhibitions Encouraging contemporary and emerging art forms will re energise the Nillumbik arts scene with greater representation & inclusion.</p>	<p>The 28 actions seem reasonable.</p>	<p>Encouraging and supporting the business of Art and Culture in Nillumbik can only have positive economic benefits to the area, through increased visitors and tourism. Nillumbik is an area that prides itself on its history of art and culture. Lets make it visible. I believe you are on the right track.</p>
24507	<p>I like the four strategic directions but could add one one more: an educational one in which schools are supported with their art departments. Prizes, exhibitions, artists presenting at the schools etc.</p>	<p>All the challenges point towards the need for an art gallery/museum in Nillumbik. I know this would be a funding challenge however, this must be explored creatively rather than presenting an impossibility.</p>	<p>I am thinking that all of these are certainly promoting and developing what already exists. I. would like to see Council having the vision of a dedicated art gallery in Nillumbik that could be a centre which would tie into all the creative activities in this Shire. It would give a collective meaning to creativity in Nillumbik Shire and link artists here to artists further afield.</p>	<p>I would ask council to be open to listening to community concerns and desire for an art gallery in this shire. It would be a ing term plan possibly but one which could give considerable heart to art in Nillumbik</p>
24503	<p>No</p>	<p>We would suggest inclusion of opportunities to increase the awareness and utilisation of local history related actions across the shire, as part of this Creative Infrastructure Framework.</p>	<p>Perhaps Action 10 could include the significance of the local history of the facilities, or surrounding areas, being considered for upgrade.</p>	<p>We would suggest encouraging the inclusion of, and recognition of, our local physical, social, creative and cultural history, as important considerations when developing this Creative Infrastructure Framework.</p>
24502	<p>My thoughts are that most artists in the area share the same frustration. Despite the long tradition of artists living in the area, there is no Gallery to display either their work, the existing collection or future contemporary art. I suggest the 4th area of 'creative clusters' we have already had to develop and does not require equal consideration with the first 3 strategic directions.</p>	<p>The first four of the eight could be covered by a new Gallery. The fragmenting of the many artistic areas 'needs' would only lead to small grants being frittered away on what I would regard as 'backyard art'. Nillumbik has many local artists, who already have their own studios.</p>	<p>The 2019 proposal for the Nillumbik land between the Eltham Library and the Senior Citizens appears now to have a low profile. Yet this is the land that would provide a dedicated gallery for our on- going collection (paid for by local tax-payers over many years). This is also the artists /historical inheritance of our young population and just as important for them to identify with, as the football/ netball /cricket ovals.</p>	<p>Have a vision, after all Nillumbik has been given an artistic tradition and is home to many serious artists including a recent Archibald prize-winner Peter Wenger of Diamond Creek. Embrace the traditional mud-brick architecture of the Community Centre and wonderful Library. A new building could connect to the Library along the Yarra Valley Art Trail and also house a second gallery for exhibitions and a place for the many artists, who choose to live within this special Shire, a building in which to exhibit.</p>

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				I suggest giving a name such as the Walter Withers Gallery. Many galleries throughout the world are known by their famous artists.
24501	I support each of the strategic directions outlined in the Framework	I would suggest looking at opportunities to extend or modify existing Council spaces.	In respect of action 3, I would suggest this be reworded to say: Explore re-purposing 'or extending' one of the meeting rooms at Eltham Community and Reception Centre to provide a dedicated and affordable exhibition space for emerging artists, and to exhibit works from Council's art collection. Perhaps this could become a Short Term (1-2 years) priority.	I would like my proposal titled 'An Artistic Alternative', that has already been submitted to Council, to be formally considered as an option to create a multi function Municipal Gallery/arts creative space at the Eltham Community and Reception Centre, through an extension to the Walter Withers Room.
24500	<p>The framework seems to be yet another review/planning document with no definitive actions. The main outcomes appear to be even more investigating processes rather than goals to be achieved or real delivery on community needs. We have been wheel spinning on these issues for at least forty years.</p> <p>1. The main infrastructure is a purpose built facility containing a designated gallery for display of local artists, attracting traveling exhibitions such as the Archibald prize works and display of Council's art collection which currently cannot be viewed by residents. If space permits, room for performing arts collaboration& performances.</p> <p>2.The suggestion of empty commercial or council premises being repurposed is not realistic unless long term leases are put in place. This would lead to a temporary and fragmented approach unlikely to drive tourism or economic benefits for Eltham as an arts destination.</p> <p>3. Strategic allocation of a suitable parcel of land to cope with the facility and its ancillaries like parking and location to transport routes is key. The community understands Council can't fund the development in total. Thought should be given to a steering committee being established to consider sites, facility design and attracting funding from state/federal govt in partnership with private sector funding. some goals and timelines need to be set or continued wheel spinning will see the district lose its heritage as an arts precinct.</p> <p>4. governance and advocacy would best be delivered in a steering committee comprising Council, state, federal govt representatives, members of the arts sector and a couple of business sector leaders who can add entrepreneurship guidance to get things done.</p>	<p>#3. Lack of exhibition spaces. In the shorter term, perhaps some existing infrastructure could be repurposed for smaller gallery spaces while work is undertaken on establishing a major arts facility.</p> <p>#4. Continue to work with emerging arts sectors to identify how best to integrate into planned infrastructure for the arts sector. Given the diversity it is unlikely that one facility can adequately cater for all needs. Perhaps a hub and spoke structure is feasible.</p> <p>Challenges 5, 6 & 7 will be served well by the aforementioned steering committee. a strong advocate from our local indigenous community should also be invited to have a seat in this group.</p>	<p>These "actions" seem to be broad statements rather than actions. They lack defined outcomes and deadlines to be achieved. This is why some private sector involvement and guidance is needed to move it beyond a bureaucratic approach. There needs to be a balance between planning and actual delivery with accountability for actions or lack thereof.</p>	The report is a good start, but more action needs to be visible in the community.
24499			At part of Strategic Direction 4, I would recommend including an additional action: establishing peer mentoring programs or networks. This would be a way to encourage	

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			community connection amongst artists, whilst helping emerging artists learn their craft and all the emotional and practical elements of being an artist. For established artists, it could be a way to give back to the community and also consolidate their own understanding of their practice (as teaching is often another way to learn).	
24498	I feel our priority should be No. 3. To celebrate Nullumbik's art collection. Number 1, Council facilities are not really suitable,e for this exhibition. No. 2. partnerships have been established already. No. 4. creative clusters are self-fulfilling and motivated by personal motivations.	I see our priority is number 3 of the 8 challenges. LACK OF EXHIBITION SPACE. Having attended the first feedback meeting at Edendale Farm, I see the resounding message is a need for the long-term goal and plan to develop a purpose-built Gallery to exhibit our existing Nillumbik Art collection. We already have a contemporary art space at HEIDI Modern Art gallery. MONTSALVAT is wonderful but the existing buildings are not equipped to exhibit this permanent art collection. Eltham and the Nillumbik Shire was specifically chosen as the birthplace of Australian Impressionism for its trees, and countryside. Walter Withers chose to live and work here. The gallery should celebrate this massive art heritage and call the gallery The Walter Withers Gallery. Saleh Hadi, Coordinator of the Art and Cultural Development Officer, initiated the feedback sessions in his new role. He has already achieved so much in projects such as murals, art spaces, the Eltham North Playground pottery tiles, the heritage walk signs, the gateway sculpture. The message now seems to be a decisive need for an architecturally designed gallery. A plan in 2019 has already been developed. Our council needs to take this proposal more seriously, allow the council land site to be used for this, and let this enthusiastic team develop the funding and designs rather than direct small grants money to short-term projects. We older members in the community, having lived and worked here for 40 and 50 years have the energy to work towards this goal for the benefit of young artists in the future. Primary , secondary and tertiary schools and art groups need access to our art heritage. The suggestion at the feedback meeting to encourage community involvement by getting students and artists to make tiles and mud bricks, which is after all, the building symbol of our region, should be adopted and this will ensure community interest, harnessing our community spirit for a wonderful end-product, the Walter Withers Art Gallery.	Number 19, purpose-built, gallery grade exhibition space should be our top priority.	
24497	Need to have a rotating display of the Nillumbik art collection	no	The redevelopment of the Diamond Creek Community Hub as a creative makers space/exhibition/library along the lines of spaces in the Yarra Ranges should be the	The idea of pop ups is great: but where in Diamond Creek? eg the Masonic Hall? The churches?

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			<p>primary focus. Whatever space is decided upon needs staff/volunteers on site to assist.</p> <p>Alternative spaces that could be developed are the a) Eltham Library or less desirable b) Eltham Reception Centre.</p> <p>Location to train stations is a must.</p> <p>For digital and music arts, I would suggest that an expansion of the Eltham Performing Arts Centre should be considered. While out of the way, it provides a quieter environment.</p> <p>I would not like to see the dilution of Nillumbik arts scene with collaboration with external to the shite providers.</p>	
24496	I support the strategic directions presented at the consultative meetings and believe it is imperative that more support is given to existing art groups to ensure their continuation.	More interaction with the existing art community to ensure their vocies are heard right through the process.	Keep us updated and allow more imput along the timeline as circumstances change	Diamond Valley Arts Society are eager to continue to support the nillumbik/banyule/darebin community as a great place for artists to come together and do art, talk art, show art, learn art and we would love for our sculpture groups to be able to work onsite at Edendale Community Farm and not be seperated at the Slovenia Club rooms in Research. There have been quite a few thought on this matter but nothing so far has come to fruition.
24494	Accessibility- re: across all abilities, financial capacities and age groups	Funding and realisation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Accessibility, flexibility, financially realistic exhibition spaces. •Education for education's sake. •Art for Art's sake. •Public spaces and public access. •Community Arts . 	Shortlist priority areas Shortlist priority target groups Develop action ... You know there are a variety of methods...	I'm keen to see an injection of energy, informed planning and \$dollars into the Arts, again, recognising and valuing Nillumbik's roots and the fine reputation of which its foundations are made.
24182				Growing up in Nilumbik, there were few if any opportunities for developing my practice as a street artist legally. I ended up going to Banyule because they had a program for it. Likewise, there are no legal walls to go and practice on, which would be such a simple addition yet help younger people who don't want to do anything illegal. I recommend a sizable wall somewhere in Eltham or Diamond Creek (Just somewhere central) be made legal for street art practice.
24086	I think they're a great start but I think there's something vital missing in the mix. That is to engage with new and "Diverse" community members who are deeply connected to the arts infrastructure nationwide.	I would love to know the demographics of the section of community consulted to come up with these challenges. I would like to know the order in which you plan to address them as I think that's important in terms of bigger picture.	No	The lense in which this community participates with the arts is extremely white. There's a massive opportunity here to help grow a thriving arts scene by doing some ground work recognising who you may be able to engage to bring fresh and diverse ideas and strategies into the mix.