

Abbotsford Convent Master Plan

Abbotsford Convent is an entrepreneurial, financially independent, nationally recognised, creative catalyst and a welcoming, open and inclusive place that maximises cultural impact through complementary cultural and commercial activities.

This nationally and internationally unique precinct is a celebration of the nexus of heritage, arts, culture, community development, learning, wellbeing and social and cultural enterprise. As a Melbourne institution, it attracts a broad range of visitors and users from across the city and encourages collaboration and social interaction. Since the Abbotsford Convent Foundation's establishment in 2004, a rich and varied community of people have contributed to the growth and development of the Convent into the unique place it is today. The first phase was guided by a Master Plan developed and accepted in 2005.

With the development of a new Master Plan the ACF is moving into a new phase of its history. In its first years, the priority was to 'prove the model' by 'surviving,' followed by a period of achieving a base level of financial sustainability. Now that this goal has been achieved, the next phase in the Convent's trajectory is focussed on restoring and activating the whole site. In this new phase, the ACF will operate in a more integrated and connected way, driving organisational and community outcomes through using its assets with more ambition, while remaining true to its social purpose and the expectations of our community and partners.

Through the development of this Master Plan the Convent is preparing for this ambitious future, creating a place that even more people love.

The engagement process of this Master Plan was structured around deliberate exploration and engagement. Three phases of development were carried out.

Site Analysis

This phase looked into different aspects of the Convent to give insight and understanding of how the Convent has developed, what influences its organisation and makes up its character. It considered:

-Context

The Convent in the wider context from different perspectives: the planning, physical and international.

-History

This historic development of the Convent to understand its current physical characteristics.

-Landscape

The diversity and the experiences the Convent landscape offers.

-Movement

How do people get to the Convent? What greets them when they arrive? How do they move around?

-Use

With many different activities, events and tenancies the Convent is a heterogeneous place.

-People

The Convent is home to a creative tenant mix that brings life to the place and encourage an even wider group of visitors.

The Design Principles

This phase outlined the overarching 'narrative' of the place and the structuring ideas. Workshops explored different design ideas as a mechanism to draw out the most important issues and how they could be approached. The results are the second section of this report.

The Master Plan

The spatial representation of a 'best possible outcome' based on known conditions, scenario exploration and design testing.

These development phases informed by two phases of consultation and discussion.

Engage 1 - Listening and Understanding

We start with creating a picture of the Convent as it currently is, which includes understanding its communities, and then hearing their vision/s for the future Convent. Therefore, we wanted to hear about how people are using the Convent, the places they visit, what they love about the Convent, and how they think the Convent could be an even better place in the future.

Engagement took two forms: an exhibition at the Convent that presented elements of the site analysis mapping and an online survey. Visitors to the Convent during 20-27 February 2021 had the opportunity to visit the exhibition, to learn about the Convent and broaden their perspectives before completing the online survey. The online survey was open for 28 days.

More than 150 people visited the exhibition and there were 395 responses to the online survey.

Engage 2 - Sharing and Sculpting

Carried out during the Design Principles phase this engagement explored in workshops with different focus groups seventeen ideas that prompted discussion about possible scenarios for the future of the Convent. These ideas were organised into three categories:

- Space
- Movement
- Interventions

Workshops took the form of both face to face discussions at the Convent and equivalent online versions between June and September 2021:

22 June	Artists
23 June	Peers (Australian and overseas - 2 workshops)
24 June	Tenants & Hirers Collingwood Children's Farm Nature & Landscape Public
18 August	City of Yarra
17 September	The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

An online survey ran in parallel to collate responses to the discussion of different approaches the Master Plan could take.

This report has been prepared by Hassell for the Abbotsford Convent Foundation with their assistance and the contributions of the following:

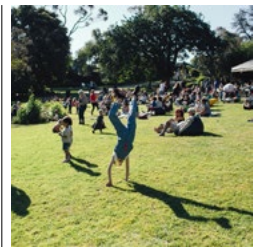
Biosis

Ethos Urban
MGAC
Northrop
One Mile Grid
Philip Chun
Slattery
Steenen Varming
WSP

This project has received grant funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Heritage Grants Program, and from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

The Design Principles

The following sets out the aims and focus of the Master Plan. It provides direction on various topics, but without describing how that should be achieved. Therefore, the Principles act as a consistent guide throughout the life of the Master Plan.



Community

The Convent is an arts, cultural and creative organisation that reflects and supports a diversity of people and its specific place. It brings together a wide range of users as a place of respite as well as cultural production and expression. The spatial infrastructure of the Convent will be designed to foster interaction between the various users.

- Visiting during the daytime, or evening for specific hospitality or retail offerings.
- **Arts and entertainment seekers**
Experiencing curated events and entertainment at specific times, visiting for performances and gallery opening, or festivals.
- **Tenants**
The community that brings the Convent to life daily, using the space to work and create.
- **Venue hirers**
Long-term patrons of the Convent, who regularly use the building spaces to create and gather their communities.
- **Donors**
Those who may not visit the physical site, or use the digital platforms, regularly but have a vested interest in the longevity and continuity of the Convent as an institution.
- **Wurundjeri Traditional Owners**
Both traditional owners and tenants, the Convent represents their office location, an opportunity to connect to Country within the city and a place where others can engage in Wurundjeri culture and history.



Enhancement

All the Convent spaces, internally and externally, will have a clear definition and character; visiting the Convent will be a sequence of diverse and distinct experiences. This will be achieved by:

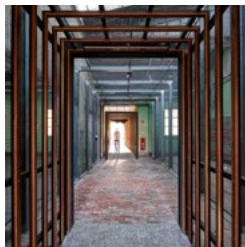
- Editing existing spaces to amplify their existing character, or
- Creating new spatial qualities where they are currently lacking
- Retaining and exposing the layers of history and use, including pre-colonial and contemporary uses
- Conserving and restoring the heritage fabric
- Optimising the spaces for their specific uses congruent with their spatial character.



Enabler

The existing uses and revenue sources of the Convent will be expanded on, to increase the Convent's resilience as an entrepreneurial organisation and to create new opportunities for its tenants and community. This will be achieved by:

- Providing infrastructure to accommodate new activities
- Attracting a rich diversity of tenants, creative partners, and hirers that share the Convent's values and enrich the community
- Developing new business models and revenue streams around the visitor experience and the use of spaces
- Growing and deepening audience engagement with arts, culture and creativity through a variety of programs and initiatives that connect audiences with the Convent's creative community and its output.



Journeying

The Convent will continue to be a place where people can find their own way, be it to a destination or as an exploration:

- Advocate for improved access from all directions by all modes of transport
- Provide reference points to simplify intuitive wayfinding
- Allow for exploration and discovery of spaces, people and activities
- Enhance the nature experience as an engaging, playful part of the journey
- Welcome visitors with an arrival experience and an opportunity for orientation
- Separate groups to concurrent events to improve way finding for each group
- Create connections between spaces where required to support journeys through the Convent
- Improve connection with the context, including the river landscape.



Story Telling

The Convent will further enhance its role as a place of connection, sharing, display and interpretation through:

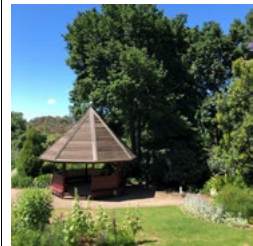
- The numerous layers of the past, the people, the activities and the many perspectives and experiences
- The possible futures, the ideas and practices that our society might adopt as they are explored by members of the Convent community
- The multitude of people, cultures and voices that can be expressed and developed within the Convent
- The artworks, products and services created, exhibited, presented and produced at the Convent
- The place as it forms the inspiration and context for many of the art works and experiences developed specifically for and in the Convent.



Activation

The Convent's indoor and outdoor spaces will support and inspire different activities and interpretations over time by:

- Providing infrastructure for a wide and continuously evolving range of multi arts and multi-uses from spaces for workshops and conferences through to markets, concerts and exhibitions
- Creating opportunities to sit and dwell, supported by shade and amenities, to support passive, recreational use
- Encouraging playfulness and physical engagement with the spaces
- Creating opportunities for artistic interpretation of the spaces, including light, sound, touch and smell
- Supporting internal and external spaces with the appropriate infrastructure to enable exhibitions and installations
- Enabling spaces of different scales to be sectioned off temporarily for particular activities or hirer's
- Ensuring space can be reached for service access and the set-up and take-down of events.



Country

The Convent will demonstrate 'caring for Country' by:

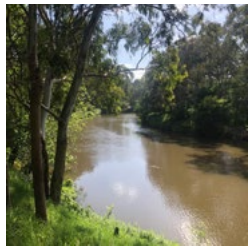
- Embedding ongoing consultation and engagement with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation into the Convent's development and experiences
- Utilising Indigenous horticulture expertise and workforce
- Reflecting endemic planting
- Understanding the seven seasons of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country
- Recognising that Country includes soils, sky, material, people, sounds, smell and experience.



Biodiverse

The Convent will protect and conserve ecological values and create new ecosystems by:

- Protecting habitat trees
- Conducting weed removal
- Promoting restorative planting proposals within River Zone, in collaboration with adjoining land owners
- Producing regenerative and biodiverse planting proposals elsewhere
- Creating new urban ecosystems of benefit to a range of species to ensure a diversity of species.



Connected

The Convent will connect urban habitats and the Convent to wider landscape by:

- Reflecting the river and parkland setting
- Enhancing connections along river corridor, in collaboration with adjoining land owners
- Creating a biodiverse connection through the heart of the Convent
- Connecting tree canopies.



Unexpected

The Convent will be diverse, varied and unexpected through:

- A mosaic of landscape outcomes
- A mosaic of collaborators and designers
- Maximum diversity of plant species (common, rare, native, exotic, etc)
- An experience unlike anywhere else in Melbourne.



Layered

The Convent will connect people, stories, culture and heritage to nature by:

- Promoting well-being through connection to nature
- Telling stories through the sites, smells, textures of plants
- Connecting to built form, nature ties the Convent together
- Reflecting all cultures through planting
- Not revealing all at once, inspiring return visits.



Beautiful

The Convent will have nature that is both artistic and educational that is:

- Inspiring awe
- In constant change with the seasons
- On show, and a destination
- Utilising planting design as an art form.

The Master Plan

The Abbotsford Convent is a mosaic that celebrates and supports cultural life. The Convent has a unique place in Melbourne – it fosters the cultural richness and diversity of its community and harbours nature and biodiversity in an inner-urban context. The Convent places, its buildings and landscapes, constitute a diverse collection of spaces that support a wide range of people, activities and voices.

The Master Plan Vision is to realise its potential as a unique, international arts icon and to bring to life the entire Convent grounds as a mosaic of distinct, active spaces. Improving the quality and identity of each area will be a celebration of the specificity and character of each space, the complex layered history and its rich diversity of people and activities.

The idea of a mosaic is about applying definition, character and functional clarity to all spaces in the Convent. This spatial approach is combined with a deliberate circulation strategy that guides people from one specific place to another, accumulating in a delightful, transformative experience that connects visitors to the remarkable variety of atmospheres, stories, people and activities. This is then overlaid with an environmental response to maximise people's connection to nature and the biodiversity of the Convent.

The design of each place will be informed by historical layers and narratives, ecological values and current or future uses. It amplifies the diversity and richness of the Convent into an urban landscape experience full of unexpected spaces, delightful discoveries, contextual art, remarkable people and diverse communities.



Individual Projects

1. Central Street
2. St Anne's Square
3. St Euphrasia Garden
4. Convent Community Square
5. Welcome Pavilion
6. Service Area and New Entry
7. Mercator Garden
8. River Landscape Play Area
9. Indigenous Heritage Garden
10. Drying Square
11. Separation Tree Garden
12. Heritage Garden
13. River Stage
14. River Landscape
15. New Development Stage 1
16. New Development Stage 2
17. New Development Stage 3
18. Convent Ground Floor Restoration
19. Convent Anchor
20. Garden Cafe Restaurant
21. Laundry Restoration
22. Infirmary Restoration
23. Providence Restoration
24. Pool House Restoration Digital Art Gallery

Site wide projects

25. Display Windows
26. Drainage
27. Equal Access
28. WiFi
29. Lighting
30. Acoustics

The Master Plan



A mosaic of landscapes

Landscape design is an essential part of understanding the vision of the Convent as a Mosaic. As much as each space will have its own distinct character and quality, the approach to achieving this also varies greatly.

Spaces that already have a clear character and quality, such as the various courtyards and the Heritage Gardens, will be left untouched or only enhanced to improve their usage and beauty. Spaces that are undefined, underutilised and feel like 'left-over spaces' will have more significant interventions to create the character and quality that will stitch them into the spatial and social fabric of the Convent. These more significant interventions will integrate the various layers of history and interpretation to ensure the experience of the Convent's heritage and communal significance is improved.

The Convent will contain two types of landscapes:

1. The Birrarung Riparian Landscape, which covers the areas beyond the boundary wall that were used as farm land when the Convent was in operation, as well as the carpark area and the central north-south corridor that will connect to the river at either end.
2. The Convent Gardens, which are contained within the boundary walls and immediately associated with the Convent buildings.

To encourage biodiversity the planting scheme for the Birrarung Riparian Landscape is to have a stronger, almost exclusive focus on native species, while the Convent Gardens will consist of a combination of native and exotic species. As typically both exotic and native flora and fauna benefit from each other's presence, the Master Plan does not propose a rigid, exclusively native approach to planting in the Riparian landscape. Rather, planting will achieve a high level of diversity within the landscape, as this best supports biodiversity, including native species.



Deliberate Zoning

Based on the size, use and location of the original Convent buildings and spaces, the Convent in its current form already has a level of functional organisation that groups similar activities. However, there are some exceptions within that lead to operational challenges such as noise transfer, poor way finding and conflicts between the servicing of events and the movement of audiences through the Convent.

Although serendipity and unexpected juxtapositions are qualities that should be retained, a distinct functional zoning is proposed. This zoning will improve wayfinding and operations:

- A New Development of the current car park. This area has the potential to reinforce the Convent as local, national and international cultural leader by developing new allied commercial and artistic and cultural facilities
- Creative, arts, community and hospitality activities concentrated in the central square at the St Heliers Street entrance, and around the Convent Annex building
- Quiet activities are concentrated in the Convent Building and courtyard
- Multi-Arts presentations are concentrated around the Sacred Heart courtyard, the Mercator lawn and the new amphitheatre in the south-west corner
- Making and creating activities around the Drying Courtyard and St Mary's
- Nature around, between and connecting the buildings



Orientation & exploration

Greater permeability and connectivity is to be created through new entrances and points of attraction, guiding people into the Convent from all directions. The current issues of wayfinding are to be addressed with a central spine that will orientate people, north south, through the Convent. A collection of looped paths coming off this pedestrian street will thread together all the different opportunities the Convent offers.

This will provide a robust and legible system that allows visitors to orientate themselves and to find the secondary path that will lead them to their destination.

In addition to the existing main entrances facing St Heliers Street and Clarke Street, the entrances facing the Main Yarra Trail will be better connected and more articulated to open up the Convent to people using this path and tie it into the surrounding pedestrian circulation network to create new visitors streams.

The Convent was never designed as a precinct in which people can freely roam around from one place to another. The aim of the Master Plan is to achieve the legible wayfinding strategy as described above with minimal impact on the heritage fabric. However, in some cases an intervention in the fabric is required to assist visitors in finding their way around. We call these anchors: new interventions in the heritage fabric that connect previously separated parts of the Convent and stitch them into the overall network of places through intuitive wayfinding.

The Convent already has two clear examples of such anchors: the breeze way through the Laundry that connects the Sacred Heart Courtyard with the Mercator Lawn and the bridge on the southern end of the Sacred Heart Courtyard that provides access into the office space on the west.

Anchors are to be articulated as contemporary interventions, distinct from the heritage fabric. This ensures they are understood as wayfinding elements and allows them to enrich the heritage interpretation as an element in dialogue with the original fabric, rather than being misunderstood as a part of it.



Storytelling

The Convent requires an arrival experience that is welcoming to both first time and return visitors. The proposed Convent Community Square at the main entrance will significantly improve this experience. However, most visitors would value an opportunity to find their bearings, engage with the different layers of the Convent's history and understand the current and upcoming activities within the Convent, a Welcome Pavilion at the main entrance on St Heliers Street will provide this.

The Buildings of the Convent have originally been designed to separate the various groups. Most windows have been purposely positioned to allow for daylight access, but to prevent a visual connection between the interior and exterior spaces. Consequently, there is currently very limited engagement possible between the activities that take place within the buildings and those outside buildings. The Master Plan seeks to enhance the engagement of visitors with the local artist community and their work while retaining the heritage fabric and the character of the place. By using the windows as displays for the work that is produced inside the buildings, exploring the public spaces can become an engaging experience for visitors and enhance the Convent's potential as a destination for art seekers.

These displays could take various forms. They might consist of translucent shelves between two sheets of glass to display products and art, they could be photos or projections of events that previously took place at the Convent, or they could be site specific installations using video or other mediums.

The heritage fabric of the Convent, including its spaces and buildings, act as a canvas for creative interpretation and expression. The detailed development of projects within the Master Plan should take into consideration opportunities for interpretation through installations. These could be spatial installations and objects, but also performances and light or sound installations.



Sustainable development

The Abbotsford Convent Foundation has a strong commitment to minimising the environmental impact of the Convent's operation and enhancing the opportunities to contribute in a positive way. The Sustainability Framework, that has been developed to accompany the Master Plan, defines opportunities across the various aspects of sustainable development that should be considered in the design, construction and operation of the Master Plan projects.

Some of the target areas are already inherent in the Convent's current operation and will be naturally enhanced by the Master Plan, in particular those related to community, well-being and heritage protection. Some target areas are currently not performing that well, but the new Master Plan projects will inherently address them. In these cases the Sustainability Framework will provide guidance and focus. The most notable examples are the landscaping projects that will enhance biodiversity and the connection with Indigenous ecosystems and cultures.

The Sustainability Framework also highlights the most challenging target areas that are difficult to implement due to restrictions intrinsic to the site. The environmental performance of buildings stands out in this category. While new buildings can be designed according to high performance standards, the opportunities to improve the performance of the heritage fabric are very limited. For the latter, the aim is to leverage the properties of these existing structures and ensure the historic, often passive, measures to control the indoor climate are working properly.

































Defined projects & flexible delivery

The Master Plan can be delivered in a flexible manner as need and funding arises. To enable this the Master Plan can be described as a series of discrete projects, either standalone projects or site wide projects:

- Central Street
- St Anne's Square
- St Euphrasia Garden
- Convent Community Square
- Welcome Pavilion
- Service Area and New Entry
- Mercator Garden
- River Landscape Play Area
- Participatory Indigenous Garden
- Drying Square
- Separation Tree Garden
- Heritage Garden
- River Stage
- River Landscape
- Car Park Stage 1
- Car Park Stage 2
- Car Park Stage 3
- Convent Ground Floor Refurbishment
- Convent Anchor
- Garden Cafe Restaurant
- Laundry Refurbishment
- Infirmary Refurbishment
- Providence Refurbishment
- Pool House Digital Art Gallery
- Display Windows
- Drainage
- Equal Access
- WiFi
- Lighting
- Acoustics

The Projects

The Master Plan can be delivered in a flexible manner as need and funding arises. To enable this the Master Plan can be described as a whole of site plan or a series of discrete stand alone projects.

 <p>1. Central Street A clearly defined Central Street with paving and street furniture, marked by Indigenous trees and landscaping. It connects the Convent on either side with the Birrang and the bike path, and forms an important reference point for wayfinding within the Convent. Clearly marked entry points on both the north and the south are a part of this project.</p>	 <p>2. St Anne's Square A central space connected to the Central Street to gather under the mature tree canopies. New paving and seating and a hospitality venue in a restored St Anne's with a more transparent facade activate the space. An anchor through St Anne's creates an intuitive connection with the Sacred Heart Courtyard and the breezeway to the Laundries.</p>	 <p>3. St Euphrasia Garden A planted jewel, a place to sit and escape. By planting a garden in a space that is currently left over, both the entrance space and the Convent Building courtyard become more defined. It strengthens the sense of quiet isolation of the Convent Building courtyard, yet equally connects it better with the entrance space, as the public feel invited to wander in that direction. The new garden will stitch into the existing garden associated with the chapel.</p>	 <p>4. Convent Community Square A flexible, paved, urban square with trees, seating and the ability to organise events such as the Farmers Market. The street furniture will be placed to allow maximum flexibility for events, but equally ensure that the space can be occupied and activated when there are not specific events going on. Along the north wall, where the former hospital building used to be, a one storey building houses the site management team and storage for equipment associated with events.</p>	 <p>5. Welcome Pavilion A pavilion next to the entrance that welcomes visitors and provides an overview of what the Convent is, its history, current and upcoming events and products made at the Convent. The river red gum should be integrated in the welcoming of visitors.</p>	 <p>16. New Development Stage 2 Reconfiguration of the carpark including the redirection of traffic to and from Johnston Street to open future opportunities for the pedestrianisation of St Heliers Street (with the note that St Helier Street is outside the Master Plan scope).</p>	 <p>17. New Development Stage 3 Development of a building off St Heliers Street activating the street and providing studio's for artists in residence building with studios on the east. In addition the Central Street is extended to the river with a welcoming space.</p>	 <p>18. Convent Ground Floor Restoration Restore the Convent Building ground floor spaces, including the Salon, Bishop's Parlor, Community Room, Linen Room and the Refectory, as a high quality meeting/conference facility with required acoustic treatment, AV and IT facilities. The Refectory gets reinstated as one space. The space north of the Refectory will house new amenities to also support the entry plaza and hospitality venues.</p>	 <p>19. Convent Anchor With the provision of new toilets in the north-east of the Convent Building, the location of the existing toilets can be used to provide a more intuitive connection between the Heritage Garden and the Convent Building courtyard by enabling a circulation loop through this part of the site.</p>	 <p>20. Garden Cafe Restoration Restore the garden facing spaces of The Store to house a hospitality venue. The outdoor area in front is to be included for external seating. This will provide a great destination and activation in combination with the Heritage Garden.</p>
 <p>6. Service Area and New Entry A new building to house waste and storage directly off St Heliers Street. The space behind it is closed to the public and used for site management and event preparation. To the east a new entrance at the end of St Heliers Street leading directly to the Mercator Lawn and the Laundry, which allows for better separation of visitor groups and improved way finding. An improved fence is part of this project.</p>	 <p>7. Mercator Lawn Enhancing the current use of the Mercator Lawn for events, markets and as a small garden space. The north-east corner includes a covered stage with power, lighting infrastructure, etc and the southern end is repaved and includes a pergola. In passive use the pergola provides some shelter for seating, looking out over the grass and garden, while in active use it could define market stalls or be a place for hospitality or events. A new door in the eastern wall enables a new wandering loop to the River landscape connected to the breezeway at the Laundry.</p>	 <p>8. River Landscape Play Area A playful, green discovery zone for all visitors, within a river landscape that has a strong focus on pre-colonial flora and land management. Landscape and elements within it are designed to be interacted with and to engage visitors in an active way with the culture and stories of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people.</p>	 <p>9. Participatory Indigenous Garden Active, playful and edible Indigenous garden with an associated hospitality venue and Indigenous inspired chef. Strong interpretation component. Opportunities for promenading and small performances, installations and exhibitions.</p>	 <p>10. Drying Square A flexible square with gravel and a grid of trees. A more quiet, but urban square that looks out at the Separation Tree garden to the south. Opportunities to be used as a space associated with the Laundry, as well as a square that is surrounded and activated by local makers and studios.</p>	 <p>21. Laundry Restoration Finalising the full restoration of the Laundry will maximise their functional opportunities as a unique event and performance space and preserve the heritage fabric. The scope of this project includes works to protect the building fabric (such as facade works, stormwater, structural, acoustics, etc), enabling works to activate the building (including services, room acoustics and works on the breezeway) and activation works necessary to use them as a performance space (such as heating and cooling, theatre equipment, blinds and a dressing room).</p>	 <p>22. Infirmary Restoration The ground floor of the infirmary provides a great opportunity to engage with the public due to its veranda facing the Drying Square and its adjacency to a circulation loop. Strengthening the new public focus on maker studios around the square. The Infirmary will house a maker studio with a public face. The upper storey can be part of that studio or an independent studio.</p>	 <p>23. Providence Restoration The workshop from the ground floor is removed as access from the east won't be possible for the public and all meeting spaces and public facing spaces are concentrated on the ground floor. Office spaces are concentrated on level 1. This allows for activation of the ground floor facade and public engagement. The inclusion of a lift to provide improved access is to be explored.</p>	 <p>24. Pool House Art Gallery The Pool House is a part of the Convent heritage fabric, although it has no particular architectural value. It is positioned as a pavilion in the garden and has no windows, which makes it particularly suited as a digital art gallery for a small amount of visitors at a time. It can be discovered during an exploration of the Convent, or be sought out as a destination. The surrounding Separation Tree Garden can be used for associated events. The gallery could host everything from digital to site specific art.</p>	 <p>25. Display Windows By using the windows as displays for the work that is produced inside the buildings, exploring the public spaces can become an engaging experience for visitors and enhance the Convent's potential as a destination for heritage and arts and cultural lovers while retaining the heritage fabric. These displays could take various forms. They might consist of translucent shelves between two sheets glass to display products and art, they could be photos or projections of events that previously took place at the Convent, or they could be site specific installations using video or other digital displays. These window installations could also be used to announce upcoming events.</p>
 <p>11. Separation Tree Garden A series of spaces within the garden around the Separation Tree that allow for both active and passive use. A larger space with gravel connects the Rosina Auditorium with the Central Street and provides an alternative entry separate from the Rosina Courtyard. A small pavilion adjacent can be used a ticket box or to offer drinks. To the east of the separation tree is a series of smaller cleared areas with grass for programmed or passive use. The road is repaved and integrated in the garden. The fence on the south is replaced to engage with the river landscape beyond.</p>	 <p>12. Heritage Garden Further enhancing the experience of the English garden with the beautiful perennial planting. With platforms and small shading structures providing opportunities for passive use, play and active use. Removing its function as a large scale event space by providing new opportunities elsewhere and focus on its function as a garden and place of passive enjoyment.</p>	 <p>13. River Stage An outdoor amphitheatre within the re-established riparian woodland that uses the natural slope covered with grass and occasional steps and a capacity of 2,000 people. The stage has a roof and infrastructure for required services. A pavilion will provide toilets, storage and F&B facilities (new entry and access road are required as part of this). The gardener's shed could be partly in this area. Requires feasibility test for building within flood zone.</p>	 <p>14. River Landscape An example of the pre-colonial Riparian Woodland / Plains Grassy Woodland. It includes a yarning circle, opportunities for Indigenous storytelling and could be a collaboration with the Collingwood Children's Farm and the City of Yarra to create a connection to the river. Various places and platforms for passive and active use such as performances and installations.</p>	 <p>15. New Development Stage 1 A new building for commercial use aligned to the values and culture of the Convent to create a mutually beneficial relationship. Existing trees are to be retained where possible. Direct access off Johnston Street using future carpark entry.</p>	 <p>26. Drainage As described in the Services and Amenities section, the Convent site is significantly impacted by an existing, compromised drainage strategy and damaged existing infrastructure. Many of the ground pipes have been constructed below the existing buildings, which creates long term risks to foundations and limits maintenance works. A site wide drainage strategy and associated works would protect the heritage fabric, improve access and safety by avoiding damage to the pedestrian paths, create opportunities for water collection and possibly specific landscape and ecology opportunities. While the fundamental infrastructure would require a project of its own, some of the implementation could be included in the landscaping scope of other projects.</p>	 <p>27. Equal Access Equal Access is, to a large degree, implemented through the separate Master Plan projects. This project consists of two steps to support and complement that implementation. The first step is to develop a site wide in-depth analysis of the existing conditions and to develop a prioritised list of recommendations cognisant of the limitations set by the heritage fabric. This will also identify which of the recommendations can be implemented through the realisation of other Master Plan projects. The second step is to implement the prioritised recommendations that are not included in other projects as separate interventions.</p>	 <p>28. Wi-Fi The availability of reliable, high quality Wi-Fi in internal and external spaces is an important enabler for the increased activation of the Convent. It would support larger events such as meetings and performances, but it also forms an important part of the infrastructure required to enhance the utilisation of public spaces. Convent-wide Wi-Fi coverage will also improve opportunities for digital interpretation that can enhance the visitor experience. A reliable Wi-Fi network can also be used for hearing augmentation for indoor and outdoor events. As a replacement of the traditional hearing loop technology, Wi-Fi can significantly provide equal access to the Convent.</p>	 <p>29. Lighting As a precinct that is active at all times of the day, good external lighting will be an important aspect of developing the next stage of the Convent, especially when considering an increase in visitor numbers and activation. It touches on a variety of topics described in this Master Plan, from wayfinding and equitable access to interpretation, storytelling and the enhancement of spaces. Lighting needs to: -Provide safe and secure external spaces and pathways -Enhance the specific character of each space (rather than provide an overlay) -Be mindful of the impact on nocturnal animals and respect dark sky principles to avoid unnecessary light pollution</p>	 <p>30. Acoustics Due to the large variety of concurrent activities and events in the Convent, managing the sound transfer between spaces and activities is an ongoing operational challenge. A compounding challenge is the heritage significance of the buildings, which sets strong limitations on the ability to install acoustic treatment within the spaces. The Functional Zoning approach is an important step in mitigating this problem by locating the quiet activities way from the noisiest ones. Each renovation project of a space to be used for events needs to consider and mitigate the noise bleed that made be possible to other venues and studios. This project defines addressing the acoustic challenges site wide, including buildings that have otherwise no renovation or refurbishment work indicated in the Master Plan.</p>