

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.4****Munro Library and Community Hub Schematic Design****2 August 2022****Presenter:** Justine Hyde, Director Creative Melbourne**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement by the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 1.1. of the Schematic Design for the new Munro Library and Community Hub (Munro) in the Queen Victoria Market Precinct
 - 1.2. to progress the project to procurement of the construction contractor.
2. The Munro development is part of the Queen Victoria Market Precinct program. Construction commenced in November 2018. A 500-space undercover carpark opened in July 2021, affordable housing units welcomed new residents in December 2021, and multiple hospitality venues are opening on the ground-level. In June 2022, Council leased level four of Munro to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for a not-for-profit accelerator hub. Originally conceived as an events space and childcare centre, Council decided in October 2021 to re-focus the community facilities on levels 1-3 to deliver a new library and family services. These are due to open in November 2023.
3. Six Degrees Architects were engaged to complete the Schematic Design of the fit out of the Munro Building. These have been reviewed and approved by management (attachment two).

Key issues

4. Libraries expand minds and transform lives. Beyond gathering, studying and knowledge spaces, they draw people together through accessible, inclusive and enriching programs and are the pillars of our unique and diverse neighbourhoods. Libraries promote the free flow of information and ideas and they support a thriving culture and democracy by:
 - 4.1. enabling everyone to participate in, and contribute to society
 - 4.2. contributing to social inclusion and connection
 - 4.3. supporting the educational and economic wellbeing of individuals and communities
 - 4.4. removing barriers to participation for people from diverse backgrounds and promoting equity of access to information, activities and resources.
5. City of Melbourne libraries currently has six permanent branches, five pop-up locations and a mobile library outreach service spread across the municipality. The new Munro expands this network; its development has been guided by Council's recently adopted Future Libraries Framework 2021-25 which details three foundational principles and supports Melbourne's reputation as a UNESCO City of Literature. City of Melbourne libraries aim to:
 - 5.1. incorporate Aboriginal languages, stories, cultural practice and wisdom into the design, experience and operation of our library spaces
 - 5.2. ensure no-one in the community is left behind by reaching as many residents, workers, students and visitors as possible and being responsive to their needs
 - 5.3. continue to foster a sense of belonging to ensure our city and its community thrives.
6. Munro will embody this ethos as a centre of imagination, learning and wellbeing. It will incorporate a 300 m² family services centre, specifically curated artworks and a new library branch operating over three levels that will include a large outdoor terrace, children's library, creative maker space and a unique communal study / events space. Bookable community meeting rooms (reflecting community feedback) will also be available in the building.

7. The location in the Queen Victoria Market precinct will serve the city's most densely populated area and address the greatest unmet demand for a public library in the municipality. The library will attract local residents, market visitors, international students, families, creatives and city workers, supporting the economic resurgence and vitality of the precinct. A civic hub, at the centre of a vibrant retail precinct will encourage social connection and visitation.
8. To maximise the community benefits of Munro, the City of Melbourne Libraries and Family Services will work closely with precinct partners, arts organisations, educational institutions, business community, community groups, and non-for-profit organisations in the development and delivery of services.
9. Most residents in the area live in apartments, underlining the importance of the communal areas the library will offer as well as the landscaped roof terrace, allowing people the opportunity to meet with others or just 'be' in the space. It is envisaged residents will develop a sense of ownership of the space and the building itself will present a safe and inclusive public space in the neighbourhood.
10. Library functions and design have been informed by a best-practice understanding of what a 'library of the future' requires. The Munro creative maker space, for example, will feature state of the art facilities that include tools and equipment to support users in digital design, digital production, fabrication, business development, craft, art and the invention of electronic devices. This facility will strengthen affordable access to technologies and tools for users reinforcing Council's goals of lifelong learning, digital literacy, self-determination, and investment in the creative industries and local businesses.
11. The design supports accessibility by providing alternative ways of moving through the building. Visitors can use stairways and elevators to directly take them to the floor of their choice or they can start their journey at the first floor where they will be directed to the services they require by concierge staff. Wayfinding signage will be simple and clear inside and outside the building and will be designed to maximise the visitor experience.
12. A program of community and stakeholder engagement reflecting the Council endorsed Future Libraries Framework 2021-25 has informed the schematic design. From January to March 2022, the public was asked for their thoughts and hopes for the new library via Participate Melbourne and face-to-face surveys. A total of 318 people completed the survey, 53 conversations were had in libraries and pop-ups; and over 350 children shared their ideas via school and library programs. See community engagement findings in attachment three.
13. Some of the key themes that emerged from the consultation are that the library:
 - 13.1. strengthens the community by creating safe, inclusive accessible spaces for connection and creativity
 - 13.2. offers communal and quiet spaces to work, learn, read and study with excellent wi-fi
 - 13.3. connects to the market and Aboriginal culture and heritage
 - 13.4. offers families and children places to relax together, learn and explore.
14. Munro will be a benchmark for public libraries in its integration of Aboriginal knowledge, wisdom and creative representation. Consultation with Traditional Owners has been interactive and focused on developing a long-term relationship between Wurundjeri and Libraries. Engagement has included storytelling as well as consultation with Elders regarding the look and feel of the spaces to ensure they reflect and honour Aboriginal culture, celebrate Indigenous knowledge systems, and are welcoming to the Aboriginal community. This may include the use of Woiwurrung language to denote spaces or activities within the building.
15. To further strengthen this, a collaboration between a renowned Aboriginal artist and a non-Indigenous curator with an established history of working together, has been formed to oversee the development of the creative direction for Munro. Links between contemporary and traditional cultural practice in the context of the library's evolving knowledge and learning environment will be explored. Council's existing Art and Heritage Collection works will be augmented with new commissions or acquisitions. This may include interactive and high-tech media as well as traditional crafted works.

Recommendation from management

16. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 16.1. Endorses the schematic design for the new Munro Library and Community Hub (Project) as set out in attachment 2 from management
 - 16.2. Approves the Project progressing to procurement of the construction contractor.

Attachments:

2. Supporting Attachment (Page 4 of 16)
3. Schematic Design (Page 5 of 16)
4. Community Engagement Executive Summary and Infographic (Page 13 of 16)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications of endorsing the schematic designs. Legal advice will be provided as required in respect to the procurement of the construction contractor.

Finance

2. Council has allocated capital works funds for this multi-year project.

Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. In developing this proposal, safety in design has been addressed via site meetings and desktop reviews with all stakeholders and sub-consultants including City of Melbourne's Safety and Wellbeing team. The Safety in Design Review has been issued in accordance with Section 28 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* Victoria (the OHSA) and the regulations made under the OHSA and providing for changes to the law effected from 1 January 2012 by the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* Victoria (the WHSA).

Stakeholder consultation

5. A comprehensive program of community engagement was undertaken from January to March 2022, seeking the public's thoughts and hopes for the new library. This was via Participate Melbourne, face-to-face surveys and information displays in library branches. A total of 318 people completed the Participate Melbourne survey, 53 conversations were had in libraries and pop-ups; and over 350 children shared their ideas via school and library programs. The executive summary and infographic of the findings are attached.
6. Consultation with Traditional Owners reiterates the focus on developing a long-term relationship between Wurundjeri and the services being delivered in the building. An Aboriginal artist and a non-Indigenous curator with an established history of working together have been engaged to support the creative concepts and commissioning or acquiring of art work.

Relation to Council policy

7. The recommendation is consistent with Council Plan 2021-25, Queen Victoria Market Precinct Renewal and Future Libraries Framework 2021-25.

Environmental sustainability

8. In this proposal the following environmental sustainability issues or opportunities have been considered:
 - Energy, GHG emissions and water consumption will be decreased in the order of 15-25 per cent. Waste recycling will be facilitated.
 - Capital cost increases for certified projects typically anticipated to be well below 5 per cent, operational cost savings likely to be of the order of 5-20 per cent.
 - Carbon neutral power may be 'cost-free' via City of Melbourne's PPA.
 - Rooftop landscaping will enhance biodiversity of the precinct.

Munro Library & Community Hub

FMC1 2 August 2022

DM#: 15650768
Version: 2



CITY OF MELBOURNE

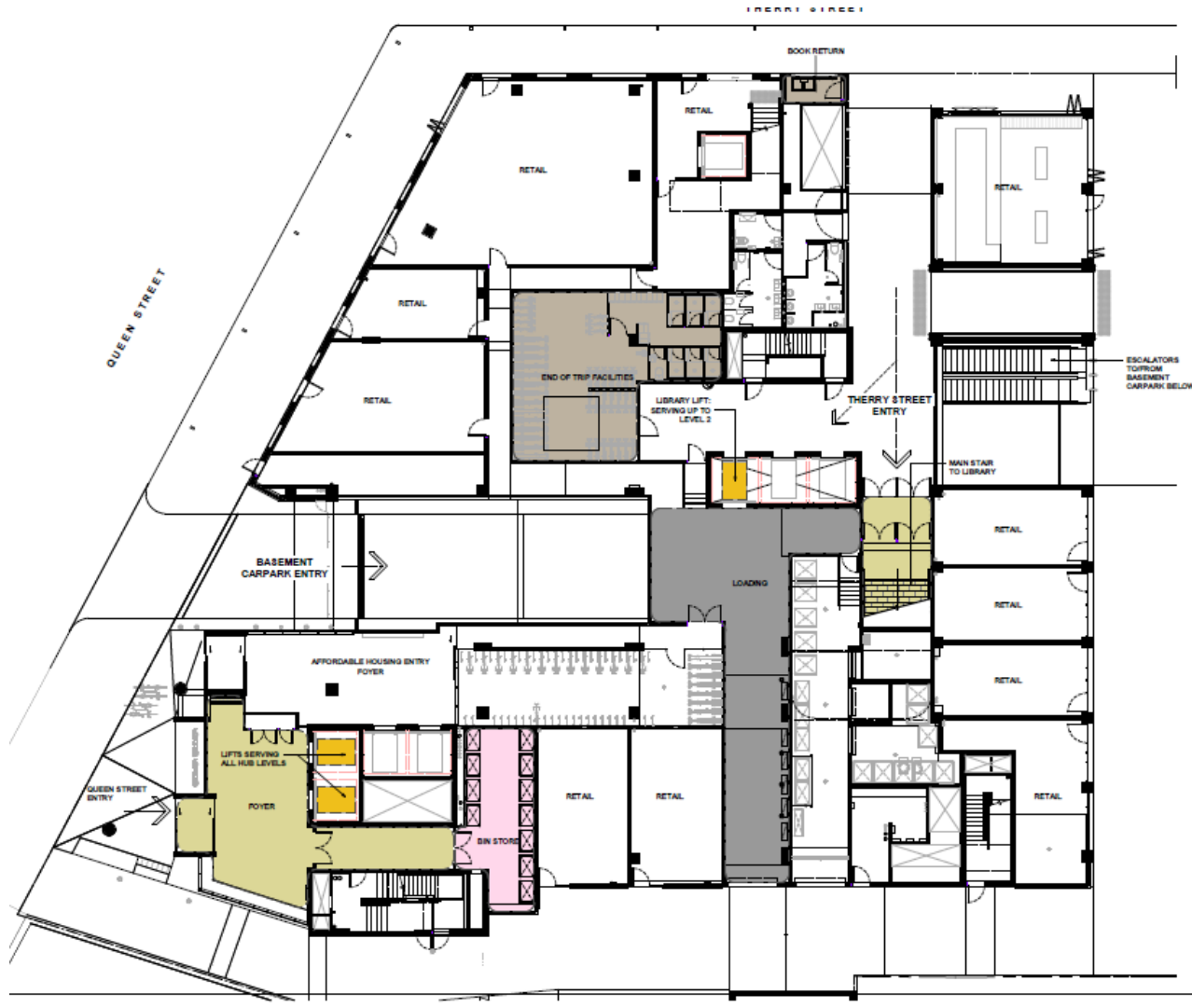
Flythrough videos Level's 1-3:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bcchbhvbj9joda/AADNr6xj9Q88PRRA7gX2EGE5a?dl=0>

Schematic Design - Basement Plan

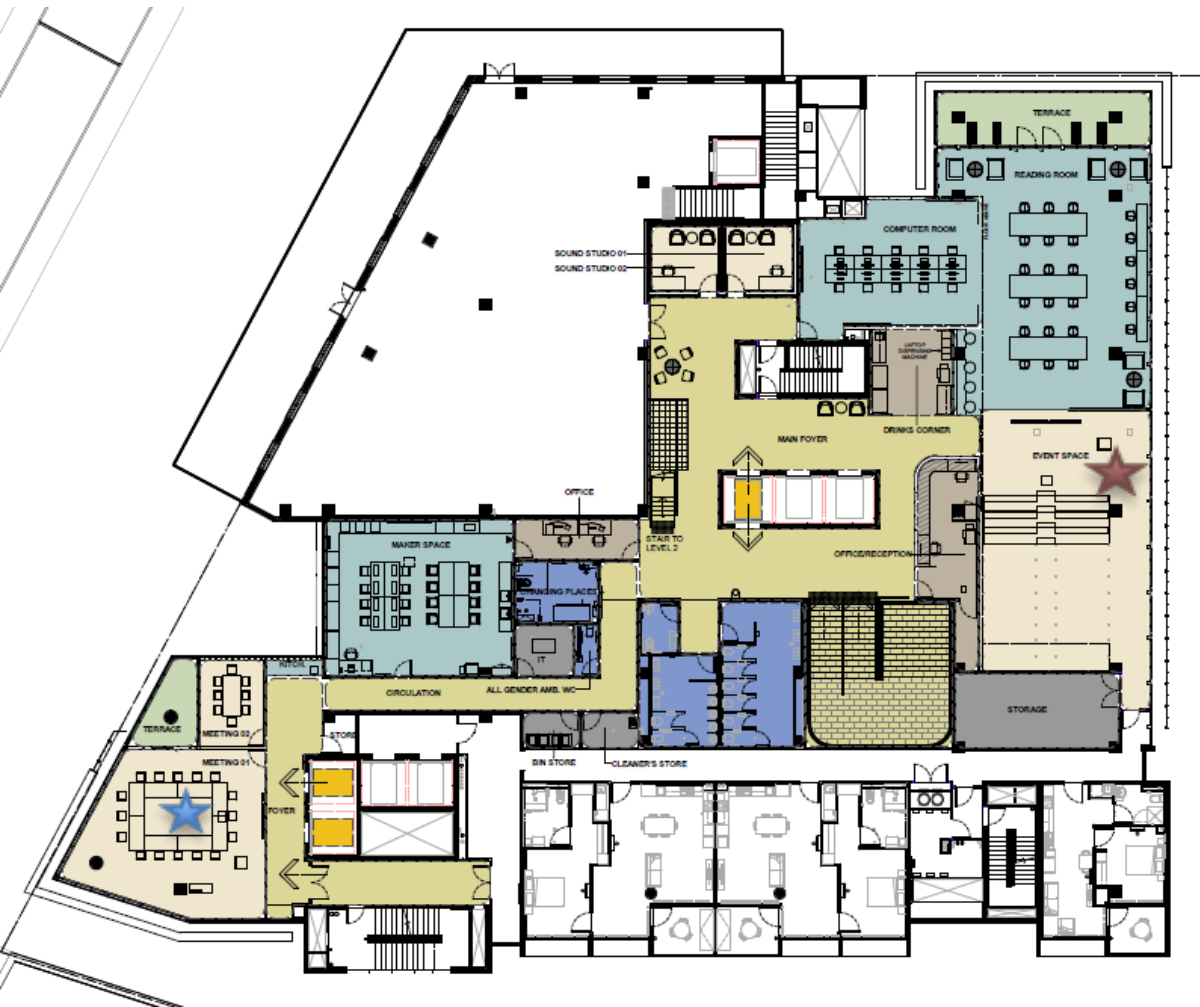


Schematic Design - Ground Floor Plan



Corner of Queen and Thierry Street





Reading Room



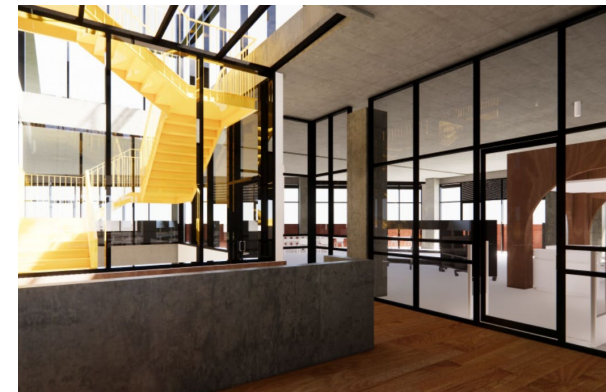
Bookable meeting room

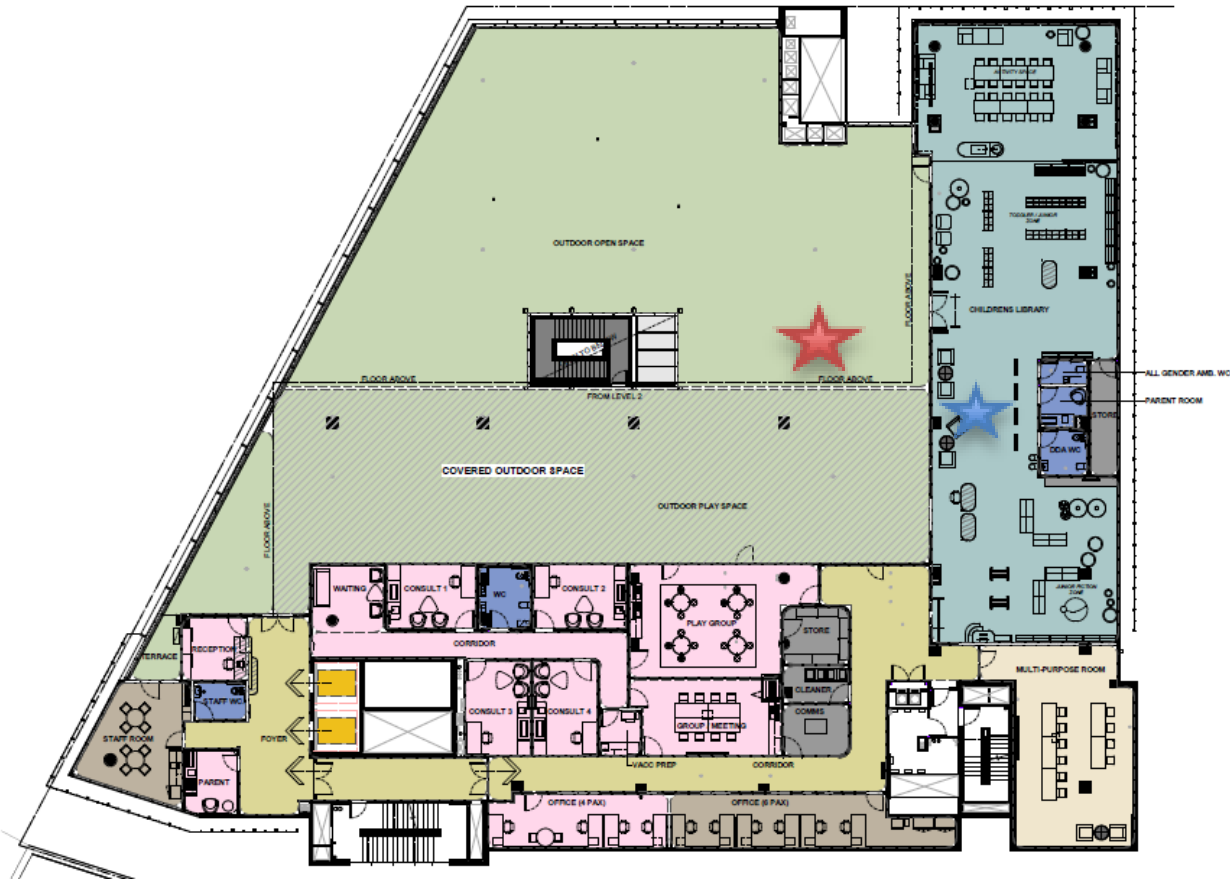


Staff office ★



Stairwell connecting levels 1-3 ★





Children's Library ★



Outdoor Terrace ★





CITY OF MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE.VIC.GOV.AU

New Library and Community Hub in the Munro building, Queen Victoria Market

Executive summary: Community and staff engagement report

Introduction

The City of Melbourne is developing a new community library at the Munro site, in the heart of the Queen Victoria Market precinct. The Council wanted to find out how people might use this new and exciting space, what they would like to see there and how they feel the library can contribute to their community.

Community engagement was carried out from January to March 2022, using an online survey on the Participate Melbourne website, face-to-face surveys with the public at existing libraries and pop-up libraries, and stallholders at the Queen Victoria Market were invited to participate in the survey via the Queen Victoria Market newsletter.

Overall, 318 community member responses were received on the survey.

Concurrently, City of Melbourne libraries staff and the Creative City branch, were asked for their thoughts and hopes for the new library. More than 50 responded, providing a rich input based on professional experience and passion.

Key findings

Similar ideas were repeated across different questions. The most prominent themes across the engagement are summarized below.

Insights from community members

- Respondents were enthusiastic about the new library, praising the location and convenience. They wanted it to showcase local history and make the most of its connection to the market.
- The new library was seen to offer an opportunity for a sense of connection and community, as a non-commercial space to spend time, and a 'third place' or alternative to working from home.
- The community wanted to ensure the library is a welcoming, accessible place where people from different cultures and generations can connect and where resources and services cater to all groups.
- Respondents reiterated that a diverse offering of events, programs and activities could enhance community connection and learning. Suggestions encompassed a variety of topics, such as author talks and literary events, personal development and wellbeing, skills and education such as IT and languages, and workshops for practical skills and artistic hobbies. Respondents often noted these should be free or low-cost.
- The resources of the library were named as a key benefit, with respondents requesting a wide range and diverse selection of books, with quality books in languages other than English, as well as eBooks, magazines, newspapers, and resources for education and research.

- A range of spaces and facilities were desired for different uses – these included quiet places to relax and read, bookable meeting rooms, the maker space, a café, co-working and study areas, and areas for children to relax, interact, and play.
- Amenity and layout were commonly discussed. While there were differences in priorities, it was evident that separation of areas was critical to ensure high-activity zones did not disrupt other uses. Respondents wanted quiet, relaxing reading areas with comfortable chairs and good lighting. A few requested that these areas be separate from working or computer areas. Other amenities included stable wi-fi, good lighting, lots of greenery, space to sit outside in the shade, and good ventilation.
- The library was seen as a place to foster the arts and creativity, both through exhibiting and incorporating local art into the design and facilitating creativity by providing a maker space including equipment and classes.
- Respondents who talked about services for children wanted to see a range of activities, sensory stimuli, interesting play-spaces, playgroups, story times (in different languages), music groups, children’s books and learning opportunities.
- Spaces where everyone (including adults) could play were suggested, with board games and games like table tennis.
- Various other specific facilities were suggested, either as part of the makerspace or separately. These included a music studio (soundproof), a photography studio, a kitchen, a kitchen appliance library, an urban garden, a tool library, and new technology like 3D printers.

Insights from City of Melbourne library staff

- **Level 1:** to be a great study space, Level 1 was described as needing varied and modifiable spaces and furniture to accommodate a range of study preferences and uses. Staff wanted to see sufficient charging and power points, comfortable as well as practical and accessible furniture, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Additionally, staff reported that the lobby ought to welcome and entice patrons, as well as provide space for showcasing the collection in ways which generate intrigue.

- **Level 2:** a great customer experience was thought to be provided when the collection was displayed in easy-to-see and accessible ways and when staff were welcoming, friendly and approachable. Staff wanted to see good light and airflow on Level 2 and reported that patrons were most likely to use this area for browsing and for quiet reading and study.

Staff had multiple staffroom suggestions calling for enough pleasant space to relax and enjoy tea / coffee and food, while also wanting to be able to work, store items, and find quiet spaces for reflection, meetings, or phone calls.

- **Level 3:** a great children’s library was seen as being one in which much attention was paid to layout and ‘zoning’. Staff wanted to see a well provisioned area with

bright, durable materials used and a multitude of themed displays to catch and hold children's attention.

Respondents also wanted to see the rooftop area used in ways that offered a point of difference from usual library operations, such as for physical play or activities, wet or messy play, or for unique events.

- **Collections and programs:** there were an array of suggestions as to which programs and activities might be suitable. These included education or training related sessions (for example IT / digital literacy, employability, health and wellbeing, and food). It was important to staff that these had both utility and broad appeal to a range of demographics.

Enabling the borrowing of toys, tools or kitchen equipment was suggested, and there was agreement that audio visual collections could be scaled back (for example DVDs and CDs). Staff reported that book borrowing would be enticed when face-out displays were maximised and attractive themed displays showcased topical issues.

A NEW LIBRARY IN THE CITY

Community consultation results

AIM The City of Melbourne is developing a new library in the heart of the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

We asked how you might use this exciting space, what you would like to see there and how the library will contribute to your community.

How we engaged you:

318 people submitted an online survey.

53 conversations were held at our libraries.

350+ children engaged at school and library programs.

Ongoing cultural consultations with Traditional Owners.

What you'd like the library to include:

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

- A place for community connection
- Safe, inclusive and accessible space
- Aboriginal culture and heritage
- Foster creativity and exhibitions

COLLECTION

- Books, glorious books!
- Easy to browse and discover
- Tool library
- Books in community languages

LOCATION

- Great location
- Connection to the market
- Showcase diverse history

SPACES

- A place to work, learn, read and study
- Zoning of quiet and busy areas
- Rooftop garden and greenery
- Good Wi-Fi and access to power points

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

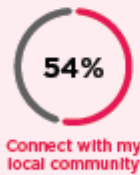
- Diverse range of events for all ages
- Talks, workshops, book clubs
- Makerspace
- Community led events and groups

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Areas for families to relax
- Place to explore and learn
- Sensory educational play areas
- Story times, playgroups, after school programs

Community aspirations

Respondents were asked to select their aspirations for the future. This will influence library collections and programs. The top 5 were:



How we'll use this feedback

Feedback will contribute to the development of the concept plan, inform the fit-out of the library space and help determine what the library offers, including its collections and programs.

"Strong connection to recognising Aboriginal significance of the land - this is an especially important theme evolving in our Melbourne community."

"A place to escape the busy city."

"Spaces for little ones to play and hang out, and to support new parents and new people in the city to make friends."



For more information
participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/munro-library

