

Welcome Park Public Art Brief

Overview

The triangular reserve at the corner of Sharpe Avenue and Welcome Road known as Welcome Park, sits opposite the Red Earth Arts Precinct (REAP). Walgu is a Ngarluma word meaning “You may Come”. This Park is landscaped as an extension of the Arts Precinct and as a linkage to the CBD. The existing natural vegetation and the drainage swale running along the northern edge. A long vehicle parking area (caravans and motor homes) is adjacent on the northern side of the drainage swale at the rear of the shopping centre. A pedestrian bridge is positioned linking the long vehicle parking area to the Park in an alignment to the entry of the arts precinct building.

Vision

Welcome Park is to serve exactly as the name suggests. Inviting people to the City of Karratha. The landscaping is to provide a restful, contemplative and informative green space that links the REAP to the CBD and offers a highly aesthetic landscape for visitors. There is extensive shade, seating, turfed areas, interconnected paving and other landscape features to make the park accessible, enjoyable and informative. A series of public art installations are required to add interest, excitement and interaction to enhance the park experience.

Public Art

The public artworks are to attract and welcome visitors into the space and reflect the history and culture of Karratha and the region. The sculptural and information pieces are to provide visitors with an understanding of and connection to Karratha. A series of installation sites have been identified within the site master plan. Artist teams are able to offer sculptural, interactive and information pieces for one or more, or all of these sites. The key objectives of this opportunity are to:

- Add vitality and interest to connect with, welcome and draw people into the park
- Provide opportunity for interaction with the art installations once in the park
- Celebrate the history and culture of the City and the region
- Highlight the connection between the Arts Precinct and the CBD.

The park will include public art elements that:

- Showcase the unique landscape, culture and Heritage of Karratha
- Form part of a series of sculptural, interactive and information pieces as part of an art walk through the Precinct and into the CBD
- Contribute to the amenity of the park and immediate surrounds, creating an inviting environment for all ages
- Facilitates activation in the Park.
- Engage local talent including artists and Community in the creation of the artworks.

Guiding Principles

- Community Engagement
The development of the artwork will involve collaboration and engagement with local artists, school art students, local industry representatives and the Ngarluma people to generate a sense of ownership and pride in our City.
- Celebration of Aboriginal culture and heritage
The public artworks will be respectful of Traditional Owners, the Ngarluma People and celebrate their connection to the land on which Karratha has been developed.

- **Celebration of Industrial history**
The public artworks will acknowledge and reflect the industrial history of the region and its contribution to the establishment and development of Karratha.
- **Integration**
The public artworks will be responsive to the site in terms of natural and built environment and provide a sense of connection or linkage between the Red Earth Arts Precinct and the CBD.
- **Expression**
The public artworks will seek to inform, excite and engage visitors to the park as it reveals Karratha's history, its present and its future as a liveable regional city.

It is proposed that public artworks are sourced from artists or artist teams who are resident within or able to demonstrate a strong connection to the region. Artist proposals will be required to demonstrate a connection to local identity and local cultures. Submissions must articulate how the artist team will develop the creative and community consultative process to provide the final design for approval. Proposals shall also describe the mechanism to translate the creative process to fabrication and installation in a manner that fits the logistical limitations of the site for each of the proposed pieces. This may require a collaboration between local and externally based artists to enhance both the creative and functional delivery processes.

Functional Design Considerations

A draft concept plan has been prepared with the following elements (not all shown on the draft plan) contemplated for inclusion:-

- Long vehicle parking facility developed on the northern side of the drainage swale at the rear of Kmart
- A bridge to link the long vehicle parking across the drainage swale to Welcome Park (a duplicate of the existing amphitheatre to Church carpark bridge at REAP)
- Allowance in the park design for the future installation of a public toilet facility
- A series of entry points to the Park including step and ramp access
- High quality landscape treatment with a focus on shade, green space and seating areas for quiet contemplation
- Retention (and shaping) of the existing vegetation where possible
- Nomination of potential sites for public art installation within Welcome Park
- Provision of electrical supply for illumination of the artworks and to enable the art path to be experienced at night.

Design Requirements

Each installation shall be lit to enable the artworks to be viewed at night (and form part of an art walk through the CBD). Lighting can be integrated into the design by the artist (and therefore part of the cost of the artwork) or flood lit by a generic lighting solution provided by the City.

Each installation shall have a QR code applied to allow detailed design, historical and cultural information to be sourced by visitor's using their mobile phones.

Submissions shall identify the proposed location of the artworks, potential installation / mounting requirements and commentary on the proposed construction materials and maintenance requirements (Note Karratha is in a Cyclone Level 2 Category D area).

Project Budget

A total budget of \$300,000 has been allocated to the public art component of the project. It is anticipated that the artwork configuration may be;

- A Medium scaled contemporary sculptural work at a key location
- Painted artwork to retaining walls (Mural or similar)
- A series of small scale discovery artworks depicting local flora and fauna, throughout the park
- Interpretive information signage at key locations.