

25th September 2018

Press release:

Major hurdle cleared for Creative Arts Precinct

Inner West Council's decision to adopt a new Development Control Plan for the Victoria Road Precinct has given more certainty to future development of the area, opening up new business and residential opportunities, including the Rich Street Creative Arts Hub.

The new Development Control Plan will provide for the orderly development of the precinct in line with the wishes of the local community who overwhelmingly supported the proposal during two extended consultation periods.

The Rich Street Creative Arts Hub, which has been planned on a large site adjacent to the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, is now only awaiting DA approval from Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel before it can proceed.

The proponents of the project are a local family run business. For 40 years, three generations of the family have run the timber and building services business. They have used their property to support local artists in Marrickville for years.

"We are now one step closer to realising our dream of having a purpose-built space to house local artists, creatives and musicians". Angelo Angelopoulos, CEO of Danias Group said.

The \$50 million, Rich Street Precinct proposal will see over 13,000m² of new floor space dedicated to the creative arts, new start-up industries and local offices. Once completed, the precinct will house around 460 artists and creatives, in an environmentally friendly and sustainable location. Over 37% of the site will be new open space.

The Creative Hub also involves a substantial contribution to local infrastructure, including \$1.6 million to Council to support local upgrades as well as planting of 50 new street trees, upgrades to the local lane network, on site detention facility and new local park.

Marrickville has long been the home for the creative industries but in recent years artists have been losing spaces as rents rise and other industries take over.

“The creative industries are in a battle for space in Marrickville, and they’re losing” Mr Angelopoulos said.

“Throughout the consultation process for the Victoria Rd Precinct the local community consistently said they want to see the area remain a home to the creative arts”

“We also consulted directly with existing creative industries in the precinct. They repeatedly told us that while they like the area, getting suitable commercial leasing was often a problem. That there was difficulty getting security of tenure, that many of the old warehouses were not fit for purpose, being either too big or too small for what they wanted to do”. Mr Angelopoulos said.

“Rich Street Precinct has been designed to meet the needs of local artists.

“Most importantly, the place will be affordable, allowing artists and creatives a way to get their foot in the door by having their own work place that suits their needs’.

“The Danias Group have been providing space and resources for creative artists in Marrickville for decades. They know the sort of places they need and what will make the precinct thrive. It has been a long-term objective of the Group to create a home in the Precinct for our local creative industries and that dream is now becoming a reality”. Sean Macken said.

For more information contact Sean Macken 0417 238 212 or visit our website www.richst.com.au