

## Westerfield Drive Mural - Community Engagement Report

### Background

Council received funding from the Victorian Government through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Pocket Park Program to create a pocket park at Westerfield Drive Reserve in Notting Hill. The Reserve includes a mural on an existing brick wall, with construction to take place in early 2022. There are well documented benefits of murals. A mural can create belonging and a sense of pride, helps make a neighbourhood stronger and safer, and reduce graffiti and tagging.

The upgraded reserve includes innovative sensory play elements and discovery trail, as well as enhanced family and social recreation opportunities through a new playspace, landscaping improvements, local art and natural shade. The mural will be located in the Village Green area, on the Samada Street side of the playspace. The Village Green area includes a two swing-set, open lawn area, seating for casual play, picnics and quiet relaxation. The concept design for Westerfield Drive Reserve can be viewed online at [shape.monash.vic.gov.au/westerfield-reserve](http://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/westerfield-reserve)

### Community engagement

Council invited the local community to submit words, ideas or pictures to shape direction and themes for the mural over a three week period, from 1 October – 22 October 2021.

We wanted to know what the community wanted the artist to consider in their design:

- Something that blends in with the landscape and reflects the environment?
- A bright and colourful mural that attracts attention?
- Designs of animals, people, something abstract and geometric?
- Local history, people or stories? Indigenous culture?

### Promotion

The project was promoted to the local community by a range of print and online methods:

- Letter box drop to residents within a 400m radius of Westerfield Drive (580 houses)
- Posters on display at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House and Inchmeal café
- Promotion in Notting Hill Neighbourhood House Term 4 e-newsletter and Facebook page
- Promotion on Council's Facebook page
- Promotion in residents' WhatsApp group (reaching over 200 residents).

### Methods of engagement

The community could submit their ideas through the following methods:


- Online through Council's Shape Monash page through the 'gather' tool. People could 'like' other comments
- Email and phone calls with the Notting Hill Place Manager
- Face-to-face conversations at Notting Hill Neighbourhood House during food relief.


## Results

During the engagement period there were a total of 31 responses received:

- 16 responses on Shape Monash
- 7 emails
- 2 phone calls
- 6 face-to-face conversations.

### Summary of feedback by method

Number (Title)	Shape Monash Comments	Number of 'likes'
1. A collaboration that reflects our diverse community	<p>It would be great to see a collaborative artwork that engages a local Indigenous artist.</p> <p>Something incorporating native flora and fauna and maybe having some natives planted at the foot of the mural to extend this out to the surrounds of the wall.</p> <p>Notting Hill is a welcoming community made up of a diverse group of people so something reflecting community spirit and diversity would be wonderful too.</p> 	0
2. Local Indigenous Art	<p>I would love to see more local Wurundjeri artists and their work represented in murals around Monash, and I think one would look amazing here! Especially if the work was a representation of Notting Hill and surrounds...indigenous art is wonderful at telling a story, and everything that others have mentioned, about community and history, the wildlife, etc could be incorporated. I've included a work by Wurundjeri artist Mandy Nicholson as an example, that she painted for Healesville Hospital.</p>	3

		
<p>3. Sleeping landscapes and traditional lands</p>	<p>Thanks for setting this up for our community. I would like to see a mural that reflects the precolonial nature of the landscape and the traditional owners of the area. It would also have to be painted by an Indigenous artist. Notting Hill was a series of wetlands and grassy woodland that in part is Boonwurrung territory and Wurundjeri people would have come here too. The hills would have been covered primarily with grass and sparse trees like sheoak and blackwood acacia.</p> <p>A local man, one of the first residents who is around 80, he told me that there used to be a creek running through the suburb and this aligns with the aerial photos and ecology data we have. Today we have a small pond and a couple visiting wetland birds but most of the nature has been removed from the community.</p> <p>You would find all kinds of animals here like ducks, swamphens, egrets, frogs, quolls, wombats, swamp wallabies and gliders. Some of these are still around but not many. It would be good to have the Kulin name for these animals if they are included as well.</p> <p>The Monash Historical Society would have more information about specific details of Aboriginal sites in the area, I know we have several important places nearby but I don't have specific details about Notting Hill itself as its quite small.</p>	<p>10</p>

<p>4. Standing Together in Hope</p>	<p>Notting Hill's greatest strength is the way it stands together as a community, believing and advocating for better. It has always done this historically and now does so amongst an increasingly diverse community. This theme picks up on the student population that is part of Notting Hill, and their desire to grow, learn and make the community a better place. It picks up the families who seek to raise kids to make an impact on their local community, and it is descriptive of the work of the Neighbourhood house and other key places in the area such as like Inchmeal Cafe, which includes a collective of local artists.</p> <p>Coming out of the pandemic, the way we have got through this, and the way we will continue to rebuild is together. Notting Hill has always been a community that demonstrates this tight-knit nature.</p> <p>Finding a single artist to commission such a piece would be ok, but finding two or three who will work together to demonstrate "standing together" and working together for the good of all in the community would be incredible. Perhaps partnering artists of diverse backgrounds to work collectively on this space, to produce an image of collective hope and life in Notting Hill.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>5. Notting Hill Mural</p>	<p>On top of all the great suggestions, a positive quote to uplift everyone's mind in general, would be a great addition to the already great project.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>6. Notting Hill mural</p>	<p>To the great suggestions already made - a local artist, community involvement in the installation, bright colours, children featured as subjects of the mural, I would like to add the idea of also featuring the birds commonly seen around Notting Hill - magpies and galahs and wattlebirds and painted lorikeets. The kids would love that.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>7. Local and community focused</p>	<p>It would be fantastic if a local city of Monash artist could be engaged. Alternatively, some local volunteers to help with the mural similar to the street pantry.</p> <p>I think the mural should represent the suburb, with a title block with "Notting Hill". It should show the history of the suburb and what it has now evolved into.</p> <p>It should represent this abstractly like a map, with the hill on ferntree gully road, the playgrounds in the centre of the suburb, the industrial aspects, residential nature of the suburb and its people (including pets!)</p> <p>If children are pictured in the imagery, please ensure it represents the multiculturalism of the suburb.</p>	<p>3</p>

<p>8. Aussie Animals and Young Families</p>	<p>It would be great to see a variety of native Australian flora and fauna featured on this mural! The neighbourhood house next door has a new street pantry that features a wombat, sugar glider, platypus, emu, magpie and redback spider. It would be very cute to see these same or different animals featured on this wall, perhaps behind an Aussie outback scene.</p> <p>Another potential background idea that would go nicely with the animals could be a painting on the beautiful bridge and tree greenspace at the end of Westerfield dr - this area is a much loved green area of the community and a fav from many of the local doggos too.</p> <p>Another key characteristic of Notting Hill in recent years is the rise of lots of new young families in the areas. With this, it would be great to include some children in this mural. Perhaps some cute Aussie animals playing with some kids would be a lovely mural idea.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>9. Notting Hill mural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mural should stand out to represent the neighborhood to residents and newcomers here, hence, would be a good idea to not blend in with the landscape.</li> <li>- YES, a bright and colorful mural that attracts attention. There are a lot of greens in this area, so shades of red, orange, purple as complimentary colours would help the mural stand out.</li> <li>- YES, animals and people as part of the multicultural neighborhood, and to pay respects to the Indigenous People and their culture, whose lands we are living on. Common animals in this neighborhood - dogs, cats, horses, birds, and unique pets</li> <li>- YES to including local history, people, and stories, particularly Indigenous culture. as well as the stories of multicultural families who migrated here.</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>
<p>10. Mural</p>	<p>Notting hill is a very family friendly, multicultural community. It would be good for the mural to represent this and have an uplifting nature. Supporting each other, feeling safe in the community are positive vibes that can be represented and reminded of.</p>	<p>0</p>

<p>11. Encompassing diversity</p>	<p>Over the last 60 years Notting Hill has been through many changes losing connections through the loss of educational 'institutions' i.e. Kindergarten, Primary School and Secondary College. Notting Hill (NH) is linked in some ways to the Monash University through international and country students renting accommodation in Notting Hill. The university through the brilliance of Jock Marshall created a dynamic Australian landscape using native plants. Most recently you will see the modern bright, cheerful and brilliant architecture on the university campus.</p> <p>We now see a truly wonderful diversity of migrant members in our pocket suburb.  We see wonderful children and toddlers.  We see youth on their bikes and seniors taking smart walks around the burb. But the burb itself looks dull.  Now let us continue that great example set by Monash University and bring it to Notting Hill. We really need beauty and dynamic impact to bring pleasure to everyone who who lives or visits here e.g. The new food bank Neighbour Hood House  Suggestion for the Westerfield Drive Mural include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A welcoming image with faces of our people</li> <li>2. That the people are across a wide diversity of ethnic backgrounds</li> <li>3. That the images encapsulate the range of activity e.g. walking, babies, toddlers, youth, cycle riding or scooters right up to the active adults.</li> <li>4. Glorious colours across a broad pallet with a light and misty background of native flora and of native fauna.</li> </ol> <p>It would be great to see some areas in the image use a variety a methods e.g. paint, 3 dimensional mural and more.</p> <p>Consider this... when NH had 3 schools there were at least 40 - 50 paid staff that were educating and encouraging the community links. Now we have a Neighbourhood House with 2 part timers. It is time for this mural to be looked at as a very small way of redressing the theft of community connection in Notting Hill. PS. Should there be not enough room on this mural, do create more fabulous murals in Notting Hill.</p>	<p>2</p>
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12. Community Westerfield	I think that something that symbolises the community we have here. It should represent how multicultural we are and I think I nod to the Monash Uni students who live here would be good. We are a green suburb so pictures of our wildlife would be good, especially that of the frogs down in the dam near Normanby. This also used to be farmland so that would look good, of course 'West of field' means the farm land here. Maybe something historically, like the Notting hill hotel that used to be the half way point in long journeys. You could have some pictures of industry buildings in the area like the Monash Uni, synchrotron. Could have picture of famous Notting hill residents, like David De Kreisler. Lastly, our estate was the first off the plan housing estate in Australia by AV Jennings. Makes our place even more special all of these different things.	0
13. Mural	I love the idea of creating a mural that reflects where Notting Hill Neighbourhood house started- a kindergarten and now a community hub. I would like to see a mural with images of kids (young and old) connected together with images of nature and cultural references to our community of Notting Hill. Can't wait to see what the artist comes up with as we are a very tight community who prides itself on supporting each other. We have some very creative locals as well who are connected with the neighbourhood house as well as the beautiful Inchmeal cafe next door.	1
14. THE NATURAL	A painting as close to Australian bush with colourful birds.	1
15. The meeting place.	I would like to suggest that the theme on the front gate - butterflies etc. - be continued in the mural - or wrought iron. The building started life as a kindergarten - and was very successful in bringing the residents together. It was a hub in the early days. If not - why not plant it with trees - some that look after themselves and don't grow into monsters and take up too much space.	1
16. First people's art	Story from the locals who lived here before the white settlers took their land with modern colours and traditional dot art combined	2

<b>Face-to-face conversations</b>	
17.	Australian animals to match the Street Pantry. Native flowers too.
18.	When I am on the swings I want to see flowers on the wall.
19.	The building used to be a kindergarten, so a reference to the building's past.
20.	Something that shows leaves, and the changing colours of leaves and the seasons. Plus the area has wonderful birds, so birds, bees and butterflies.
21.	A black and white photo of what the area used to look like in pioneering times, showing the history of place.
22.	Indigenous history and native flora and fauna.
<b>Phone calls</b>	
23.	Dogs are part of our community, and especially in Notting Hill, so it would be great to incorporate images of dogs on the mural
24.	Circus motifs – clowns, white dog, monkey on horses back, elephants and tiger etc. Bright colours. The mural should appeal to children, as it's their playground, but the circus motif appeals to both adults and children.
<b>Emails</b>	
25.	My kids are frequent visitors to the playground on Westerfield Drive, as well as being great fans of the neighbourhood house and surrounds, and I'd love to provide some ideas for mural ideas. The images below are bold and colourful, which remind me of the community in Notting Hill. They'd appeal to kids but are not too childlike, so I presume adults would also enjoy them. There are no specific words that come to mind but Australian natives, rainbows or illustrations like in the second image from the left below would look amazing!





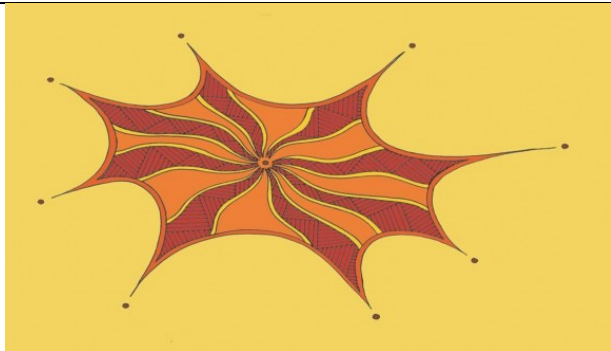
26. I love living in this little community of Notting Hill because it feels friendly, safe, green and because it is very multicultural. I am Australian from mainly Celtic ancestors from way back but I love how our culture has been enriched by people from so many diverse cultures.

I've just finished watching part 1 of the ABC documentary "The School that tried to end Racism". So much to learn from these teachers and especially the children.

I would like the mural to represent something depicting pictures of children of various cultures, including and especially our First Nations children. Ideally the mural could encourage discussion and acceptance similar to the focus in this ABC documentary.

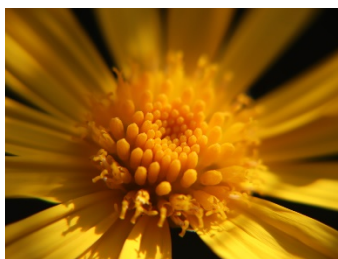
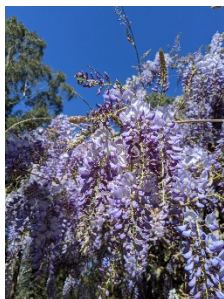
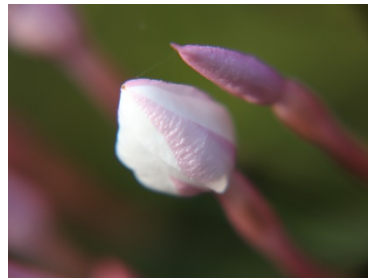
The words of song by the Seekers are particularly meaningful:- "We are one, but we are many, And from all the lands on earth we come. We'll share a dream and sing with one voice. I am, you are, we are Australian"

27. I would like to suggest an artwork by a local Wurrundjeri artist. Something like [image below]



Place to gather and yarn. More recognition of the First Nations people in the area would be great for our ongoing journey of reconciliation.

28. Please find attached some images as inspiration for the Notting Hill project. Photo credit Maria Ngo.

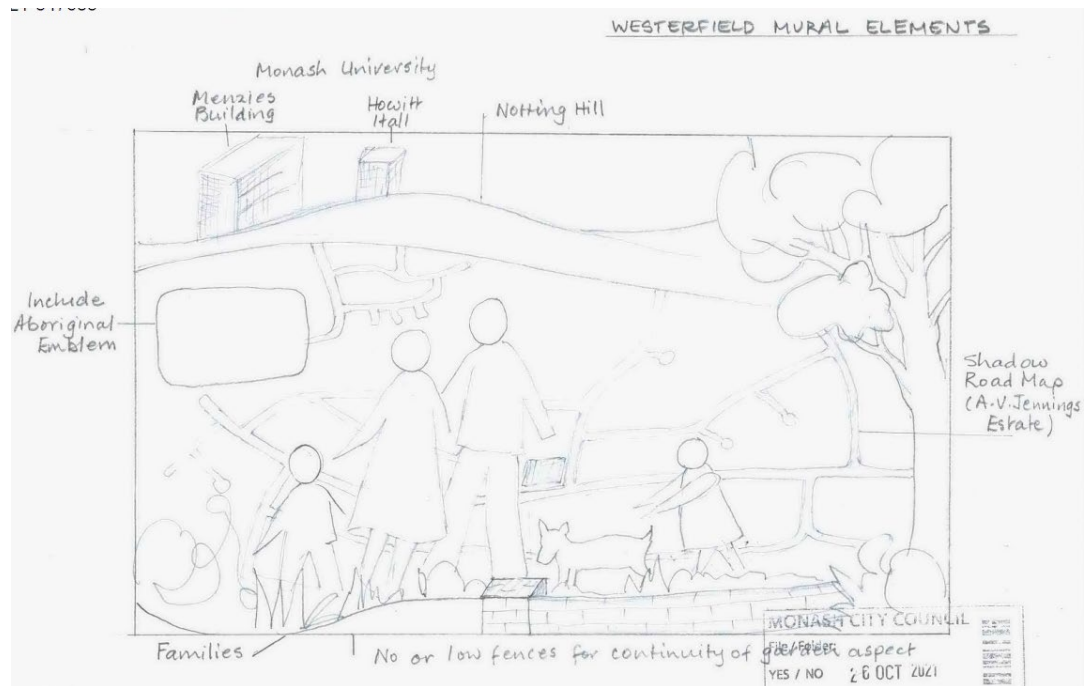


29. Thank you for opening consultation to the community regarding the mural on Westerfield Drive. Having had a look at all the comments on the site - there seems to be an overwhelming desire to engage a local Indigenous artist. There are also common themes to represent the fact that Notting Hill is a welcoming community made up of a diverse

group of people - so something reflecting community spirit and diversity would be wonderful too.

There has been a lot of discussion lately amongst Notting Hill residents regarding native flora and fauna and ways we can play our part in fostering more sustainable actions in our community. Incorporating native flora and fauna and maybe having some natives planted at the foot of the mural to extend this out to the surrounds of the wall would make this somewhat a more immersive artwork and also tie in to this community sentiment.

30.



31.

I would LOVE to see local artists do this around Mount Waverley & City of Monash.



