



*Proposed design for new Sanctuary Point Library. Image: Brewster Hjorth Architects*

## **SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL**

### **SANCTUARY POINT LIBRARY PUBLIC ART CALL FOR ARTIST EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

July 2022

# **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land now known as Australia, and value their long, rich, cultural and spiritual connection to this land.

This is evident in the stories and ceremonies, the natural landmarks and the sacred objects embedded in the landscapes and waterways of this land.

We also acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the first artists and makers of these lands.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

# The Project

Shoalhaven City Council are seeking expressions of interest from local First Nations artists for a number of permanent public artwork commissions as part of the new Sanctuary Point Public Library opening in 2024.

The focus of this document is to outline the artistic opportunities and provide information about the project.

## PROJECT TEAM

**Shoalhaven City Council** are commissioning the artworks and have primary responsibility for the delivery of the project.

*Role:*

- Appoint and contract the artistic team.
- Administer payment of artwork budget.

**Soda Arts** with **Kianarra Coastal Connections** are the Public Art Consultants.

*Role:*

- Support the artists on behalf of Shoalhaven City Council to undertake the commissions.
- Manage the successful development, implementation and delivery of the artworks

**Brewster Hjorth Architects** are the Project Architects.

*Role:*

- Consider Public Art within the overall building design

**Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects** are the Landscape Architects

*Role:*

- Accommodate Public Art within the overall landscape design

# Project Background

## SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL VISION FOR SANCTUARY POINT LIBRARY

- A welcoming space where all members of the community feel included and represented
- A free community space offering library and Council services
- Part of wider revitalisation of Sanctuary Point along with with Francis Ryan Reserve
- It is hoped the library will enhance the business & sporting hubs already in existence

## LOCATION

The new library will be located in the heart of Sanctuary Point Village, on the corner of Paradise Beach Road and Kerry Street. It is surrounded by retail shops, Francis Ryan Reserve, the police Station and the Country Club.



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The first stage of this project involved extensive community consultation with local First Nations community members. A Community Key Working Group was assembled to define the cultural narrative and oversee the cultural significance of the project. This group was led by Aunty Margaret Simoes of Kianarra Coastal Connections.

## COMMUNITY KEY WORKING GROUP



**Aunty Julie Freeman**

Wandi Wandian / Bherwerri woman of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community with Awabakal ancestors extending along the Yuin nation of the South Coast of NSW.



**Clive Freeman**

Traditional Owner of Wreck Bay in the Booderee National Park on the NSW South Coast.



**Matt Simms**

Wandi Wandian man from the Shoalhaven who belongs to the Dharawal and Dhurga Language groups of the South Coast of NSW.



**Marilyn Smart**

Wandi Wandian woman from the South Coast of NSW and the Yuin Nation.

## WALKING ON COUNTRY

A key recommendation from the Community Key Working Group was to take the entire project team out on Country; to see, hear and feel the cultural significance of the land on which the Sanctuary Point Library will sit.

The purpose of this day was to immerse the team - Council, the architect, the landscape architect and public art team - in a cultural experience of the Bay and Basin area. This experience became the crucial step to inform the cultural narrative of the library.

The program for the day was created by Matt Simms of Djiriba Waagura Pty Ltd. It included visiting sites of significance, a smoking ceremony, walking and sharing cultural stories.

Aunty Julie Freeman performed the Welcome to Country and shared her extensive cultural connections to Country. Clive Freeman shared his geological expertise, providing a scientific and cultural context.

Unfortunately due to the recent inclement weather, the visit to Christian's Minde was postponed. Iain Brammer of Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects was able to visit at a later date with Matt Simms.

The outcome of this experience shifted the focus of the project away from a cultural narrative expressed only through public art, to a site-wide cultural narrative expressed across the built, landscape and public art elements.



*Matt Simms, Djiriba Waagura, Walking on Country experience, 15 March 2022.*

# Cultural Narrative

The Saltwater People of the Bay and Basin area, & their knowledge systems across sea, land and sky.

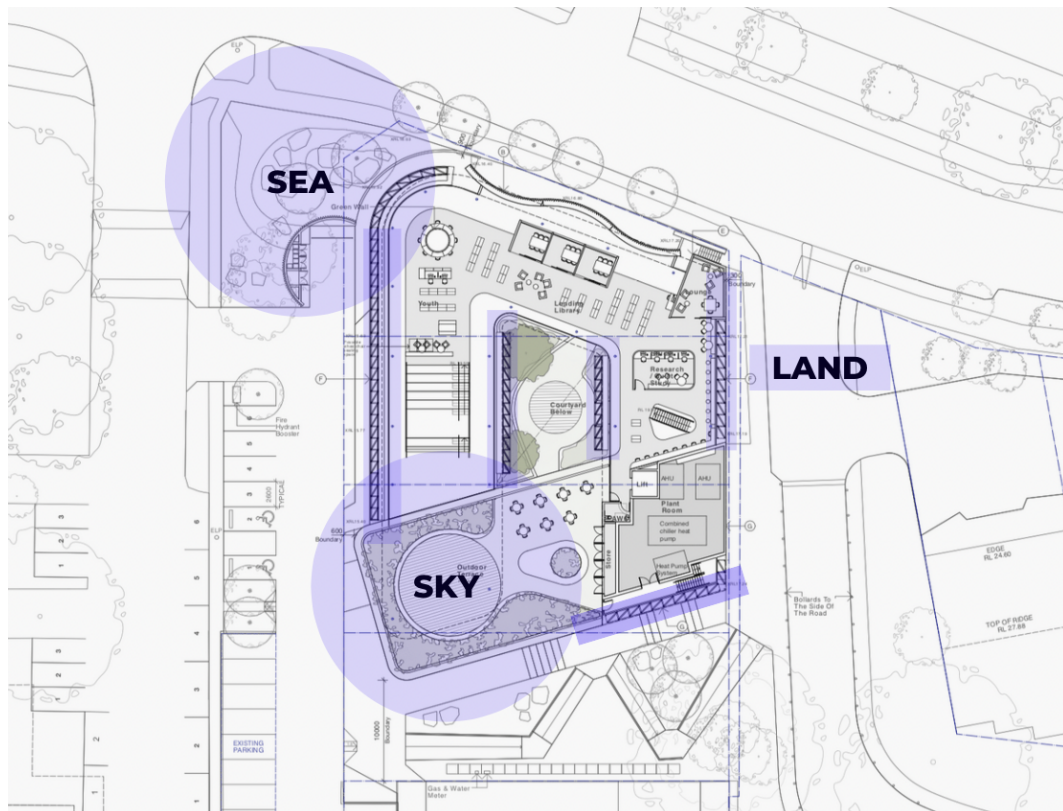
## SUB-THEMES

- A journey through time, sharing who 'we are and how we fit'
- This area is an important meeting point: of Dharawal and Dhurga language groups; of North and South weather systems.
- All living things are of equal value and contain knowledge - plants, animals and people
- Relevance of ancestral knowledge to our contemporary moment
- The stories and knowledge of First Nations people as part of a shared history and knowledge of humankind.

## KEY WORDS

- 'True Country' - celebrate what was here, and what has been lost
- Saltwater / Water
- Knowledge, Sharing and Community

## THEMATIC JOURNEY



# Artistic Opportunities

## OVERVIEW

There are three public artwork opportunities within the Sanctuary Point Library site. It is anticipated that a different artistic team will be engaged for each opportunity, however you are welcome to nominate yourself to be considered for more than one option.

The locations have been informed by the cultural narrative and the journey through the site by the public. They follow a logical progression connected to **sea, land and sky**, and will connect with **cultural stories across those areas**.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**SEA** | Freestanding sculpture

**LAND** | Sunshades perforation design

**SKY** | Embedded lighting artwork

## BUDGET

Production Budgets for each commission will be confirmed in Stage Two of the project.

This amount will be inclusive of all production costs including artist fees, design development fees, associated engineering and subcontractor fees, fabrication and installation.

## OPTION ONE: SEA Freestanding Sculpture

<i>Location</i>	Outside on corner of Paradise Beach Road & Kerry Street
<i>Artwork Format</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Freestanding sculpture</li><li>● Could include a water feature</li><li>● Integrated within landscape design</li></ul>
<i>Artwork Objective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● To immediately locate the library site within its First Nations history</li><li>● To connect the site with the sea and surrounding waterways</li><li>● To become an identifiable landmark for the site</li></ul>
<i>Notes</i>	Sandstone boulders will not be in the location We are open to any art form and material



## OPTION TWO: LANDS

### Sunshades

<i>Possible Location</i>	Sunshades wrapping the entire external walls and internal courtyard
<i>Artwork Format</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perforated design with metal sunshades</li></ul>
<i>Artwork Objective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To perform the functional requirement of partial shading</li></ul>
<i>Notes</i>	Selected artist will work with project architects Sunshades wrap the building in distinct sections



## OPTION THREE: SKY

### Lighting

<i>Location</i>	Underside of rooftop
<i>Artwork Format</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Embedded LED lighting</li></ul>
<i>Artwork Objective</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Celebrate First Nations science and astronomy</li><li>• To create visual interest during both the day and night</li></ul>
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Prior experience with lighting is not essential. Artists will be supported with the technical aspects of this artwork.</p>



# Artist Selection

## STAGE ONE: Expression of Interest

Suitably qualified First Nations artists are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). All submissions are assessed against the EOI Selection Criteria and a shortlist of suitably qualified artists will be selected for each artwork opportunity by the Art Selection Panel.

### Selection Criteria

- Cultural Connection to the Bay and Basin area
- Demonstration of creativity and artistic merit
- Willingness to expand your artistic practice into the domain of large-scale Public Art

2 - 3 artists will be shortlisted per opportunity.

### Submission Requirements

We are seeking expressions from artists who want to be considered for this project. We are not seeking detailed concepts at this stage.

EOI's can be submitted in written format, or as a video. Submission Form should you wish to submit a written version.

*Applications are to be emailed to:*

Please email your EOI to [council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au), with reference number 71326e.

The form will include:

- Artist Biography
- An artist statement in response to this project. This may include an initial idea (optional). This can be written (250 words) or video (max 3 mins).
- Artwork examples (max 5 images) with supporting information.
- Nominate the artwork opportunity you would like to undertake. You can nominate more than one option. However please note it is unlikely you will be shortlisted for more than one option.
- You can attach your Artist CV to the submission email as a separate attachment.

## STAGE TWO: ARTIST DESIGN COMPETITION

The Art Selection Panel will assess the EOI submissions and shortlist 2 -3 artists for each artwork commission.

The shortlisted artists will progress to Stage Two: Artist Design Competition.

Shortlisted artists will be invited to develop a conceptual proposal in response to the Artist Brief.

Artists will be paid a concept development fee.

During Concept Development artists will be supported and connected with public art specialists who can assist with the design and engineering requirements of an artistic concept.

Shortlisted artists will be asked to present their concept to the Art Selection Panel.

### **Key Dates:**

EOI Opens: Mon 25 July

EOI Closes: Mon 8th August 5pm

Panel select shortlist: Tues 10 Aug

Artists notified: Fri 12 Aug

Shortlist briefing: 15 - 19 Aug

Concept Development - 5 weeks

Concept Presentations: 26 Sept

Artworks selected: 27 Sept

*For any EOI questions, please email:*

Bronwyn Coulston, Arts & Culture Manager on (02) 4429 5441 or

Sarah Taylor, Library Services Manager on (02) 4429 3702.

## Appendices



*Current design for new Sanctuary Point Library. Image: Brewster Hjorth Architects*



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