

Design Canberra 2018

Museum of Possibilities

Summary of Engagement

23 November 2018

AUSTRALIA | NEW ZEALAND | SINGAPORE | KENYA | USA

The event

Canberrans Hopes and Dreams Shape our City Centre

ThinkPlace created the report for this engagement and is proudly a Gold sponsor of the Design Canberra Festival

DESIGN Canberra celebrates and promotes Canberra as a global city of design and is the primary outreach program of Craft ACT: Craft + Design Centre. All year round, Craft ACT has a gallery and shop featuring local designers and artists, and is located near Civic Square, at level 1, North Building, 180 London Cct, Canberra city.

Museum of Possibilities is supported by the ACT Government through the City Renewal Authority's City Grants Program.



Event: Museum of Possibilities
When: Thursday, 22 November 2018
Where: City Hill, Canberra ACT, Australia
Time: 8:00 am—7:00 pm
Cost: Free
Visit: designcanberrafestival.com.au

The possibilities

What kind of future city do you want to live in? Has the government where you live ever tried to ask you?

Even if they have, it probably fell on deaf ears. We know that traditional engagement practices often fail to generate enthusiasm. Fill out a survey. Attend a focus group.

Yawn, Snooze. What if we fired up your imagination instead? What if we made it fun?

As part of the Design Canberra Festival Montreal-based art collective Daily Tous Les Jours captured the voices of the ACT community from the immersive public event known as Museum of Possibilities. ThinkPlace, as a gold sponsor of the festival, was invited to analyse and report on the community's contributions.

Canberra's City Hill was transformed into a colourful forest of floating balloons for one morning only. This arresting visual spectacle hosted... anybody who was brave enough to face the elements on an uncharacteristically cold stormy November day in the City of Canberra.

Immersed in a dream like environment, on an otherwise infrequently and inaccessible public space at the heart of our city, visitors were invited to pick up a paper 'arrow's and share their dreams and hopes for what they would like to see, do, or who they would like to meet in their city centre.

As they wandered through the balloon forest they attached their reflections to the balloons. Extra prompts – 'at sunset', 'by bicycle' or 'with the girl of my dreams' – help visitors imagine scenarios of when, how, and with whom events might happen.

Visitors were also invited to vote with 'YES!' stickers, allowing them to energise the suggestions they like from their fellow citizens.

It was beautiful, social, fun and very temporary. But not be entirely frivolous.

The following pages produced by ThinkPlace capture and distill the combined reflections, wishes and dreams of the hundreds who visited the site into a report for the ACT Government's City Renewal Authority to hear.

The engagement

Museum of Possibilities

114
Responses

55
Possibilities
were supported by others

WHO?

- my mate
- my boyfriend
- my mother
- my great-uncle
- my girlfriend
- the family
- Kylie Minogue
- my dog
- my colleague
- my roommate
- a stranger
- you
- my step mother
- my neighbours
- a firefighter
- my boss
- the driver
- the girl of my dreams
- my little children

WHAT?

- have a picnic
- play Frisbee
- dance
- sing
- read
- play leapfrog
- practice tai-chi
- play guitar
- idea
- light up a barbecue
- listen to music
- take a nap
- compose
- ride a unicycle
- contemplate
- juggle
- jump high
- meet
- play hopscotch

HOW?

- wearing short pants
- in a dress
- with a blanket
- naked
- hand walking
- with a computer
- slating
- while sleeping
- wearing sandals
- smiling
- nonstop
- on foot
- riding a bike
- with flowers
- while dancing
- whistling
- wearing glasses
- barefoot
- under the rain

WHEN?

- on New Year
- in the arvo
- at dusk
- at noon
- now
- at midnight
- on the week-end
- during the holidays
- for his birthday
- the 1st of the month
- on sunday morning
- for a moment
- after work
- when I'm done
- in summer
- during Full Moon
- at the first snow
- on Australia Day
- after the gym

16

'Do'
Possibilities

62

'See'
Possibilities

1

"Do + Meet"
Possibility

5

'See + Meet'
Possibilities

5

'Meet'
Possibilities

9

'See + Do +
Meet'
Possibilities

8

"See + Do"
Possibilities

8

non specific
Possibilities

The Vision

Daily Tous les Jours

Daily tous les jours creates large scale interactive installations driven by collective experiences. The Montreal-based design studio uses technology, digital arts, performance, placemaking and storytelling to explore collaboration, the future of cities and the power of humans. DTLJ is best known for its work in public spaces, where passing crowds are invited to play a critical role in the transformation of their environment.

One of DTLJ's very first creation, The Museum of Possibilities was designed to spark conversations amongst strangers about a specific site in the city, and to challenge traditional public consultations into becoming festive events, encouraging dialog and varied interactions. Amongst a field of balloons, this installation invites anyone who care about their city to share their visions, dreams and hopes for the local community, transforming a public place into a place of empowerment, where stories are openly shared and heard.

DESIGN Canberra

Artistic Director of DESIGN Canberra, Rachael Coghlan said the event would be a key part of this year's festival.

“Our CBD needs energy, diversity and vision to create a new standard in city living, urban quality, sustainability and resilience commensurate with Canberra as a global city of design. To support our city's vitality, liveability and love-ability, we curated a series of high profile events, local and international artists, arts installations and design collaborations.

The highlight of our curated city program was when Montreal-based artists Daily tous les jours transformed City Hill at the civic end of Northbourne Avenue into a vibrant field of balloons. We were thrilled to invite all Canberrans to participate in this unique, creative, free and democratic exercise. All contributions from the community will be shared with the ACT Government via the City Renewal Authority,” she said.

The Vision

ThinkPlace

“This is about taking a bleeding-edge, innovative approach to public engagement. We know that some of the traditional approaches that governments take to these kind of consultations aren’t necessarily that effective. By firing people’s imaginations, engaging with their sense of playfulness and fun in a way that is whimsical and also visual, we believe we can create powerful new connections and in doing so generate fresh insights.”

For ThinkPlace the opportunity to collaborate on this project reflects a commitment to being at the forefront when it comes to public engagement strategies and methodologies. It reflects an openness to moving beyond the ways governments have traditionally interacted with citizens and an enthusiasm for turning imagination and creativity into useable, well-crafted insights that can drive future policy-making.

City Renewal Authority

The City Renewal Authority supported the Museum of Possibilities on City Hill through the award of a City Grant to strengthen DESIGN Canberra festival's presence in Civic. The interactive nature of this installation at City Hill aligned well with the Authority's vision for our city centre to be the vital heart of a dynamic and internationally competitive city, cherished by its people. The Museum of Possibilities event reminded us of the importance of connecting us with our city places and fellow citizens. Strengthening community is central to our renewal program. Converting into action the aspirations of participants captured through this initiative will assist us in achieving Canberrans' goals for their city as it evolves.

Malcolm Snow
CEO, City Renewal Authority



Play and wonder

Adults playing hopscotch and having fun!

More comedy clubs

Ride a unicorn

More children's play spaces

More national Parks!

A great big waterslide you can go on with a heater pool at the bottom

You take a nap naked at first snow!

A roller coaster

Play areas

Jump in more puddles

A river of zombies

Large slippery dips in town

Ginormous Balloons

More love adventures

Nakedness

A ferris wheel

Dance at dusk in sandals with Kylie Minogue!

Snow

Games to play. Family activities especially for dad and kids.

In Civic I would like to...
 see more love
 do Adventures
 meet

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

you take a nap naked
at first snow! ☺

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

dance at dusk
in sandals with
Kylie Minogue! ♡

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

A ferris Wheel!



In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

NAKEDNESS

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

Jump in
more puddles

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

- A Roller coaster
- Ride a Unicorn
- More National Parks
- Ginormous Ballons
- Play areas

adults playing hopscotch and
having fun!

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More Climbing gyms

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More comedy clubs

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Large slippery dips in town

YES!

YES!

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

NEON SIGNS EVERYWHERE.

YES!

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

A great big waterslide you can go on with a heated pool at the bottom

→ 26092

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

a river of zombies !!

Who, what, how & when



Events

More street performance

Design festivals all year round

More Canberra events and hang out with family and friends

Have events linking people and bring the community together

More activity related to "across the water" events; enlighten, etc

More free and safe events that engage the young adult community and multicultural community

Sit under the stars in summer, on City Hill, watching a performance and listening to great music

Canberra being able to handle big events

Kath and Kim live show

More events for young adults that do not involve alcohol

More festivals

More LGBTQ family events

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More events linking people and the community and bringing together!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More shared spaces when ppl can commune together + create a better sense of community.

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more activities with children + other families. 😊

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more events for young adults that do not involve alcohol.

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More Canberra Events & Hang out with family & friends 😊

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Spend time with friends and family enjoying watching the world happen

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More LGBTQ family events

YES!

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More free & safe events that engage the young adult community & multicultural community

Who,

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Sit under the stars in summer - on City Hill - watching a performance and listening to great music.

YES!

YES!

Who, what, how & when

Better
incorporation of
green spaces
into living
spaces to create
a "living city"

Green spaces
more public
art late night
coffee

More green
spaces

More
flowers

More nature and
places to sit

Green spaces

More trees, art
and green
spaces (no
concrete)

Greenery

Lots more
parks with
trees and
flowers

In Civic I would like to...

- see lots of parks with trees and flowers
- do
- meet

In Civic I would like to...

- see **More Greenery**
- do
- meet

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

better incorporation of green spaces into living spaces to create a 'living city'

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more nature
places to sit

(sorry sharpie went rogue)

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more green spaces

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Green spaces
More public art
Late night coffee

Who, what, how & when



Activities

More street performance

More markets

Similar installation at the hot air balloon spectacular in march

See Canberra from a hot air balloon

Shopping malls and food stalls, open 24hours, every week

Neon signs everywhere

More activities with children and other families

More climbing gyms

Pop up galleries

BMX track that goes over the city

Rock climbing

Outdoor yoga

Spend time with friends and family enjoying watching the world happen

More shared spaces when people can commune together and create a better sense of community

Sport and community events

Climbing gyms

More outdoor activities

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

More street performance
★
YES!!

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

MORE ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE
'ACROSS THE WATER' EVENTS;
ENLIGHTEN, ETC
(BIG PLUS TO DESIGN FOR THEIR
CANBERRA EVENTS!)
Who, what, how & when

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

more markets

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

see Canberra from a hot air balloon

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

see
do
meet

Design festivals
all year round

YES!

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

shopping malls
& food stalls open 24 hours
every week
^^
😊

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

more outdoor activities

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

Canberra being able to
handle BIG events!

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

more flowers
pop-up Galleries

Do children's play spaces

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

see
do
meet

MORE FESTIVALS.

YES!

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

More trees + Art +
green spaces
= NO
concrete



YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

* see sport
* community events

→ bike paths
→ extended light rail

↓
friends family for
dinners + events

Who, what

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

major sporting events

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

climbing Gyms
~~do~~ swimming
chuck Norris

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

OUTDOOR YOGA!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Rock climbing

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

BMX track
that goes over the city

Who, what, how & when

Food

More cafes –
outdoor cafes
late in the
evening

Good cheap
restaurants

More little
bars and
restaurants,
open on
weekends

See-food,
eating food
and meeting
other people
eating food

Early morning
breakfast in a
café with family

Night Markets for other
cultures foods. e.g.
lots of people who
migrate to Canberra for
work – showing their
food

Eat food

More street
food

A potato cake
vendor

In Civic I would like to...

- see food
- do eat/food
- meet other-people eating food

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More street food

YES!

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

a potato cake vendor.

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

good cheap restaurants

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Night markets for other cultures foods. e.g lots of people who migrate to Canberra for work - showing their food.

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

early in a morning breakfast with family

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more cafes - outdoor cafes late in the evening.

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More little bars + restaurants. (open on the weekend)

Who, what, how &

In Civic I would like to eat food

- see
- do
- meet

Who, what, how & when

Character

More love adventures

More vibrancy, and play for all

More colours

More love and light

Our beautiful mid century architecture is protected and thriving

Community garden in urban farms

Public Design

Lots of colour

More YES

More houses

Pro-environmental buildings

Big tall towers

More community gardens

A more welcoming place

Civic to me is tired and the old buildings need some love

More kindness in our streets and support those in need

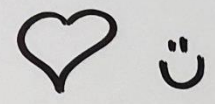
More bike racks everywhere so we can put them safely and explore civic



In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

MORE LIGHT & LOVE



YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

~~SNOW~~

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see more colours
- do
- meet



In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more kindness in our streets and support those in need.

In Civic I would like to...

More bike racks every where so we can put them safely and go explore Civic

- see
- do
- meet

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

A more welcoming place

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More Yes

YES!

YES!

YES!

In Civic I would like to...

- see more vibrancy
- do more play for all
- meet

*** Civic to me is lived the old buildings need some love**

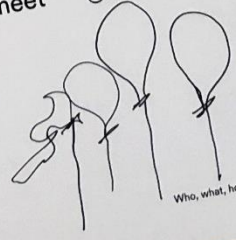
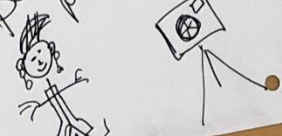
Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

Interesting, diverse like minded people photography

- see
- do
- meet

lots of colour.



Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

More houses

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

Pro-environmental buildings.

In Civic I would like to...
 see Big tall towers
 do
 meet

In Civic I would like to...

YES!
YES!
YES!
YES!
YES!
YES!

Our beautiful mid century
architecture protected + thriving ♡

see
 do
 meet

Who, what, how & when



People

The LGBTIQ community getting together and lots of rainbow

Obama, Obama, Obama

Chuck Norris

Amazing passionate arty people

Like minded people who care about others

Lots of people everyday

More diversity and see more inclusion

Obama

Meet my mum at the museum of possibilities and show her around

Everyone not only developers

Public Housing

More people

Industry contacts

Real people

People being nice to each other

People

Friends hang

Interesting, diverse, like minded people

My fellow citizens

Friends and family, dinner and events

Chuck Norris

Public Housing

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

COMMUNITY GARDENING IN URBAN FARMS

SAFE FOOT TRAFFIC PATHS
MY FELLOW CITIZENS

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Meet my Mum at the Museum of Possibilities and show her around

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

like minded people who care about others.

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Everyone not only here

MORE PUBLIC HOUSING
REAL PEOPLE

* PUBLIC HOUSING *

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

MORE PEOPLE

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Similar installation at the Hot Air Balloon Spectacular in March. Lots of people. Everyday.

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More Diversity and see more inclusion - More community gardens

YES!

... see Friends
 do Hang
 meet

Habi bi

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

obama
obama
obama

to...

- see
- do
- meet

obama

47 No
more staid things

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

the LGBTQ community getting together and lots of rainbows

Who, what, how & when

Accessibility

City hill with safe access used as a picnic area.

Better support for homeless people

More access for people with disability. Please

More multistorey parking/free parking

Shared roads (Bunda street extended)

Extended light rail

Bike paths that do not just end at an intersection. Ditto pathways e.g. getting to city hill

Bike paths

Housing prices flail

More cycle paths

I'd love to see more connection between the "pockets" of civic



In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

shared roads (Bunda Street extended)

In Civic I would like to...

- see more cycle paths.
- do public design
- meet industry contacts

I'd love to see more connections between the 'pockets' of civic.

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

more multi story parking / free parking

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

better support for homeless people

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More activities and access for people with Disabilities!!

PLEASE

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

CITY HILL with safe access used as a picnic area Games to play - Family activities esp for Dads & kids.

Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

Bike Pathways that Do Not just end at an intersection... Ditto Pathways... e.g. getting to City Hill!!

More music venues

More live music in civic

More local art/ artists

Better live music

Participatory art projects with art/social history museums and galleries in public space of civic

More interactive public art.

Live music

Buskers and live music everywhere

Close off Braddon to have artists alley with markets, shops, food stalls, exhibitions, adult size playground, interesting community interactive events.

More opportunities for local artists

More music and dance performances

More art galleries

Arts and music

World class art

More artistic venues

More art and design by local makers

More colourful lights and art

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

YES!

More ARTistic VENUES.

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

World class art

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

PARTICIPATORY ART PROJECTS WITH THE ART/SOCIAL HISTORY MUSEUMS + GALLERIES IN PUBLIC SPACES OF CIVIC

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

YES!

More Interactive Public Art

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

more art galleries

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

more local art/artists

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

more colourful lights and art

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

YES!

Close off the Street in Braddon to have artist alley with markets, shops, food stalls, exhibitions, adult size playground, interesting community interactive events.

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

more ART + design by local makers!

In Civic I would like to...
 see
 do
 meet

More opportunities for local artists 😊

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

more music & dance performances!

YES!

YES!

YES!

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to... see Live Music
 do
 meet with friends
 eat great food

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

MORE LIVE MUSIC IN CIVIC.

YES!

YES!

YES!

what, how & when

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

better live music

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

BUSKERS AND LIVE MUSIC EVERYWHERE

Who, what, how & when

In Civic I would like to... see
 do
 meet

More Music Venues 🎵?

YES!

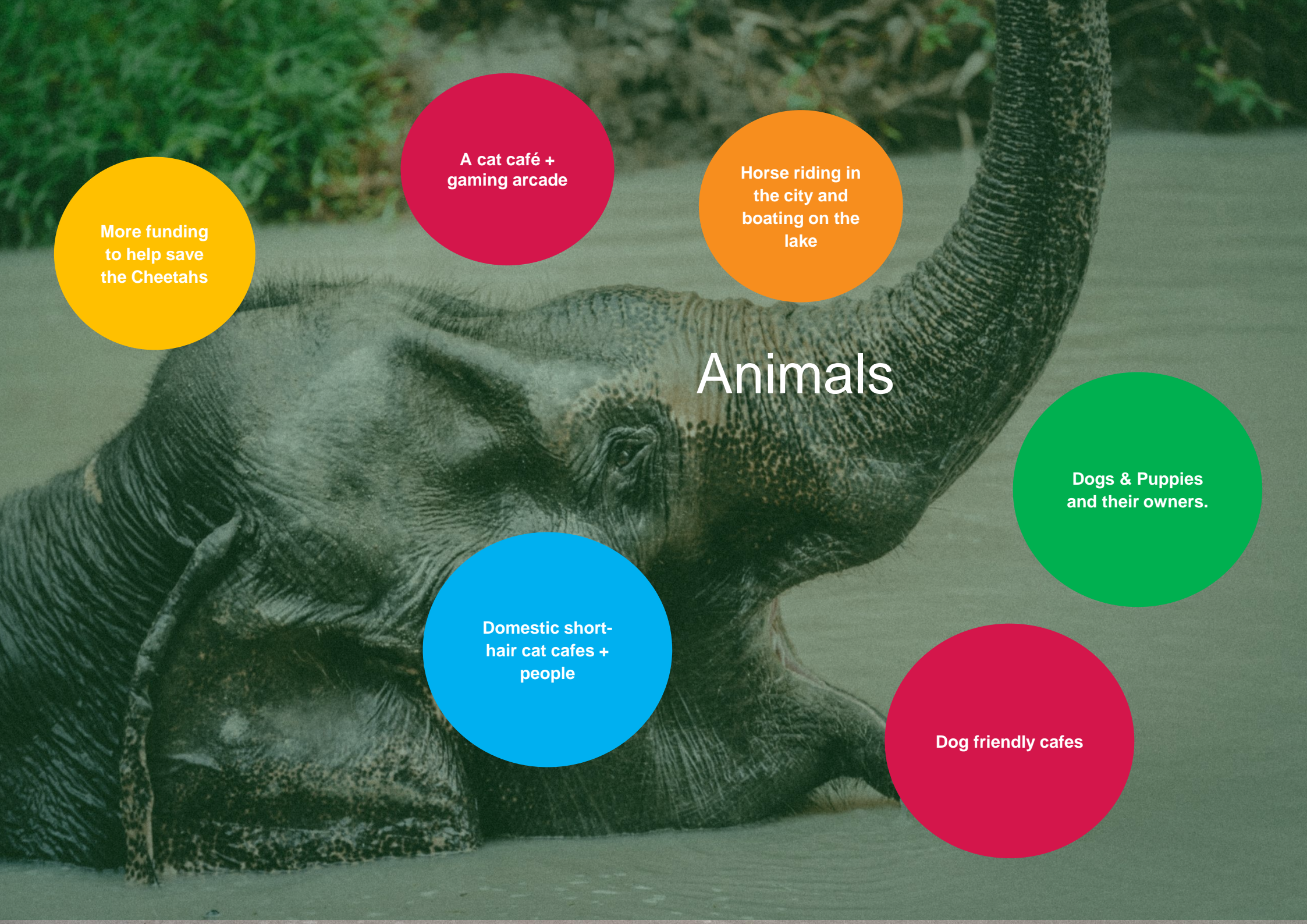
YES!

YES!

YES!

Who, what, how & when

Who, what, how & when



Animals

More funding to help save the Cheetahs

A cat café + gaming arcade

Horse riding in the city and boating on the lake

Dogs & Puppies and their owners.

Domestic short-hair cat cafes + people

Dog friendly cafes

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

dog friendly cafes

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

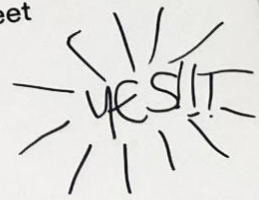
Dogs & puppies
+ their owners / Kath + Kian
Live show

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet


- Domestic shorthair
- Cat cafes
- People

YES!



In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

• a gaming arcade.
• a Cat Cafe 

YES!


In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

- Boating on the lake
- Horse riding in the city

In Civic I would like to...

- see
- do
- meet

More funding
to help save the
Cheetahs 

YES!

What we heard

In review of the feedback provided it is clear to see that the people of Canberra love their city. Canberrans want to see an increasingly diverse, inclusive, vibrant and whimsical future state.

We heard a strong call for people and animals to be more visible in our city. People want to see a dynamic and diverse population in the city. It was suggested that we need more people actually living in our city. We also heard that people want to be able to share moments in the city with animals such as dogs, cats, horses and unicorns at inclusive cafes and park areas.

Many voices shared their desire for more activities to be hosted within the city centre. Some participants were seeking more family friendly, alcohol free and outdoor events, while others were looking at an increase in shared areas that offer opportunity to bring people with different interests together. In addition a few of the comments call for opportunity for nudists to be free in the city.

People called for an increase in greenery within the city. Community gardens, established landscapes and natural gardens. In addition to more greenery we heard people wanting roller coasters, bmx tracks, rivers of zombies and puddles for jumping.

We heard through this engagement that there is desire for our city to be more expressive and playful.

In Conclusion

Increasingly, state and local governments are recognising that citizens can and must play an active role in deciding the future direction of the cities they live in. The challenge is in how we best reach out to representative audiences and offer them the opportunity to have their voices heard.

We saw hundreds of people brave the unsavory weather in support of this bold, creative and whimsical installation. These people accepted the invitation to immerse themselves in a colourful and playful environment. An environment that is so often void of people.

The Museum of Possibilities transformed City Hill, the island heart of Canberra, surrounded by Vernon Circle at the intersection of Northbourne and Commonwealth Avenues into a bright, vibrant and activated space.

Daily Tous les Jours methods to open imaginations and enable people to share their hopes and dreams in this immersive and engaging environment is a testament to the ACT Governments continued appetite to experiment with varied engagement methods to reach the community.

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