Good evening.
I thank the Council for receiving this deputation.

I’m Peter Lindon, representing the community members of the Prospect Arts Action Network.
We’re to offer some design thinking about our Art Gallery and the general presence of the arts in the new CLIC building.
We’re extraordinarily mindful that this is a once in a generation opportunity.

Fact:
Art exhibitions draw bigger crowds than the footy.

This is Australia Council research from 2009-10.
Art galleries got about 11 million visitors that year.
Our most popular spectator sport, AFL football, got 10 million.

So art is popular.
And it makes common sense that our Art Gallery should therefore be right in the heart of the public spaces in the new building.
With that in mind, our research has settled on the idea of a gallery that, most of the time, is three sided. As people walk through the new building to pay their rates or visit the library, they’ll see a place that welcomes them, that says ‘come and have a look!’ It’s lively. It brings the unexpected. It stimulates.

(Note. This Community Gallery is showing recent acquisitions for the city of Whitehorse in Canada. Although very close to the same population as Prospect, it also has a main gallery four times the size of our current one.)

The airiness of the Gallery will also give an increased sense of space to the adjacent service areas. The two will complement each other and the spaciousness is achieved at little or no cost.
We know that flexibility is key to much of modern life and it’s also going to be the way to make the most of what a Gallery can offer.

Moveable panel units make the gallery adaptable to the needs of different exhibitions. These can easily be shifted by one person.
Panels are perfect for our popular community exhibitions, which are always crowded events where the art is crammed high and low.

If necessary a couple of panels could make up a fourth wall and be moved into place.

Why would you do that?

Audio and video are common ways of making art these days and we need to be up with the times.

Sound isolation and sound absorbing acoustics make showing these possible.
And once you’ve got the acoustics right the gallery space becomes even more useful.

Public meetings, seminars and discussions – hosting events, whether they are to do with the arts or not.

In our combing of the web looking for forward thinking ideas, one of our PAAN people had a fabulous find.

It takes the idea of the shop window display, turns it around 180 degrees and meets a special need.

Called the Slot Gallery, it’s a small ever changing display cabinet for a variety of art forms.
We in the PAAN often come across artists who have made good work but who don’t have enough for a full exhibition.

Sadly, we have to say no, but that rubs against the grain of encouraging the arts.

The community members of the PAAN are so keen to follow this up that we’ll organise the exhibits ourselves.

We’re talking street frontage, about 3 metres wide and quite shallow.

The displays will work in daytime as well as at night.
They will add significantly to the nightlife we’re all keen to see encouraged in the vicinity of the new building.

Every month or more there will be something new. Something engaging, attractive and original.

1 in 3 Australians are creating visual arts and crafts

OK, some more research from the Australia Council - 1 in 3 Australians are creating visual arts and crafts.

We want to support those one in three and, as a Council, we used to do that.
Prior to the development of the Digital Hub in Thomas Street, there was an area next to the gallery which was used by art groups and an artist-in-residence.

We now have an opportunity to reinvigorate this engagement with the arts.

A wide range of art making can be catered for.
Arts Spaces
(250 m$^2$ allocated)
Gallery – a bit less than half
Making Space – a bit less than half
Gallery storage – 50 m$^2$
Slot Gallery - tiny

Current plans allocate 250 square metres in the CLIC to Arts related spaces. Our recommendation is that they be distributed as shown by the slide.

The City of Prospect also has its own substantial Arts Collection. One way or another storage for that will also be required.

Finally, by putting some art at the entrance to the new building we’ll be showing that Prospect deserves its reputation for supporting the visual arts. We have a long history of doing so, and while we’re small council, we’re nationally recognised for it.

So, bigger crowds than the AFL. A participation rate of one in three. And a once in a generation opportunity. Thank you for your time.
The community members of the PAAN thank the following people and organisations for use of the images contained in this presentation.

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