

**CIVIC SQUARE TO BE TRANSFORMED WITH AN ARRAY OF ACTIVATIONS  
THROUGHOUT THE DESIGN CANBERRA FESTIVAL 2019**

Civic Square will be transformed to become the dedicated site for talks, entertainment, parties, performances, art, wellness and ideas during each working week from 4 – 24 November for the **DESIGN Canberra** 2019 festival.

The centerpiece of Civic Square will be a large painted ground design decided by competition, and a temporary sculptural pavilion, commissioned by DESIGN Canberra and designed by the University of Canberra Faculty of Arts and Design team. The designs will create a dialogue between the ground plane of Civic Square, its fascinating history, and a remarkable program delivered by DESIGN Canberra and its partners. This transformation of Civic Square has been made possible with support from the ACT Government under the City Renewal Authority's City Grants program.

“Our plans for Civic Square in this year's festival express our curatorial vision to encourage collaboration, experimentation and innovation – locally, nationally and internationally. Centrally located on the axis between City Hill and Mt Ainslie, we want to explore creative ways to reconnect Civic Square with the original vision of the Griffins' plan and an exciting contemporary vision for Canberra, a city of design,” says DESIGN Canberra festival Artistic Director, Rachael Coghlan.

This year's temporary architectural installation in Civic Square will be designed, fabricated and installed by a multi-disciplinary design team headed up by the University of Canberra's Iain (Max) Maxwell, the co-director of international award-winning architecture and innovation practice Supermanoeuvre, and recent addition to the Faculty of Arts and Design.

“The pavilion's design reclaims the civic function of the square, creating a new urban room for formal and informal festival events,” says Max Maxwell. “The University of Canberra is dedicated to the city it serves, and this provides a tangible extension of its work in the community, where people can congregate and swap ideas on the future of our Capital.”

The architectural installation will celebrate the festival's commitment to design excellence and experimentation and will become a backdrop to an exciting program of events, experiences and community engagement.

DESIGN Canberra is also calling on artists and designers to make their mark on the city centre with a competition for a 'graphic intervention'.

Building on the popularity of DESIGN Canberra's collaborations with local artists in Civic Square such as Jodie Cunningham (2017) and Marilou Chagnaud (2018), this year the team are seeking proposals that create a dialogue between the ground plane of Civic Square, its fascinating history and the temporary architectural pavilion.

Besides being an art experience of its own, the Graphic Intervention will be used as a prelude and backdrop to the DESIGN Canberra pavilion—a sculptural intervention into the open space of Civic Square. Together the graphic and architectural installations will frame audience experiences for DESIGN Canberra's programs including talks, tours, exhibitions, performances, a pop-up bar and wellness programs like public yoga and meditation.

**GRAPHIC INTERVENTION KEY DATES:**

- 16 Aug - 23 Sep – Submission Dates
- 24 Sep – 25 Sep – Jury Review Dates
- 27 Sep – Winner Notification Date
- 30 Sep- 25 Oct – Installation Preparation Dates
- 28 Oct – 1 Nov – GRAPHIC Intervention Installation Dates
- 4 Nov – Opening Event
- 4 Nov – 24 Nov – DESIGN Canberra Festival
- 25 Nov – GRAPHIC Intervention Deinstallation Date

COMPETITION SITE: Civic Square.

ARTIST FEE: \$1,000.00

For further information on Graphic Intervention and to submit a proposal, please visit:

<https://designcanberrafestival.com.au/preview/highlights/4436/>

Alongside the two design commissions which will form the centrepiece of Civic Square, the site will be a hub of talks, entertainment, parties, performances, art, wellness and ideas over the three weeks.

A weekly theme will shape the program:

- HEAD: Imagine Futures (week 1)
- HEART: Responsible Futures (week 2)
- HANDS: Crafted Futures (week 3)

Highlights of the Civic Square program include keynote talks, panel discussions, designer presentations, tours of architecture and public art, films, music, pop-up bar, product launches and a wellness program (yoga, meditation, social running and cycling groups). Hands-on workshops will also be presented in the square.

The full program will be launched in mid-September 2019.

DESIGN Canberra will take over Canberra from 4 – 24 November 2019.

For more information on the festival, please visit: [www.designcanberrafestival.com.au](http://www.designcanberrafestival.com.au)

-ends-

**For media enquiries:**

Progressive PR and Communications

Tess Yodgee

tess@progressivepr.com.au

0432 904 899 / 03 9696 6417

**ABOUT CIVIC SQUARE AND THE CITY HILL PRECINCT**

Civic Square is located on the slope of one of the Griffins' node points, the axis between City Hill and Mt Ainslie.

The City Hill precinct is part of the original structure of the Griffins' plan for Canberra. It is the symbolic and geographical centre of Canberra which could become a beating municipal heart for our city centre.

The 1912 Griffin plan for Canberra was at the cutting edge of urban planning, incorporating natural features such as mountains as axes to connect and define the different zones of an ideal city. The plan featured a land axis (from Mt Ainslie to Red Hill) and a water axis from Black Mountain (today stretching along Lake Burley Griffin). The strong geometry continued with the inclusion of a national triangle connecting Capital Hill, Mt Pleasant and City Hill. City Hill is today a five-hectare landscaped hill surrounded by Vernon Circle and features formal tree plantings by Thomas Charles Weston from the 1920s.

A secondary axial avenue (Ainslie Ave) runs through Civic between City Hill and Mt Ainslie. It was envisaged that this axis would house civic buildings, include a formal square (Civic Square) and maintain an open visual link to City Hill; however, this is no longer the case. Ainslie Avenue is one of six avenues radiating from City Hill, encircled by a great hexagonal boulevard (London Cct). This hexagon reappears in Tom Bass' sculpture Ethos (1961), located in the southeast part of Civic Square. The sculpture is highly symbolic referring to culture and enlightenment, and to Canberra's community.

**ABOUT DESIGN CANBERRA**

DESIGN Canberra is an annual festival which celebrates and promotes Canberra as a global city of design.

Design is in Canberra's DNA. From the time of Walter and Marion Griffin's visionary design a century ago, to iconic experimental modernist architecture of the 1950s and 60s, through to contemporary and sustainable design developments today, Canberra has always been a living design laboratory.

Throughout November 2019, over 200 events, exhibitions, talks, tours, markets, artist studios and open homes will be showcased as DESIGN Canberra. The festival is for all interests and ages and most events are free. Last year a record 112,000 people attended the festival.

Presented by Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre. Program: [www.designcanberrafestival.com.au](http://www.designcanberrafestival.com.au)

DESIGN Canberra Festival 2019 is proudly sponsored by:

Government Partner: ACT Government

Major Partner: Canberra Centre

Platinum Partners: Rolfe Classic BMW, home.by holly, University of Canberra

Hotel Partner: Midnight Hotel

Selected festival programs have been made possible with support from the ACT Government under the City Renewal Authority's City Grants program.