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Proposals for enhancing the facilities of the Boyd Community Hub

Introduction: Originally Southbank was an industrial site. Unlike other parts of Melbourne, it had no residents. As other suburbs were established and grew, local councils and the state government provided essential infrastructure for those who lived there. These included:

- A town hall for community events,
- An Infant Welfare Centre,
- Childcare centres,
- Kindergartens,
- Schools with open areas and halls,
- Parks,
- Playgrounds,
- Sports facilities, such as Tennis Clubs and ovals and
- Shopping strips with spaces for professional services.

The development of Southbank as a residential location was done by developers, consequently none of the above were provided for.

Southbank is deficient in most of these. The re-design of Boyd Community Hub is an opportunity to address these to some degree.

1st Proposal: The SRA recommends the provision of a proper 'Village Hall', as a place for large gatherings, community forums, cultural nights, performances and space for activities, games and social functions, something other municipalities take for granted, e.g. at Port Melbourne Town Hall. The space created by the relocation of the library is an ideal opportunity.

The features of such a space could include:

- A multifunction space with movable partitions to enable the space to accommodate a variety of events, functions and activities and for groups of different sizes, all simultaneously. The current pillars running East – West on the North side of the space can be effective anchor points for partitions,
- A timbered floor that can serve as a dance floor for social occasions and for physical activities and games, tables seating 8 are 1.7 m in diameter, with edges 1.5 m apart and 1.0 m from walls. Three tables across would require 10.1m and four tables 13.3 m. It is likely that the space could accommodate a function of about 100 people.
- Stackable chairs (x 200) with space to store them and inter-lockable as stand-alone chairs are a hazard in an evacuation
- Retractable seating to increase the range of offerings the space would enable without taking up much room,
- Full AV with a large screen, digital projector and four microphones,
- A platform or stage, possibly removable or collapsible, for presenters, performers, etc
- A kitchen with the following, possibly located in the current Library work room which is below the kitchen above:
 - Standard household oven
 - Commercial fridge (three door)
 - Small dishwasher
 - 6 element electric stove top
 - Servery

Not included would be cutlery, crockery, etc. Hirers of the space would need to supply their own.

- Tables: There may not be the space to store tables, either round banquet or trestle tables. Hirers may need to supply their own.
- Sound proofing. There may be the need to install acoustic double glazing on the windows to minimise the impact of evening noise on neighbours
- Wi-Fi
- Green room / meeting room in the current space for children's books.

This proposal is based on what is commonly available in other municipalities.

2nd proposal

The Boyd Community Hub is going to need additional meeting spaces and consulting rooms. The Play Group is increasing as more families move into Southbank. Similarly, the Maternal and Child Health services and the Family and Counselling Support Services are experiencing increasing demand. Many local groups need a space to meet and engage. The Assembly Hall and the Principal's Office cannot fill the need.

There are two additional areas that can be used.

Area 1: The ground floor foyer that has several chairs and wall benches.

This area could be walled off with glass walls and used as a bookable space. The current furniture could stay there, with the addition of a table to seat six in the middle of the room.

When the room is not booked, it would be open for casual use. The same practice is currently in place in the Assembly Hall.

Area 2: The space upstairs used by the Australian Book Review (ABR)

It would seem ABR obtained this space from Creative Spaces of the City of Melbourne. There is likely to be a rental fee.

ABR could be asked to find another space elsewhere in Melbourne or Creative Spaces could be asked to move ABR to another of the spaces that they look after.

The ABR is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia and is also supported by the South Australian Government. There is also support from Monash University, the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, Good Business Foundation, the Sidney Myer Fund, Australian Communities Foundation, Sydney Community Foundation, AustLit, Readings, Academy Travel, the City of Melbourne, Pitch Projects and Arnold Bloch Leibler.

The ABR also has patrons who have provided generous support. The numbers are as follow:

Greater than \$100,000	3 patrons	\$5,000 to \$9,999	31 patrons
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1 patron	\$2,500 to \$4,999	44 patrons
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2 patrons	\$1,000 to \$2,499	43 patrons
\$25,000 to \$49,999	10 patrons	\$500 to \$999	21 patrons
\$15,000 to \$24,999	4 patrons	\$250 to \$499	14 patrons
\$10,000 to \$14,999	16 patrons	Bequests:	14 estates

The ABR is certainly a worthy cultural institution that makes an important contribution to life in Australia, but it has no obvious presence or specific impact on Southbank and given that the space at Boyd Community Hub is at a premium, it would be an appropriate recommendation that Creative Spaces relocates ABR or that ABR seeks its own space.