

Arts Working Group Report

for the

Cultural & Environmental Resource Centre Project (CERC)

Coochiemudlo Island Historical Society Inc.

Members of this group:- Dennis & Margarite Lack, Ruth McDougall, Mary Preston, Lenore Smith, Viv & Denise Wright,

Our understanding is that the space to be allotted to the **Arts** will be shared with the **Education and Environment** groups and will be open-plan in design. Bearing this in mind, our discussions were quite wide-ranging and covered the following points.

Who will use this centre? (Besides the museum display, sales/reception area and library)

Local Artists & Craft practitioners

- for demonstrations
- for teaching
- for puppet shows
- musicians
- solo entertainers (The space is not big enough for plays)

Educators

- talks and displays (local environment, bush and marine.)

Local children, school groups, clubs, pensioner groups.

Visiting artists and craftspeople

Tourists.

Various artists can be encouraged to use this space. For example:-

Arts, textiles, pottery, glass, woodworking, drama, music, puppets, sculpture, jewellery, papermaking, sewing, photography, dance, yoga, tai chi, ikebana, film making, video production, workshop talks.

Why do we want or need the building?

It will be:-

a venue for exhibitions.

An opportunity for island artists to display their work and share their skills.

A place to network and enjoy companionship with like-minded people.

The sales outlet will encourage people to do quality work & will fund the centre.

It will enhance the island's image for both residents and tourists.

We can have a data base for Coochiemudlo artists, with computer images for local artists to display their work for sale.

It will be a venue for screening special films or videos.

Our requirements for the Space

- The space should be flexible enough to accommodate many different activities, if we want it to be well-used.
- It should be low maintenance and have light, neutral-coloured, walls.
- We would need a **minimum of 50 sq.m.** of space.
- It should have a large area of walls with tracking and track lighting. (Walls could be mobile to change spaces for particular needs).
- We suggest clere story lighting so that we have plenty of natural light as well as good quality, general artificial lighting. This should include the ability to have extra spotlights.
- Several movable screens (with lockable wheels) to provide extra display space.
- Natural ventilation should be good (plus air-conditioning or fans).
- It is essential to have a good sound system, OHP, whiteboard and DVD rather than video. (Care should be taken with accoustics.)
- Plenty of power points (for extra lighting, music and equipment above).
- * It is important to have a **lockable storage area.**
- * Tables should be light, strong and collapsible and chairs stackable.
- * The group felt strongly that a **work area** (for arts, crafts, talks for school children etc) must be included in the plans, but should be separate from the display area. Possible solutions for this could be:-
 - a **double carport in the grounds (?enclosed)**
 - a **covered verandah or a large shed.** (This could also include the lockable, storage area)

Other wide-ranging considerations we discussed:-

The exhibition space should be affordable so that it has good usage.

It should have good security, both general and in the sales area.

An annual programme should be well-planned , varied and balanced. It should also include money-raising opportunities.

Good publicity through schools, newspapers etc.

The CERC should not intrude in the role of others on the island (e.g. community hall, recreation club etc.).

We felt that a **Manager is the preferred option with volunteer help.**

There should be an awareness of noise for the local neighbourhood.

We would also like to see **an outdoor museum, with learning stations around the island**, for natural habitat and things of historical interest (e.g. Morton's steps). A booklet could be produced for self-guided tours or there could be guided walking tours .

(The library could be included in this building but will also need approximately 48sq.m. Barbara Gregory (librarian) will discuss her requirements separately.)

Denise Wright.

List of Requirements (Desires) for Educational and Environmental Aspects of Cultural Centre.

Inside

Visual:

- **Television**
- **VCR**
- **Video** (to be professionally made – Topic to include underwater themes, island profile, oral history recordings etc) It was envisaged that these videos would be played constantly while visitors were present.
- **Photocopier**
- **Aquarium (as large as possible) plus all the relevant equipment** – stand/cabinet, nets water testers and other chemicals, lights, protein skimmer, pumps, heaters, aerators, sand, live rock (dead coral)
- **Computer and Printer** (with designed programs for interactive activities)
- **Posters, Aerial Photographs, Photographs**

Tactile:

- **Display drawers (with Coochie collection)** (shells, rocks, flotsam and jetsam, artefacts, fossils)
- **Perspex Display Cabinets**
- **Pigeon hole boxes** (for sorting games)
- **Buckets, sand, trays etc.** (for outdoor children's area)

Auditory:

- **Sound System - Cassette/CD Deck**
- **Tapes/CDs of Nature, Bird Calls, Music etc.** (for outdoors as well)

Outside

Visual:

- **Landscaping with indigenous plant**
- **Mobiles, Sculptures, Wind Sculptures, (of Found Coochie Objects)**
- **Artefacts throughout landscaping**
- **Puppet Theatre, Stage**

Tactile:

- **Buckets, sand, trays etc.** (for outdoor children's area)
- **Red Soil Area with buckets, trays and calico squares** (for dying and face painting)

Auditory:

- **Sound Sculptures**

It would be expected that within the design of the building there would be adequate space to take groups of at least 30 people. This would also apply for the outdoor stage area.