

February 6, 2018

Welcome to HOTA, Home of the Arts

The future got brighter today on the Gold Coast with the launch of HOTA, Home of the Arts.

We've loved being The Arts Centre Gold Coast, but now we are becoming something so much more. As HOTA, Home of the Arts we give you a unique new outdoor stage and a spectacular outdoor program featuring some of the biggest names in the business, the brightest emerging artists and local talent. When we're not presenting amazing live performances, we'll bring the parklands alive with dance, yoga, parkrun, markets and community events. HOTA, Home of the Arts will be a place for conversation, collaboration, and creativity. A place that locals love and visitors must see, with the iconic backdrop of Surfers Paradise, one of Australia's most famous destinations.

HOTA, Home of the Arts will bring you events and experiences from the everyday to the provocative, the niche to the mainstream. From boardshorts to black tie, there's something for you here.

**Visit HOTA.com.au for all information.
Get tickets Friday 9 February, 2018 at 9am**

HOTA, Home of the Arts officially came to life on the Gold Coast today, with the announcement of the new name and introduction of a spectacular new outdoor stage. Also announced was the first outdoor program at HOTA featuring big names, collaborations and local talent.

Kicking off the 2018 outdoor program at HOTA is none other than Australia's brilliant showman and provocateur, the internationally acclaimed **Tim Minchin**. This special free concert to officially launch the HOTA outdoor program for 2018 will be held on 17 March; Minchin's first in Australia for years.

Standouts in the 2018 program include Australian music legend **Neil Finn**, the mighty **Queensland Symphony Orchestra**, and in a major coup for the region, multi-award winner and pioneer, musician and film director, **Laurie Anderson** will leave her home in New York to take up residency at HOTA. Tickets for Tim Minchin can be secured by subscribing at hota.com.au, the rest of the program will be on sale from 9 February.

Announcing the news this morning was City of Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, HOTA Chair Robyn Archer AO, and HOTA CEO Criena Gehrke along with supporters and friends of the precinct.

"We've talked about the cultural precinct becoming the city's cultural heartland. What better than to name the precinct Home of the Arts. Everyone knows home is where the heart is," said City of Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate.

"A new name, a spectacular new venue, and a wonderfully energised new program comes as the result of many years of planning and hard work by multiple teams and a huge commitment from the City of Gold Coast," said HOTA Chair Robyn Archer AO.

"This moment is the inspirational beginning of a new era for the Gold Coast, for both its residents and its millions of visitors. At last, the sixth largest city in Australia has created a brilliant state-of-the-art platform for the commissioning, producing and presenting of the most exciting artists from the region, the nation and the world," she said.

“That HOTA has been able to attract artists of the quality of Tim Minchin, Laurie Anderson and Neil Finn to its opening program is a testimony to a starry future: the instinct to set them alongside a wholly local new work like *The Spirit of Churaki*, the musical richness of the QSO, and grand-scale community participation shows that HOTA is welcoming to one and all. HOTA unapologetically embraces the broadest sense of culture and at the same time insists on excellence every step of the way.”

Also unveiled today was a spectacular new mural by New York based street artist **MOMO** on the walls of the tower at HOTA. Best known for his huge, playful, complex and brightly coloured abstract murals, the internationally famed MOMO was chosen from more than 120 submissions to create a spectacular piece that heralded the coming of HOTA.

“The MOMO mural is a proud statement of the new direction that we have taken as we become HOTA, Home of the Arts. To attract an artist of MOMO’s calibre is a real coup and underlines the commitment we have to bringing great art and artists to the Gold Coast, as well as ensuring artistic leaders share their knowledge and skill via mentorships with our local artists,” said HOTA CEO Criena Gehrke.

The unveiling and launch of HOTA today is the result of years of work, and a vision driven by City of Gold Coast.

“This magnificent and **state-of-the-art \$37.5 million Stage 1** is just the beginning for HOTA, and there is much more to come. Today we pay tribute to a truly extraordinary new precinct for not only our region and state, but for the country – it is a place where artists from all over the world can converge and perform, create and mentor,” said Mayor Tom Tate.

“The next stage of construction, scheduled to begin in mid-late 2018, will be a new green bridge across to Chevron Island which will be followed in late 2018 by a new Art Gallery. Once built, it will be the largest regional art gallery in Australia. The Gallery will become a cultural beacon showcasing the City of Gold Coast art collection and hosting international exhibitors of a calibre never seen before on the Gold Coast,” he said.

HOTA CEO Criena Gehrke said HOTA presented a once-in-a-generation transformative program for the cultural life of the Gold Coast.

“Surrounded by parkland and lake with Surfers Paradise as the backdrop, HOTA, Home of the Arts is a place for live performances, lake-side strolls, star-gazing, farmers markets, cinema-watching, art and new-ideas, gathering, dance, creation and more. We are now home to the Gold Coast Film Festival, and are working with The Farm, Bleached Arts and The Walls,” she said.

“We call out to all fans and followers of arts, entertainment, creativity, music, storytelling and more – come and visit, go for a swim, dry off your sandy feet and wander over to the outdoor stage to experience world class artists. Welcome home!”

Tickets:

TIM MINCHIN IN CONCERT, 17 MARCH. FREE (tickets required)

To reserve Tim Minchin limited pre-release tickets:

- Sign up to HOTA News before 2am Thursday 8 February.
(tick to receive emails from HOTA and tick to receive HOTA News)
- At 9am on Thursday 8 February subscribers will be sent an email with a link to reserve tickets.

All other shows on sale Friday 9 February at 9am

Full outdoor program listing:

- **TIM MINCHIN IN CONCERT, 17 MARCH. FREE** (tickets required)
- **CONCERT FOR THE PLANET, 24 MARCH. FREE**
- **DANCING ON THE GREEN, 21 APRIL** (then monthly). FREE
- **CLASSIC FLOW LIVE: YOGA BY THE LAKE, 12 & 13 May. FREE** (registration required)
- **THE SPIRIT OF CHURAKI, 26 MAY. FREE**
- **LAURIE ANDERSON IN RESIDENCE, 18 – 24 JUNE.**
- **QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – FROM JAWS TO JURASSIC THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS, 16 JUNE.**
- **NEIL FINN WITH ORCHESTRA: OUT OF SILENCE, 30 JUNE. TICKETS Adult \$59 / Child \$49**
+ booking fee
- **CORROBOREE, ON THE FIRST DAY OF EVERY MONTH. FREE**

ENDS

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ABOUT THE OUTDOOR STAGE AND THE PRECINCT

The \$37.5 million* new Outdoor Stage is like nothing the City has seen before. Completed at the end of 2017 it brings extraordinary new capacities for performances and events, and the ability to attract artists and performers of a calibre not seen before on the Gold Coast.

An international design competition was held in 2013, attracting more than 75 entries. Won by one of Australia's leading creative design firms, ARM Architecture, their playful design, which adopted the dynamic and generative principles of a Voronoi diagram (a series of polygons) was chosen. The pattern organises and connects elements across the entire precinct to visually capture the diversity of experiences at HOTA, from opera to community events, music to contemporary art.

At home on more than 1.5ha of landscaped lawns with a full theatrical fit out, and with the stunning Surfers Paradise skyline as a backdrop, this outdoor stage features a 5.5 tonne bi-fold proscenium door and has a self-supporting 100 tonne shade structure. The 20m wide Outdoor Stage is a flexible space which can be used for both large scale and intimate events.

The stage features a living green roof, comprising of more than 20,000 plants selected and suited to the climate, conditions and locality. Over the top of the outdoor stage is an adventure trail. The sandstone steps make this a challenging climb, but the view of Surfers Paradise rewards the walker.

The lush concert lawn features themed planting and discovery paths. The Outdoor Stage is connected to the larger landscape through a patchwork woodland designed to give shade and comfort to the turfed seating area. High canopied Jacaranda trees (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) will provide shade without disrupting the stage view while large evergreen columnar Kauri Pines (*Agathis robusta*) frame the open landscape of the Outdoor Stage and artscape.

Connecting this exciting new infrastructure to the existing facilities is the Lawn Bar – a newly renovated café and deck which also allows for a contemporary outdoor 'pop-up' food and beverage offering and exclusive pre-performance VIP Areas.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

Construction:

- Construction of the Outdoor Stage took approx. 24 months
- 1515 workers were involved
- 40 piles support the main stage
- 17,200 tonnes of metal, concrete and green waste were recycled & reused during construction

Outdoor Stage:

- The Outdoor Stage is 20m wide from wall to wall with a 5.5 tonne bi-fold proscenium door.
- The outdoor stage boasts ample rigging to facilitate a wide range of events and performances.
- Internally the outdoor stage features a commercial standard kitchen, a green room, two dressing rooms and toilet facilities and a shower.
- The 12m high façade and shade structure uses the recurring theme of the Voronoi pattern throughout and boasts programmable LED architectural lighting to enhance this design.

Stage Dimensions:

- Height of Stage 1.4m (from stage to stage forecourt)
- Proscenium height 7m
- Proscenium width 14m
- Stage width 20m (wall to wall)

Rigging:

The outdoor stage offers rigging for scenery, scaffolding, sound and lighting. The external façade has five rigging beams, with four mounting points on each. Each point can support 1 tonnes. The shade structure itself has two forms of rigging, Ronston cable on the outer rim which can support 75kg per lineal metre and 118 rigging points on the Voronoi capable of supporting 250kg per point.

Shade Structure:

The shade structure is a 100 tonne self-supporting structure which provides sun and glare protection for performers on stage. It has 40 pylons driven 15m into the ground to making it self-supporting. The fabric is 'Ferrari Vinyl' – a high tension, durable shade fabric, which has been individually fitted in each Voronoi pattern so that sections can be easily swapped out for repairs and maintenance. While not permitted, it can support the weight of person standing on it!

At each junction throughout the Voronoi pattern there is a 250kg rigging point – 118 on these in total. The Ronston Cable around the outer rim can support large scale banners or artworks.

Audio and Lighting

The Front of House Mix Position will be located on the recessed concrete Area between the Stage Lawn and Concert Lawn and will house the operation of Audio and Lighting for Outdoor Concerts. It will have:

- Direct connectivity to the stage, via the patch panel in the wall
- GrandMA2 Lighting Console
- DigiCo SD9 Audio Console
- External Audio PA: L'Acoustics Kara Line Array
- 28 Boxes (14 per side)
- 10 Sub Woofers (5 per side)

Outdoor Stage CAPACITY (areas in front of the stage)

Stage forecourt 80sqm, standing approx. 170 people, seated approx. 64 people

Stage lawn – 410sqm, standing approx. 950 people, seated approx. 350 people

Concert lawn – 2644sqm, standing approx. 6280 people, seated approx. 2248 people

Indoor Stage CAPACITY (internal area of outdoor stage)

The internal area of the Outdoor Stage features a 75sqm commercial kitchen a 61sqm green room with a kitchenette, lockers, seating, TV and dining table and two 12sqm dressing rooms with facilities.

Event capacities for the indoor stage: the internal stage is 187sqm (with the proscenium door closed) It can host:

- approx. 160 people for a sit-down dinner
- approx. 350 people for a cocktail/standing set up
- approx. 140 people for a black box/cabaret set up
- Stage terrace (rear) 180m², approx. 150 people

Precinct facilities:

There is a public amenities block located north east of the outdoor stage with 24 cubicles, 10 urinals, 3 outdoor showers and 3 change rooms. There are also 16 hand wash basins. These facilities have been specially designed so that they can be configured to exclusively support a ticketed event whilst also keeping some facilities open to the General Public.

Parking

There are 823 Car Parking Spaces within the precinct.

Power, Water and Waste

The precinct contains 18 Event Node Bollards supplying additional power and water for major events, festivals and temporary infrastructure to most areas of the precinct. Bollards are equipped with 1 x 40AMP 3 phase and 2 x 15AMP general power outlets. Wireless access points throughout the Precinct provide event teams and production companies the ability to stay connected for major events. Three drinking water fountains with additional bottle re-fill outlets are situated throughout the precinct and five fixed general and recyclable waste receptacles are also scattered throughout, however a strict Waste Management Plan is in place for Major Events.

Security

The site is covered by CCTV and a team of security guards who are on site 24 hours a day. There are also two boom gates to ensure safe and free movement for pedestrians and restrict unauthorised vehicle access to the site. The paths within the precinct can also support the use of vehicles with this main path taking vehicles up to 5 tonnes, and the paths around the circumference of the Outdoor Stage, taking larger trucks and Elevated Work Platforms of up to 8 Tonnes.

Noise Management

The precinct has a stringent and thorough Noise Management Plan in place. Standard Hours of Operation 7.00am-10.00pm with a maximum 70dB at the nearest residential noise sensitive area.

The evolution of HOTA

From its beginnings, the 17-hectare HOTA site at Evandale has been a place of almost constant development and evolution. Early historical records demonstrate a thriving Indigenous community in the area and in 1860s the land was used to farm cotton and then sugar cane, later supporting dairy and other agricultural uses.

City of Gold Coast purchased the land in the 1960s and the Gold Coast Civic Centre was opened with great fanfare in 1976. The civic centre, with its distinctive three-story glass beehive design, designed by local architect Alan Griffith, was intended as the first step towards the creation of a true civic, cultural and artistic heart for the city. The Arts Centre Gold Coast was the next step in achieving this vision and opened its doors in 1986.

Fast forward to today, and the City administration is now largely located off site and The Arts Centre Gold Coast is a thriving venue. In 2017 presenting 214 live performances, 12 exhibitions and 3,281 events.

The City of Gold Coast has made substantial investment in arts and cultural development for the city to ensure a legacy after the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. The centrepiece of this legacy is the creation of a truly modern Cultural Precinct which would become the Home of the Arts on the Gold Coast.

In 2013 an international design competition for the landmark Cultural Precinct design was launched. After an extensive process, which attracted more than 75 entries, the winning design by ARM Architecture and Topotek 1 was announced on November 2013. The winning concept took a year to refine and became the 2014 Gold Coast Cultural Precinct Masterplan.

The \$37.5 million Stage 1 of the project was completed in late 2017. With more than 3,000 square metres of landscaped parklands and the spectacular new amphitheatre with a full theatrical fit out and stunning Surfers Paradise skyline as a backdrop.

The next stage of construction, scheduled to begin in mid-2018, will be a new green bridge across to Chevron Island which will be followed in 2019 by a new Art Gallery constructed by Hansen Yuncken. Once built it will be the largest regional art gallery in Australia. The Gallery will become a cultural beacon showcasing the City of Gold Coast art collection and hosting international exhibitors of a calibre never seen before on the Gold Coast

ABOUT MOMO AND THE HOTA MURAL

Known for his large scale, big and bold geometric compositions with clean lines in vibrant colours, MOMO has previously been commissioned by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Oaxaca, Wynwood Walls (during Art Basel) and MIMA Museum, Brussels amongst others.

His intention was to create an iconic, eye catching beacon for the city with a dynamic and changing quality according to the viewer's position. A pattern of shimmering contrasting colours up close, while at a distance blending together for a completely different experience. Work on the mural; an abstract design began in January and took around 14 days to complete.

"This region is gorgeous. As I adjusted to the sights and Summer, I felt I had to make small adjustments in the mural, to be even sunnier and more bold, to try to match what I've seen. The fact that you can swim next to the mural is really next level," said MOMO.

While on the Gold Coast, MOMO conducted a Practical Geometry Workshop with emerging artists where he passed on ancient geometry techniques which he has researched and experimented with for many years. After the workshop local artist Katie Tooth was selected for an exclusive mentorship with MOMO which will see the creation of a smaller mural to adorn one of the internal walls in the HOTA foyer.

In talking about the workshop, MOMO said "the creativity and enthusiasm on the day was perfect. I've researched the topic of Practical Geometry for 8 years, but these students discovered new things in just a few hours. It was really fun. It was hard to pick just one artist for the mentorship, but here we go. I'll be happy if my mentoring helps in any way."

FEATURE ARTISTS and COMMISSIONS:

We love art and great artists. Artist commissions will feature prominently around the HOTA precinct.

In February 2017 *Shedload of Street Art* was an open call out for two largescale, street art style murals. Elliot Routledge (aka Numskull) and Mike Makatron were the artists chosen to create murals on two work sheds identified as 'blank canvases' creating an opportunity for artists to legally take their work to the streets and celebrate the vibrant culture of street art.

Local artist Dion Parker, a regular exhibiting artist at the annual SWELL Sculpture Festival, was appointed to create the inaugural Christmas Commission. He produced 60 playful seasonal interpretations of his well-known red dog sculpture, Lil' Dusty, which were scattered in playful locations around the Centre from early December through to the first week of January 2018.