



HIROMI TANGO, WEAVING FOR
THE NEW TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL



ARTIST PETER POULET'S MURAL FOR
THE NEW MAITLAND HOSPITAL



A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION ENGAGING
THREE GUMBAYNGGIRR COMMUNITIES

RPA Redevelopment is nurturing health and wellbeing through the arts

The \$750 million RPA Redevelopment is progressing to the next stage of project planning, with independent arts facilitator, Michael Lynch, selected to lead the Curatorium for the Arts and Culture Strategy.

Using the arts in health is an important component of the project, as it will inform the overall look and feel of the buildings while providing opportunities to explore how the arts can help deliver exciting and welcoming therapeutic spaces that nurture recovery.

Through extensive consultation with the Sydney Local Health District Executives and Subject Matter Experts, as well as the project and design team, Michael will work with the Curatorium to coordinate, lead and facilitate to develop a strategy for the role arts can play in enabling improved health outcomes across a diversity of cultural experiences and clinical areas.

From permanent art installations to time or program-based activities, the strategy will complement the existing arts program at RPA Hospital and further enhance the wellbeing of staff, patients, visitors and the community.

The importance of Arts in Health

Using the arts in health is an important part of creating a healing environment. Providing open spaces, installations, and activations in a health setting not only enhances the

wellbeing of staff, patients and visitors, but it can lead to improved patient outcomes.

Hospitals can be places of great joy, but also places of sadness. The RPA Redevelopment Arts Strategy will help produce spaces and places that people can connect with, utilising the arts in a way that supports health and wellbeing and nurtures recovery.

The use of the arts in health has a number of positive effects including reductions in medication dependence, patient tolerance of symptoms and treatment, hospital length of stay and treatment stress. It also fosters social inclusion, community participation, and intergenerational and cultural exchange, with important outcomes for Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, young people, older people and people with disability.

The arts is an important part of the RPA Hospital Redevelopment planning, supporting the health and wellbeing of staff, patients, consumers and visitors and we look forward to showcasing the outcomes as we progress through this exciting process.

Meet Michael, our arts facilitator

Michael Lynch is regarded as one of the leading players in many international and Australian arts projects with a particular emphasis on the transformation of cultural precincts both existing and new.

He brings extensive and wide-ranging engagement with First Nations arts organisations and artists and is strongly committed to the recognition of First Nations peoples and culture within all aspects of Australian life including our arts and health futures.

Former CEO of the Australia Council and The Sydney Opera House, Michael has highly developed relationships with members of the Curatorium, and will bring additional members from his vast network to help broaden insights and outcomes.

We are delighted to welcome Michael as the independent facilitator for the Curatorium, and look forward to working with him to create an inclusive arts strategy that supports the physical and mental wellbeing of our community.



Next steps

The Curatorium will commence soon, with the independent facilitator about to start their scope of works.

Community feedback is important to us, meaning extensive community engagement will occur to help shape the outcomes of the RPA Redevelopment Curatorial Strategy and we will continue to keep you informed of ways you can get involved.

What is a Curatorium?

A Curatorium is a multi-disciplinary approach to the Arts in Health Strategy that relies on a group of individuals and organisation to help inform the arts outcomes for the RPA Hospital Redevelopment.

Partnerships between health services and arts organisations and artists delivers better outcomes for patients, carers, staff and health services, and strengthens relationships with the broader community.

With representation from across the hospital and the community, the Curatorium involves the partnerships between health services and arts organisations and artists to develop and deliver arts programs and strategies for the new build and beyond.

What does the Curatorium inform?

The Curatorium will inform the arts outcomes and will be realised as a combination of permanent art installations and time or program-based activities.

The three phases of the Curatorium process:

- 1: Planning
- 2: Engagement
- 3: Curatorial Strategy

What will the Curatorium consider in the outcomes?

Some key considerations of the Curatorium will be:

- Aboriginal Health
- Songline & Place, existing cultural programs and Connecting to Country
- Historical environments
- The social and architectural histories of RPA and the site on which RPA now stands
- Arts in Clinical Care
- The existing arts in health programs at RPA including Arterie & Carterie

Who will be part of the Curatorium?

The Curatorium will consist of members from organisations who have existing connections to RPA Hospital or present opportunities for partnerships or collaboration. Members may be added throughout the redevelopment and could include the project team and Arts Working Group.


Renowned Creative Producer and former Director of Perth Festival and Southbank Centre London, Wendy Martin, will be joining the Curatorium to help foster collaboration, build inclusion, and promote positive social change.

Want to find out more?

You can find out more about the redevelopment at: www.rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au.

You are also invited to send any feedback, suggestions or comments you would like to raise with the redevelopment team via the contact form on our website or by emailing: rparedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au

 [Previous Newsletters](#)

 [Fact Sheets](#)

 [Community Engagement](#)

 [Latest News](#)

 [Works Notifications](#)

How can I contact the project team?

The RPA Hospital Redevelopment team welcomes all feedback and suggestions for further artistic opportunities and integrations. Please contact us at RPARedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au if you would more information about the arts and culture program or to see how you can make your mark to the look and feel of the new hospital.