



Proposal

One Earth Spiritual Community Centre
Callan Park (Old Rozelle Hospital)

OVERVIEW:

This proposal represents the interests of a group of independent individuals who support in principal the setting up of a community centre for the general public who identify themselves as part of a spiritually diverse community and are active in nondenominational spiritual activities – the One Earth Spiritual Community Centre.

We support the 2010 Master Plan as presented on the McGregor Coxall 'Callan Park Your Plan' website. We have submitted a proposal on this site and have collected to date 140 'agree' votes for the One Earth centre. ID: 135

We have set up a One Earth FaceBook group which to date has 362 members and we have the support the of Alan Cinis, Greens Councillor for Eora/Leichhardt-Lilyfield.

The redevelopment of Callan Park, in Sydney's Inner West, offers some remarkable opportunities for the people of Sydney. Its natural beauty, prime location and outstanding heritage buildings have much to offer the local and broader Sydney community.

At a time of an increasing awareness and exploration of the Australian culture, identity and spirituality, it is well timed that such a prime location is available for discussion on its future role in the local and wider Sydney community.

Ongoing Australian Census of Population and Housing reflects a growing interest in alternative spirituality via the 'other religion' and 'no religion' sector. For example, the interest in alternative spirituality can be seen in the success of the Mind Body Spirit festival, which attracts over 20,000 people biannually.

We propose, therefore, that an existing structure on the Callan Park site be adapted to house a permanent Community Centre for Sydney's nondenominational communities.

The One Earth centre could potentially play an important role for the local and wider Sydney community in such areas as:

- a contact & information centre for those wishing to explore their spirituality
- a centre for workshops, meetings, lectures and social activity
- a reference library of alternative spirituality books, information and services
- a practical outdoor space for gatherings and celebrations
- communal garden activities & projects



INTRODUCTION:

Australia is multicultural nation that is becoming richer and more assured in its cultural and spiritual diversity. More and more people are having the confidence to explore, question and consider alternative lifestyles and beliefs, and to return to cultural roots.

We are also a nation with an aging baby boomer population. For them, approaching middle age is a chance to take the time to live their lives, and the options within that, to the full. The once dubbed 'New Age' movement has matured and become a global movement inclusive of a broad range of alternative and traditional spiritual practices for the modern and independent individual who is looking for personal meaning and spiritual fulfilment outside of established and organised religions.

The One Earth Spiritual Community Centre would join a growing number of nondenominational spiritual Community Centres in Australia and worldwide. The One Earth centre would be a central point for those people just beginning a personal journey of self-discovery via a spiritual path, as well as much sort after public space for the large number of local and wider Sydney community members who are already committed to exploring and teaching alternative spiritual beliefs.

ROLE AND PURPOSE:

The One Earth Spiritual Community Centre would play a number of important roles.

It would become a central one-stop information centre for those interested in exploring alternative spirituality options, becoming a welcoming and safe hub for the growing number of Australians seeking spiritual fulfilment.

A key part of its role would be to provide a practical venue for education, such as lectures and seminars, as well as a place where spirituality could be explored and practised in workshops, meetings and social gatherings.

The centre would house a continually expanding library of reference materials such as books, magazines and online resources, offering easy access for those who need it.

Finally, we envisage utilising the beautiful grounds at Callan Park for community gatherings and celebrations, possibly with a small communal garden offering peace and quietude, such as the number of Labyrinth proposals on the 'Callan Park Your Plan' website have suggested.



SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT:

We are quickly growing support within the community for the One Earth Spiritual Community Centre.

A survey is currently being undertaken of those who support the centre to gain a more defined understanding of that support, as potential users and facilitators of the centre and as volunteers in the setting up and running of the centre.

The survey is still being conducted, however the initial findings show a high approval for the One Earth centre. Essentially the respondents are saying they would be regular visitors and users of the centre.

In addition, word is spreading interstate and globally, with others in the community outside New South Wales and Australia who also state they would visit the centre when in Sydney.

The proposal has also attracted the support of Alan Cinis, Greens Councillor for Eora/Leichhardt-Lilyfield.

'As a Green I support freedom of choice in religious and spiritual worship and diversity. I do support this concept and the principles of this organisation, One Earth.'

THE PROPOSAL:

Our submission on the 'Callan Park Your Plan' website has been placed at the site of the adjoining building near the NSW Writers Centre, however we are open to any building deemed suitable for the One Earth Spiritual Community Centre. We foresee a building that is structurally sound and appropriate for our proposed usages, such as:

- space for public meetings
- spiritual counselling by qualified counsellors
- space for spiritual celebrations and ceremonies
- space for classes, workshops and community events
- a resource library & centre
- surrounding grounds care and community garden project
- a community tea room for meet-ups
- the centre would provide space for multicultural and indigenous collaborations as well as space for local artists to exhibit their work

We propose the Centre could be refurbished by donation and community labour, as well as available grants for community development offered by the



NSW Government. The One Earth Spiritual Community Centre would be a non-profit organisation.

We suggest our requirements for the structure could include:

- 1 x administration office area (approx. 6 sq.m.)
- 1 x reference library area (approx. 4 sq.m.)
- 1 x main room for meetings and workshops (approx. 12-40 sq.m.)
- 2 x smaller rooms for meetings and workshops (approx. 2 x 5 sq.m.)
- 1 x kitchen (approx. 4 sq.m)
- 2 x toilets – male & female (approx. 20-40 sq.m.)
- 1 x storage room (approx. 2 sq.m.)
- access to parking for up to 20 cars (approx. 350 sq.m.)
- outside area for gatherings (approx. 150 sq.m)

The total (using upper limits) would be approx. 106 sq.m., not including car or outside area allowance.

BUDGETS AND FINANCIALS:

Much of the initial expenditure and effort for minor repairs such as painting and repairs will harness the support of the spiritual community at large.

We would assume that the proposed Callan Park Trust would be responsible for general and major building maintenance.

The aim would be for the centre to become self-supporting financially.

However, to help with the initial establishment of the centre, we would also request a rent-free period for the first twelve months, subject to negotiation.

A not for profit organization will be set up for the running of the centre, utilising a body corporate style of management approach would be taken, drawing on those individuals and organisations who would use the centre regularly.

FINALLY:

We trust that this proposal will be considered for the draft Master Plan to be exhibited on or around April 2011. We ask that our proposal be accepted by the Master Plan team to include in discussion papers based on themes identified by the Callan Park Taskforce.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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