

# Australian National University

## Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Arts Centre
Acton Campus Precinct	KINGSLEY Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	16 (Arts Centre), 16T (Arts Centre Transportable)

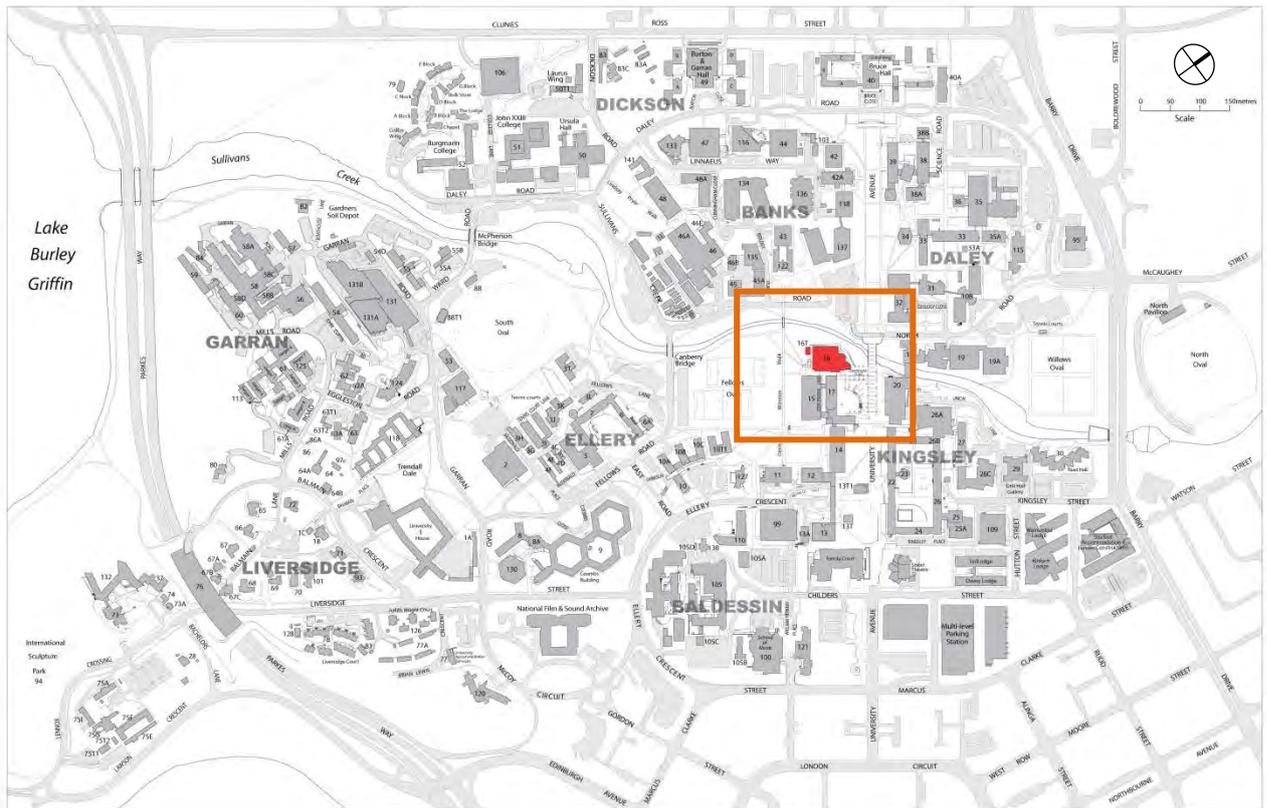


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Arts Centre— <b>Low</b> —does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Arts Centre Transportable— <b>Neutral</b> —does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The Arts Centre is not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at January 2012. The Arts Centre continues to be well maintained for commercial and student use and is in good condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation for the Arts Centre.

### Context of the Buildings

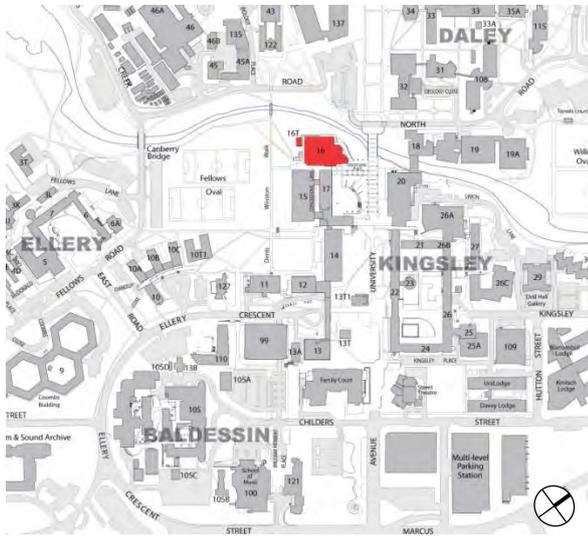


Figure 2: The location of the Arts Centre in relation to the University Avenue and Sullivans Creek.

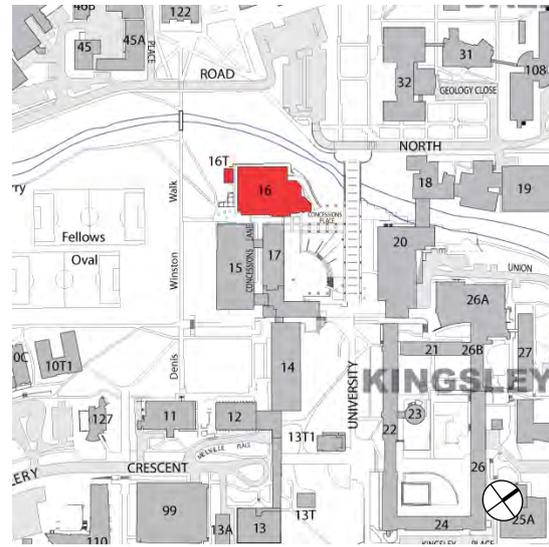


Figure 3: Configuration of the Arts Centre Buildings within the context of University Avenue to the north.

### Brief Historical Overview

Built from 1975 by O'Mahoney, Neville and Morgan architects and Tom Brown and Associates Theatre Consultants to foster involvement in the arts and enrich cultural life on the campus, the Arts Building was designed to provide a flexible space, stimulating and encouraging participation and activity in artistic enterprise and creative experiment. The centre was completed in two stages, with minor additions and alterations being constructed since. The Federal government did not underwrite the total cost of the building and funding relied heavily on sponsors, resulting in a slow construction process.

Preliminary plans were first prepared for a Performing Arts Centre in 1967. Construction began in 1975 by TH O'Connor and later Norwich Building Company, however due to funding constraints the building was only partially in use by 1977. In 1985 architects Anthony Cooper and Associates, with the Griffin Building Group completed stage two of the construction process, which included the main theatre hall, rehearsal room, dressing rooms, studio, offices and a projection room. The \$200,000 needed to complete this stage of the building's construction was loaned to the University from the Commonwealth Bank. The foyer was subsequently refurbished in 1991 and 1993. In 1999 the building was refurbished by Collard, Jackson and Clark Architects, and the roof was reconditioned in 2001 by ANU Project Coordinator Lino Fiorese. In 2006 major landscaping works to the entrance of the Arts Centre by Segeri Holdings included the construction of a ramp, block wall, and the placement of rocks to the value of \$43,000.

The interior has been extensively altered, demonstrating a 'theatrical' attitude to the use of the building and reflecting the requirements of an energetic occupant. The Arts Centre currently houses the Drama Department, College of Arts and Social Sciences, the God's Café, Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant, STA Travel and the University Pharmacy.

Building 16T, the Arts Centre Transportable, was formerly the site accommodation shed for the Parliament House construction. Originally relocated onto campus to provide accommodation for the Old Geology Building, it was relocated to its current site to the south of the Arts Centre in 1992. It was expected to only be needed for two years to combat acute overcrowding and provide studio and change room facilities for the Drama Group.



## Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

### Statement of Significance

N/A

Criteria	Brief Assessment
<p><b>(a) Historic</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</p>
<p><b>(b) Rarity</b> The place has significant heritage values because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</p>
<p><b>(c) Scientific</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</p>
<p><b>(d) Representative</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</p>

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p><b>(e) Aesthetic</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</p>
<p><b>(f) Creative/Technical</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</p>
<p><b>(g) Social</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>
<p><b>(h) Associative</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural and cultural history.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (h) for associate values.</p>

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p><b>(i) Indigenous</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>The Arts Centre and Transportable do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>
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Photographs



Figure 5: Front entrance to the Arts Centre as viewed from University Avenue. (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 6: The front entrance to the Woroni Offices in the Arts Centre Transportable, to the south of the Arts Centre Building. (Source: Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 7: The main entrance to the Arts Centre Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 8: The link way between the Concessions Buildings and the JB Chifley Library. (Source: Heritage Office 2012)

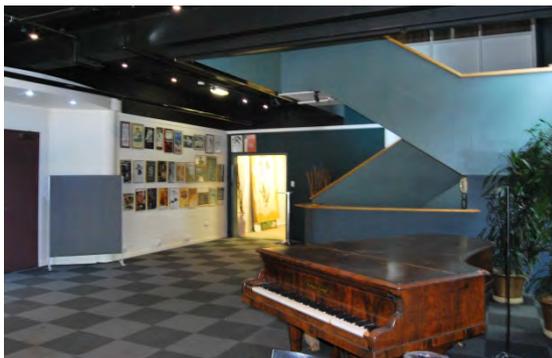
### Photographs



**Figure 9:** View north to the Arts Centre and Arts Centre transportable from Fellows Oval to the south. (Source: Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 10:** The western façade of the Arts Centre (with transportable in foreground) showing extent of creeper coverage. (Source: Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 11:** The ground floor foyer of the Arts Centre. (ANU Heritage Office 2012)



**Figure 12:** The first floor landing of the Arts Centre. (ANU Heritage Office 2012)

### Management Issues

#### Constraints and Opportunities

As Arts Centre is of low significance and the Transportable is of neutral significance, no **constraints** are noted.

The Arts Centre is ranked as being of 'Low' significance as it contributes to the overall significance/values of the ANU Acton campus, however it does not fulfil criteria for heritage listing on its own merit.

The Transportable is ranked as being of 'Neutral' significance as it does not embody, reflect or demonstrate Commonwealth or National Heritage values. The Transportable does not make any contribution to the site nor does it detract from the overall heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Arts Centre and Transportable are able to tolerate a moderate amount of change through development. Removal of these elements is not necessary unless it allows for heritage values of the campus to be regained, reinforced or conserved.

As the Arts Centre is of low significance and the Transportable is of neutral significance, no **opportunities** are noted.

#### Recommendations

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to substantial change to buildings or landscaping in any future development.

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