**The Arch**

It is my genuine desire that you join me in the vision to return The Arch to her rightful Home in Northbridge.

The Arch’s body is rooted in the James and Lake street roundabout, where her presence explores pure originality through her changing directional lines as she grows 9 metres up into the northbridge atmosphere and lands a stiletto 16 metres across James Street into the Piazza where her design speaks of ‘being part of ‘

…..’part of’ framing the buildings and businesses, the Piazza and the trees ….. ‘part of’ the rally’s, protests, parades , and festivals - where she chaperones the communities voice of The People. The Arch is a visual pulse, of the Northbridge psyche: gritty, inclusive and eccentric. The Arch is the only work I know that lands on 2 sides of a city street. The Arch has a red heart, she has a beat - and it’s a reflection of the beat of Northbridge. She’s loved by a generation, and a land mark that 1000s know.

In 2023 The Arch showed a sign of needing care. The evidence suggested it was an opportunity for review and ameliorate - not permanently remove .

There is a panel in the base of the Arch where regular interior inspections would have identified early signs of required maintenance.

For simplicity a public sculpture can be likened to a new car. It requires washing, inspections, and services, at regular intervals to keep it in show room condition.

* Can we all see please historical documented evidence of inspections that would have identified very early signs?

When I was contacted in 2023 with the City’s intention for Arch’s removal - At the request of the City I submitted a quote for removal by my fabrication team with a view to investigate, review, and ameliorate. We knew the sculpture and how to remove it safely.

The quote was rejected and the Arch was removed by others. It was ‘gas axed’ in its removal and as the artwork has a millimetre precise point of landing its limb. Theres no way of knowing whether twisting and torsion has occurred.

* Can we please see the quote comparison that determined the difference between archival removal and removal that further damaged the artwork.

I inspected the Arch in the City of Perth depot in Osborne Park with my fabricator. It was noted the 20 metre length of the artwork ‘limb’, the upper portion of the work had no deterioration. The disassembly by others used oxy-torches to cut thru where they couldn’t find where to unbolt. The limb was peeled in several areas. The base at road level had some interior signs of rust but the official engineering report recommended ‘transport to fabrication yard for efficient, controlled Remediation work’ …. not decommissioning.

I was then requested by the City

To quote to repair which was rejected

To submit renders to relocate in 3 different locations nominated by the City which was rejected

To partially relocate/integrate the artwork to select locations which was rejected

Followed by a quote to fully remake the Arch which was rejected.

I received no written response after these submissions. Several months passed and there was a call from someone at the City to say there was ‘no funding’

The Arch when commissioned had an extremely modest budget for such a large central presence, now 14 years on, an opportunity for review and remediation, became a skip by the City into indefinite removal.

The work now is laying in a storage yard far from home in the corrosive salt air in the open in Coogee. I believe annual inspections by the city would have completely averted this issue.

I believe that we the fabricators were available to advise always.

I believe we could have reinstated the Arch in 2023 for as little as 41,000.00

So…

\*Can we know what happened between the City statement of ‘no Funding ’ to the statement within 2 weeks of ‘250 000 approved’ for an off-shore art pursuit?

\* what are the insurance policy details for the Arch that could that have impacted internal decisions/savings?

* Can we work together to take the sage, as well as legal advice, from the National Association for the Visual Arts Lawyer Penelope Benton, urging the City to reinstate the Arch in line with its public art conservation obligations ?

I will finish this statement to ask you to simply hold the vision together that we can move to bring The Arch: our contemporary Northbridge icon, that holds cultural and local historic value for so many, back to where she belongs.

I see The Arch back in her Home - where She belongs.

Thank you

Lorenna Grant march 2025