

# Community and Organisational Development Report

**Committee Consideration – 9 April 2013**  
**Council Resolution – 23 April 2013**

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<b>Committee</b>	9 April 2013
<b>Council</b>	23 April 2013
<b>Applicant</b>	City of Nedlands
<b>Officer</b>	Megan Chittock – Community Development Officer (Youth & Children) Marion Granich – Manager Community Development
<b>Director</b>	Darla Blake – Director Community & Organisational Development
<b>Director Signature</b>	
<b>File Reference</b>	CMS/505
<b>Previous Item</b>	N / A

## Executive Summary

This is a request from the Shenton College Parents and Citizen’s Association (P & C) for a financial contribution towards a proposed auditorium at Shenton College. The projected cost of the project is \$6 million. An unspecified financial contribution is requested of Council.

## Recommendation to Committee

### Council:

1. **agrees to provide a letter of support for the proposed Shenton College Auditorium; and**
2. **does not agree to contribute funding towards the project.**

## Strategic Plan

- KFA 4: Governance and Civic Leadership
- wise stewardship of the community’s assets and resources.

## Background

There are 11 schools within the City of Nedlands, as follows:

- Dalkeith Primary School
- Hollywood Primary School

- Swanbourne Primary School
- Moerlina School
- Quintilian School
- Nedlands Primary School
- Mt Claremont Primary School
- Loreto Primary School
- John XXIII College
- Shenton College
- Shenton College Deaf Education Centre

The City of Nedlands has a positive relationship with all 11 schools, delivering the City's youth program through them. The City's Community Development Officer (Youth and Children) liaises regularly with the Principals of all local schools.

Shenton College currently has approximately 1,300 students.

**Key Relevant Previous Council Decisions:**

Nil

**Discussion**

In January 2013 the City received a submission from Auditorium4Shenton requesting financial support for a new Auditorium at Shenton College. Auditorium4Shenton is a sub-committee of the Shenton College P & C, dedicated to raising funds for the construction of an auditorium at Shenton College. The Shenton College P & C has also submitted a proposal to the State Government 18 months ago requesting funding for construction of a school auditorium for their dedicated music and performing arts programs.

Shenton College currently has 317 specialist music students and 11 regularly performing ensembles, 330 dance students and drama classes that are a compulsory part of the curriculum at Shenton College. Currently the school is using an arts area that seats 130 people and lacks performance facilities such as change rooms.

The main issue Shenton College is facing with its current facilities is the lack of space, the current facility being too small to host activities such as assemblies. There are also timetabling issues in using the limited space that is available and a lack of purpose- designed facilities for performance.

The proposal is for a multi-purpose space that is used for a range of activities that includes performance, assemblies, teaching, conferences and examinations. Auditorium4Shenton has approached the City seeking an unspecified amount of financial support, or at the very least, a letter of support from Council endorsing this project.

Based on consultation with the Shenton College P & C, it is apparent that the new facility is needed to better accommodate the school's curriculum and other needs. The P & C has made considerable efforts to develop the concept and is in the process of seeking support for it.

However, it is recommended that Council does not provide funding to the project. While the City supports the school's efforts to secure improved facilities, capital funding for school facilities is not the responsibility of local government.

Through the Strategic Planning process, the City's community has called for upgrade of Council-owned sporting and community facilities. Therefore the upgrade of those community and sporting facilities that the City owns must be the funding priority for the City. This difficult funding challenge is currently confronting Council. Unfortunately the City's limited financial resources do not stretch to upgrading its own facilities, as well as developing facilities for schools.

To reflect Council's support of the efforts the Shenton College P & C is making to upgrade the school's facilities, it is recommended that the City provide a letter of support for the need for the new facility, to accompany any funding submissions.

## Consultation

Required by legislation:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Required by City of Nedlands policy:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Shelley Blechynden, on behalf of Auditorium4Shenton, has been consulted on the proposal.

## Legislation / Policy

Nil

## Budget/Financial Implications

Within current approved budget:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Requires further budget consideration:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Funding for this project is unbudgeted. It has also not been foreshadowed in any of the forward financial planning that has been undertaken to date, in the preparation of the City's long term financial plan as part of the Integrated Strategic Planning process.

## Risk Management

There are two main risks in relation to Council providing funding for this facility project:

- The risk of diverting Council resources away from the renewal of Council's own community and sporting facilities, as targeted in the Integrated Strategic Plan; and
- The risk of the perception that Council is not treating all local schools equitably, if Council is unable to assist all 11 local schools with their facility development needs as they arise.

## **Conclusion**

The City of Nedlands supports this new facility in principal and appreciates the efforts the Shenton College P & C have made to improve the school's facilities. However, the funding of school facilities is not the responsibility of local government and Council should not contribute funding towards the facility.

It is recommended that the City provides a letter of support for the project in to assist Auditorium4Shenton in seeking funding from appropriate bodies.

## **Attachments**

Nil