



# SIR ROBERT HELPMANN THEATRE MASTER PLAN

COUNTRY ARTS SA

NOVEMBER 2021

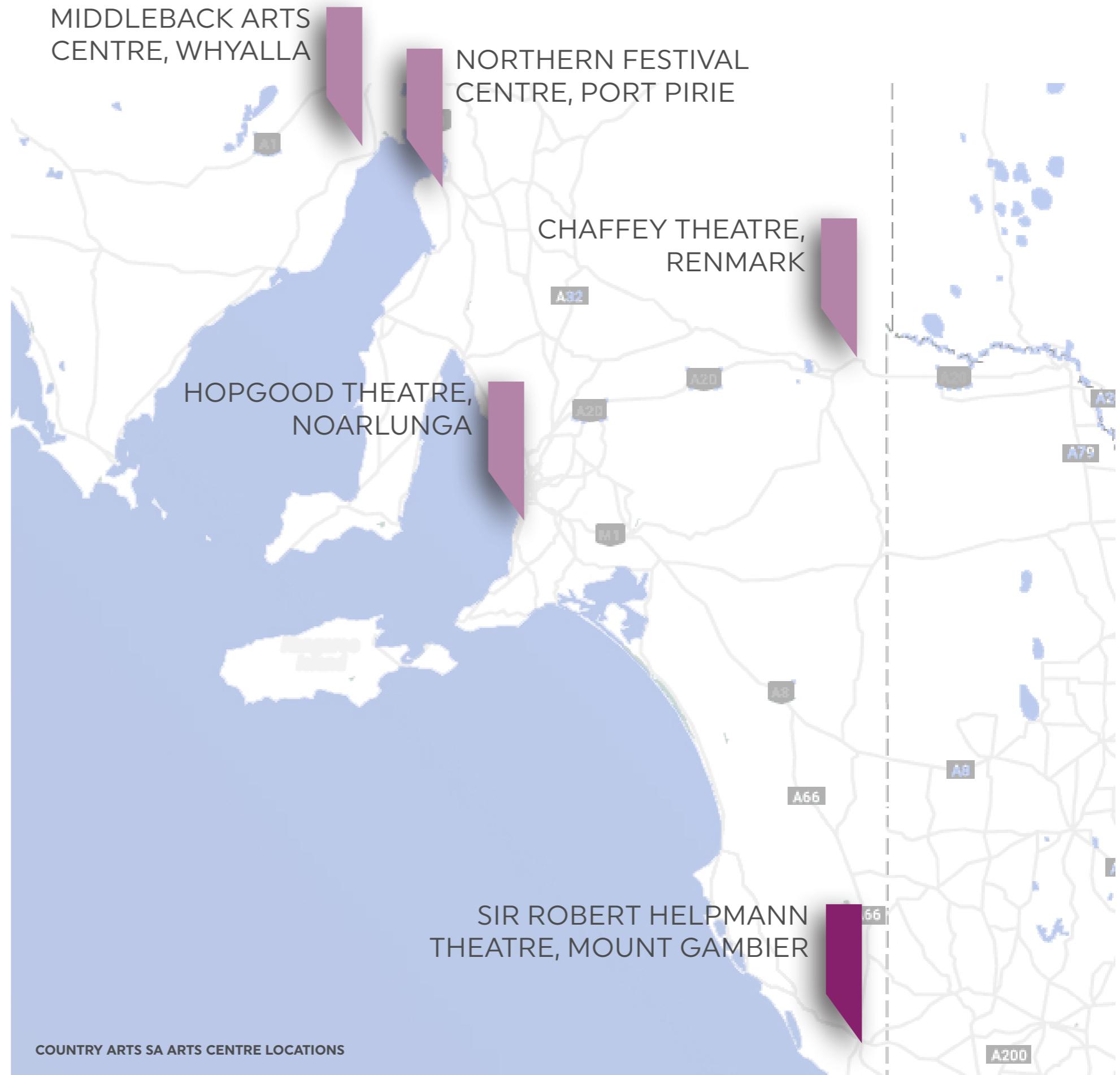


GRIEVE  
GILLETT  
ANDERSEN

"Country Arts SA increases access to the arts for regional South Australian communities and shares unique stories through extraordinary arts experiences.

By listening, responding and collaborating we produce ambitious and accessible arts experiences, present work for people of all ages and interests, and empower regional communities to create and interact with the arts as audiences, participants, artists and leaders."

Country Arts SA Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025.



The Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre sits on Boandik country, sharing its location with the City of Mount Gambier, nestled in a creative precinct within the heart of the city.

For over 40 years it has been recognised by the local community and visitors as a place to share in the thrilling experience of live performance.

These upgraded plans provide myriad opportunities to create, share and experience art and culture from local makers and visiting artists. They make activation throughout the day and night possible, with new spaces for families to take part in making art, for local artists to record their latest music tracks, develop new dance, theatre and digital work for audiences to experience in contemporary social spaces that are flexible, comfortable and digitally connected. They will be places where families and friends come together to recognise shared histories, welcome reimagined local stories, and catch-up on the latest.



# CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

## PHASE 1: BACKGROUND RESEARCH

- Review existing drawings, various site histories, site survey etc.
- Site visits to record detailed observations
- undertake precedent study
- Obtain and disseminate information
- Consolidate findings into SWOT analysis

## PHASE 2: CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Undertake Stakeholder mapping
  - CASA Leadership and SRHT Staff
  - City of Mount Gambier
  - First Nations
  - Community and Artist Groups
- Develop stakeholder engagement strategy and identify appropriate engagement tools including:
  - One-On-One Interviews
  - Focus Group Discussions
  - Community Workshops
  - Digital Survey
- Undertake consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Undertake community consultation
- Develop online digital survey
- Consolidate responses from all forums
- Disseminate information into concise requirements
- Distil information and consolidate into Return Brief including functional, aspirational and technical requirements

## PHASE 3: DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

- Develop design principles and design strategies
- Identify preferred spatial relationships
- Test design options and opportunities
- Develop preferred spatial option
- Identify preferred construction methodology and materiality
- Develop high level massing
- Develop 3D modelling and imagery
- Present DRAFT master plan to staff, community and council
- Consolidate feedback

## PHASE 4: REVIEW AND REFINE

- Incorporate feedback from all stakeholders
- Revise drawings and 3D model
- Render final plan and 3D images
- Assist Country Arts SA in obtaining Cost Plan for Master plan
- Assist Country Arts SA in identifying next steps



## COMMUNITY'S VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

**"Encourage local productions that share stories of the region and 'export' work"**

**"Open, transparent and collaborative space that nurture creative industries"**

**"Provide updated amenities for patrons and artist"**

**"Be the centre of civic life through arts and culture"**

**"Enable opportunities for meaningful input by Boandik people through co-design process"**

**"Activate the foyer space with café, bar or the like"**

**"Landscape and lighting that create all day and night time activation"**

**"New and integrated digital technologies"**

**"Building a whole experience, one that changes over time for repeat visitation"**

**"Providing a more inviting space to attract all generations to engage with art and culture"**

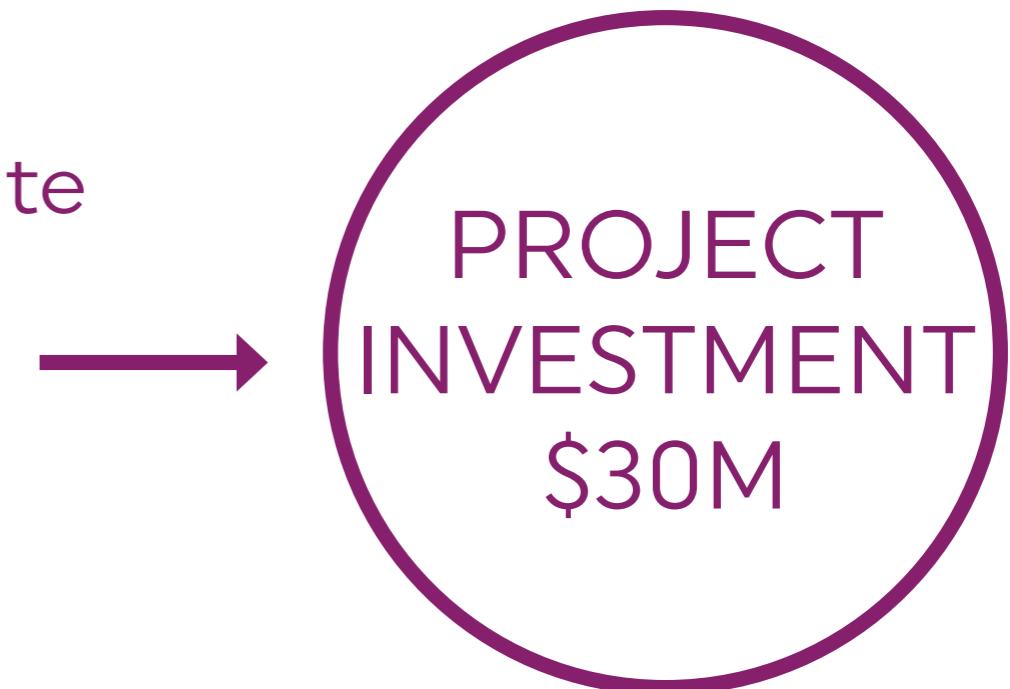
**"Continue to build the creative arts sector for Mt Gambier"**

**"Flexible flat floor venue"**

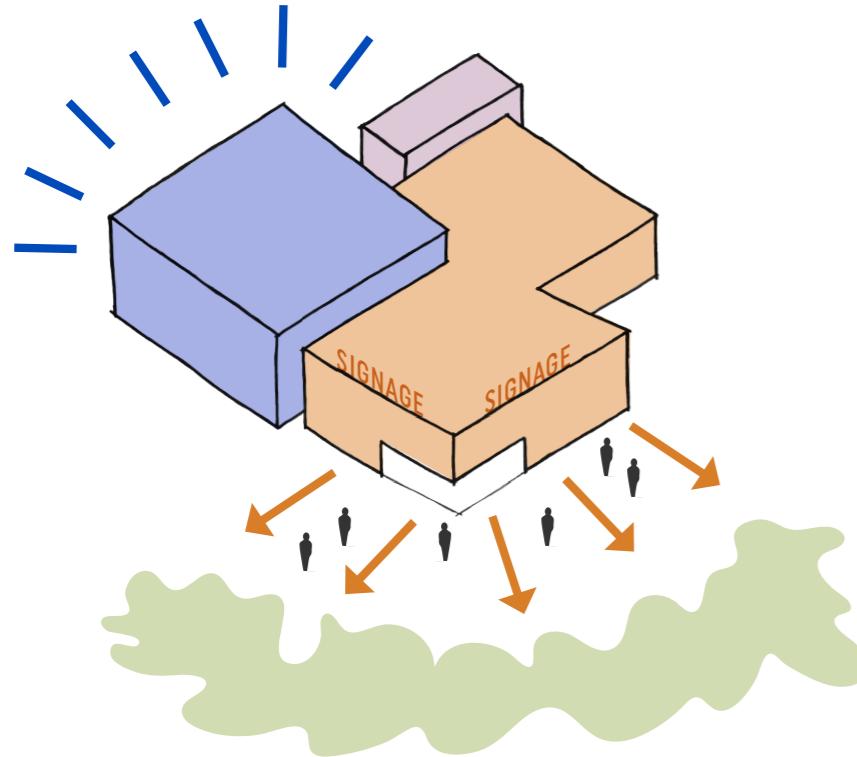
**"Provide opportunity for migrants to engage with the centre"**

## KEY DELIVERABLES

- 1 Refurbishment of existing foyer including shared gallery space & bar
- 2 New build including black box theatre, community making space and music suite
- 3 Upgrade of existing theatre including new dressing rooms & green room
- 4 New external landscaping to enhance connection to art and to civic precinct



# VISION & OPPORTUNITIES DESIGN PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES



## UNIFIED BUILDING WITH EXPRESSION OF IDENTITY

- Strengthen connections with Council and emphasise Civic qualities
- Strengthen connections to cave gardens and integrate landscape and entry
- Expression of identity through new and refurbished built form
- Intuitive wayfinding and signage

## SITE STRATEGIES

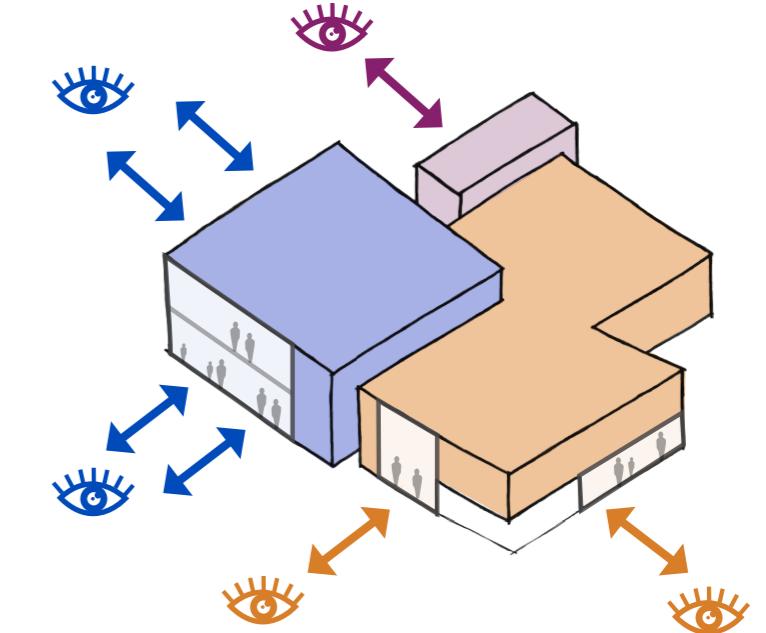
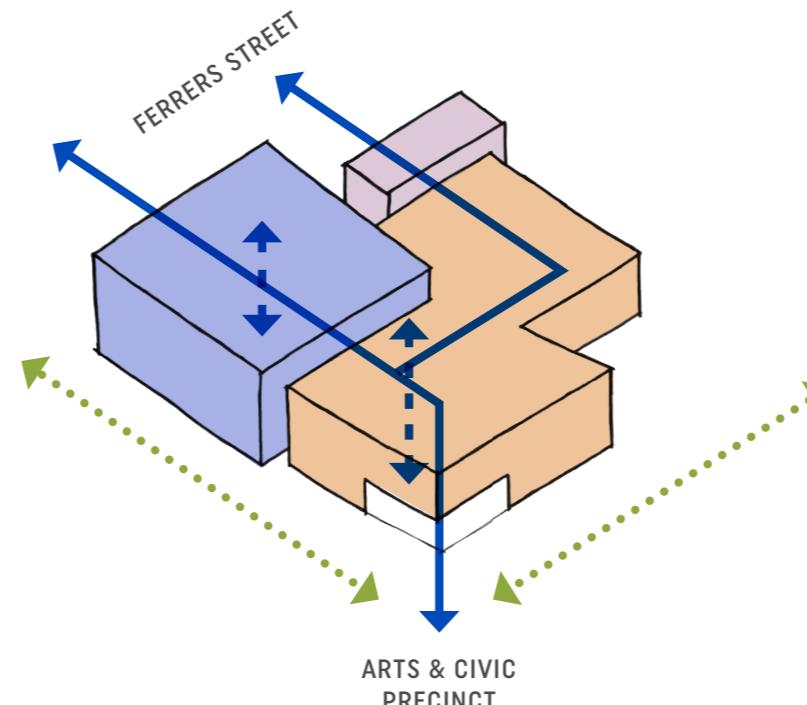
- Refurbish entry with integrated landscape and public space
- Create shared foyer space for Country Arts and Council on one level to activate existing foyer
- Identify opportunities for signage
- Materials and finishes that provide opportunity for expression of identity
- New extension on Ferrers Street to reference existing building typology with contemporary approach

## ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY & MOVEMENT

- Create flow through from Civic space entry to Ferrers Street
- Future proof for connection to Varcoe through back of house areas
- Provide equitable access to all levels of the building

## SITE STRATEGIES

- Open up existing entry and provide shared foyer space
- Locate lift in strategic areas to connect all 5 levels (not conducive to ramps due to distance of travel)
- Create internal movement pathways with opportunities to separate and or close off areas as required depending on use and time of day
- Connect with wider precinct through lighting, landscape and artwork



## INVITATION AND COLLABORATION

- Refurbish existing building to provide a sense of welcome and invitation
- Develop new areas to enhance connections and opportunities for collaboration
- Identify opportunities for integration of artwork throughout

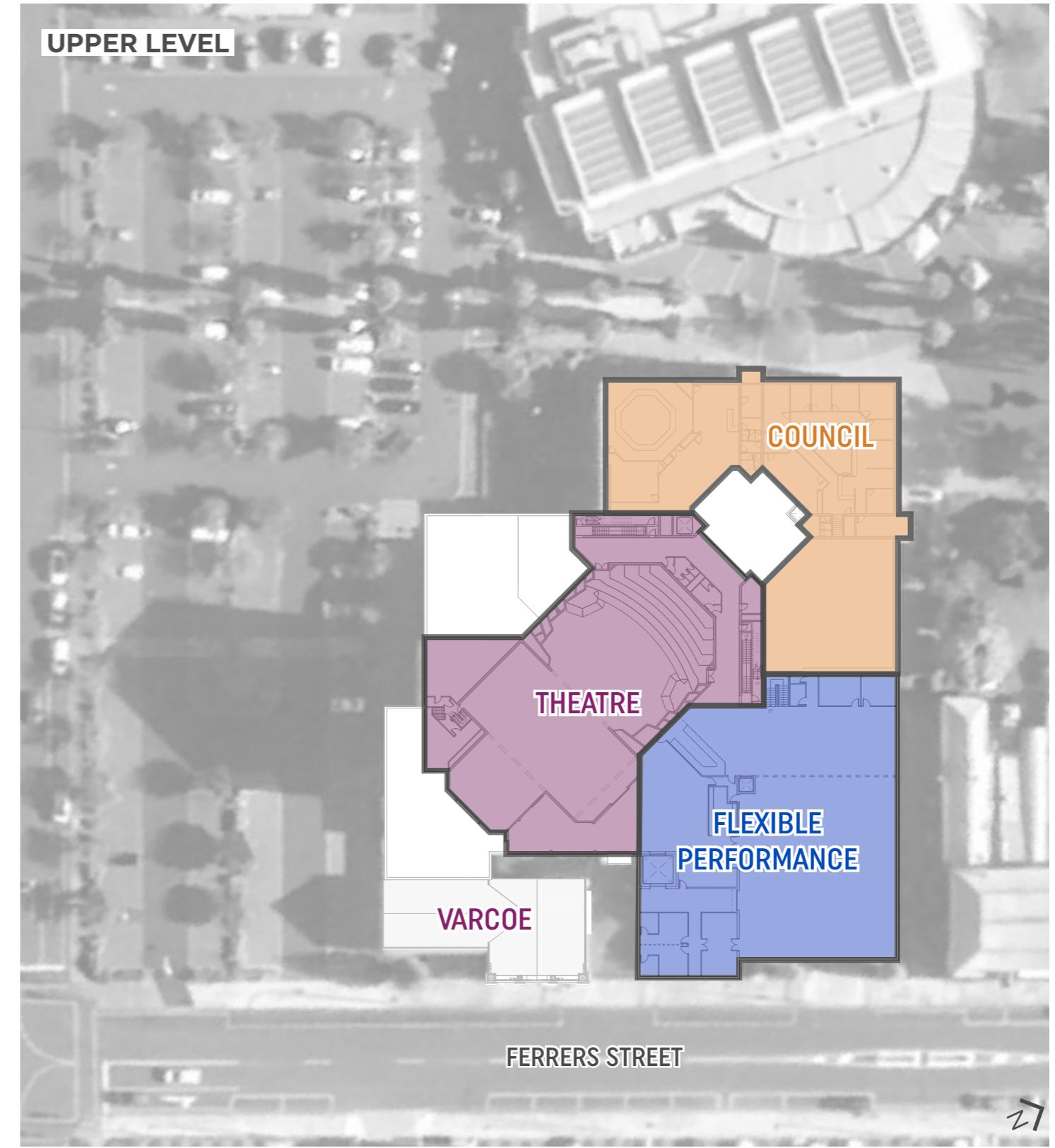
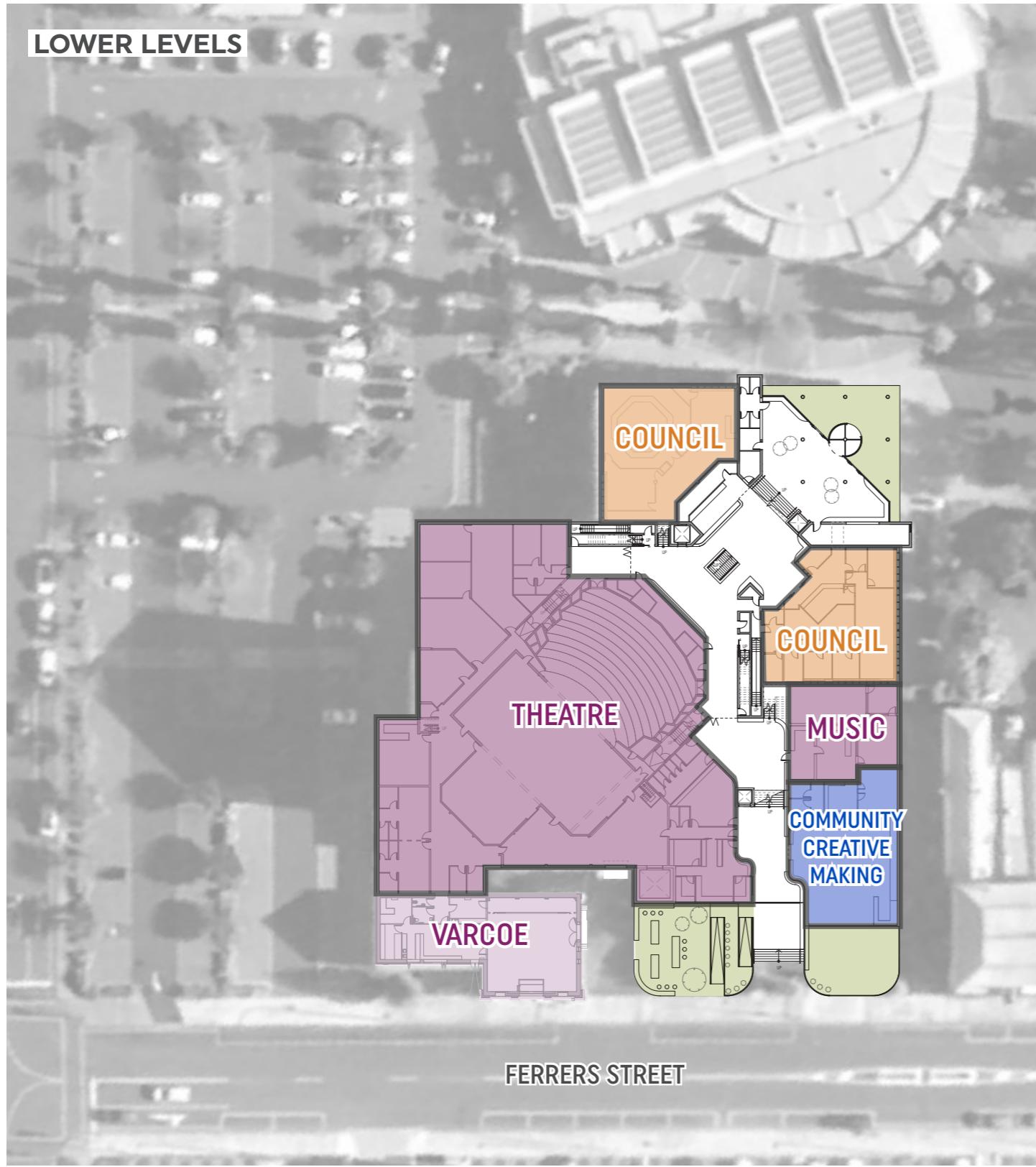
## SITE STRATEGIES

- Select materials that increase transparency and visual connection in refurbished and new areas- e.g. glazing, mesh etc.
- Integrate flexible collaborative areas that are open and connected
- Create active art thoroughfare through the building to connect Ferrers Street to the civic precinct

## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_SITE

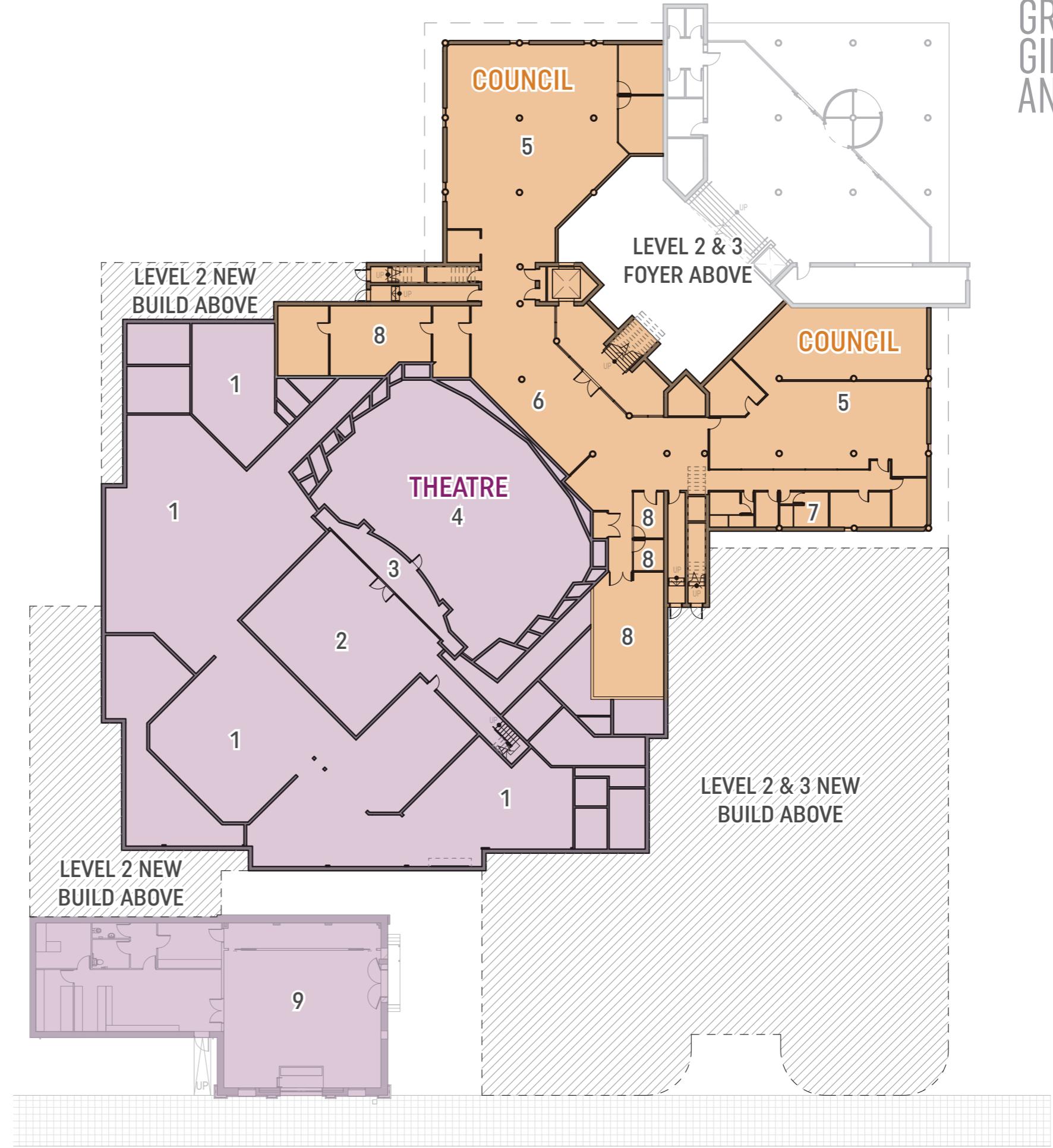


## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_PRECINCTS



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_LEVEL 1

1. Lower level Helpmann theatre spaces (below ground - not accessible)
2. Under stage area
3. Fore stage
4. Under auditorium seating level
5. Existing council offices
6. Existing council level 1 reception
7. Existing council toilets
8. Meeting room
9. Varcoe Foundry building (currently under development)



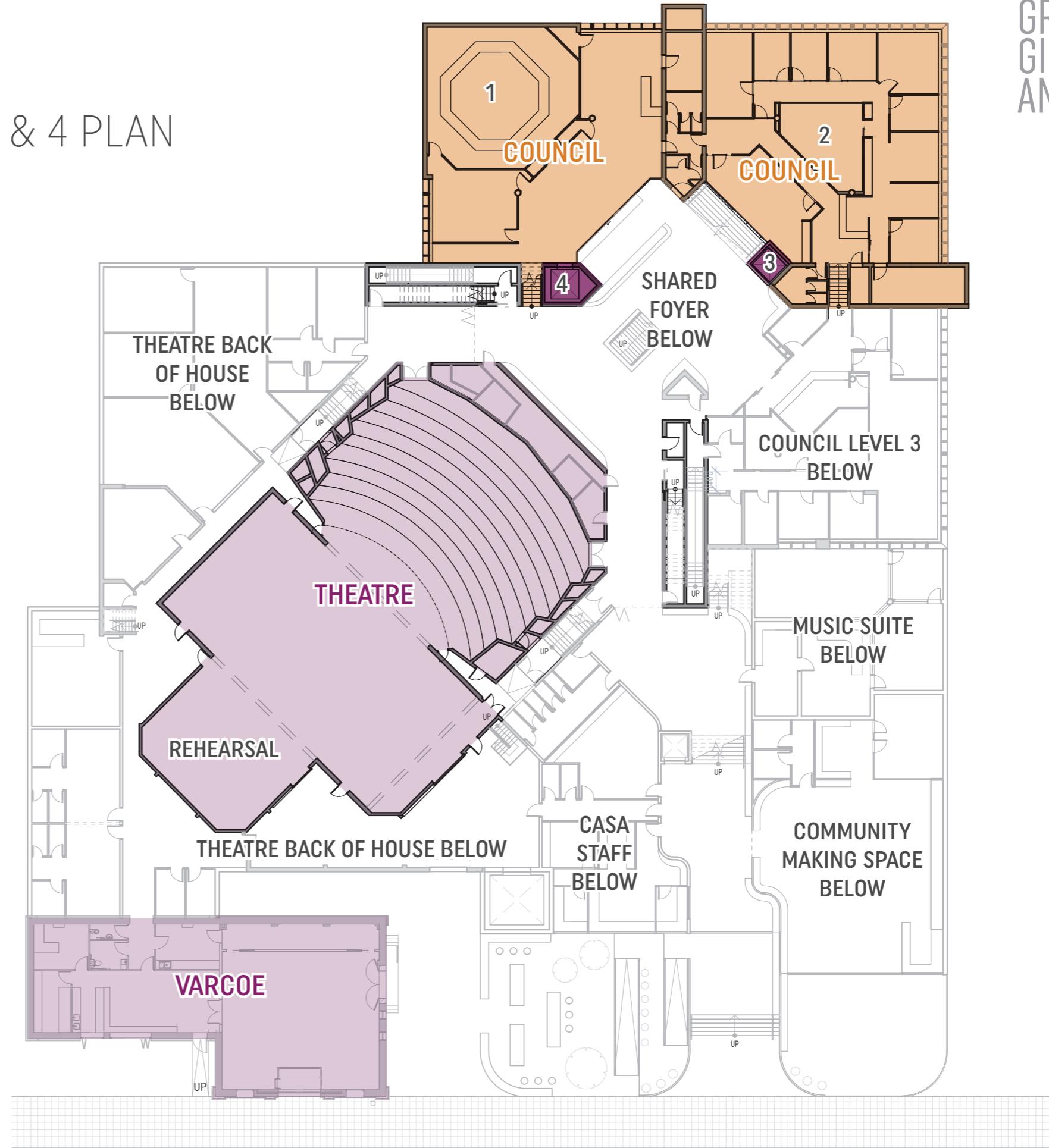
## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN \_ LEVEL 2, 3 & LEVEL 4 PLAN

1. New landscaping to existing undercroft
2. Revolving entry door
3. New shared foyer space
4. Country Arts SA Foyer
5. New Ferrers Street entry point
6. Bi-fold security partition
7. New lift
8. New service/goods lift
9. Existing lift
10. New public toilets
11. New Country Arts SA toilets
12. New bar and box office point
13. Storage
14. Existing council offices
15. Music recording studio suite including foyer/lounge, control room, 2 studios and drum room
16. Flexible community making space
17. Flexible meeting room
18. Kitchenette
19. Outdoor breakout terrace for community making space
20. New landscaped plaza with ramps for DDA access
21. Country Arts SA staff facilities
22. Ferrers Street box office point
23. Board room
24. Tech cage/workshop
25. Loading bay
26. Backstage
27. New dressing room and amenities
28. New green room
29. New wardrobe/laundry
30. Refurbished and extended existing dressing rooms and amenities



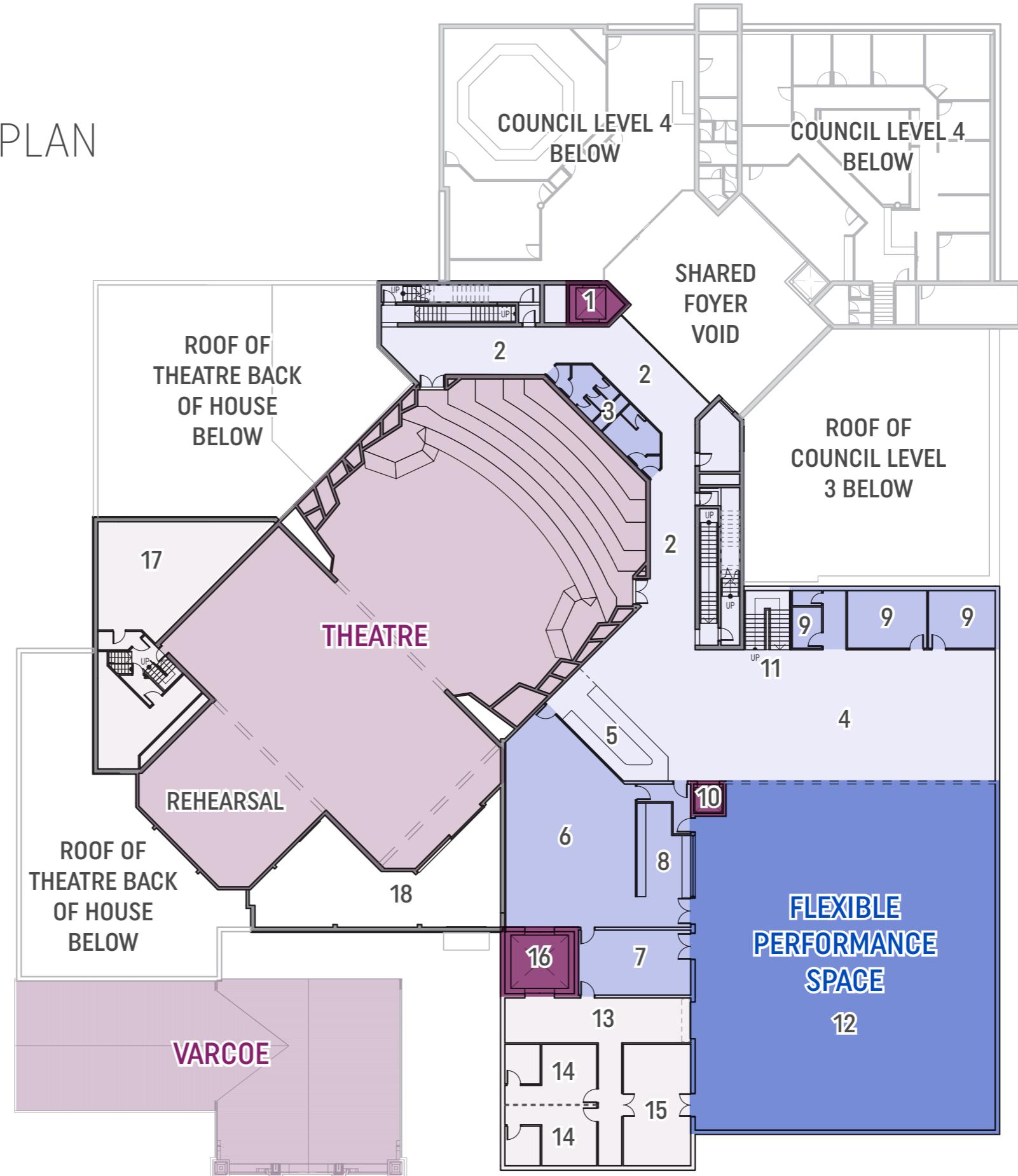
## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_LEVEL 3 & 4 PLAN

1. Existing council chambers
2. Existing council offices
3. New lift
4. Existing lift



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN \_ LEVEL 5 PLAN

1. Existing lift
2. Existing Helpmann Theatre foyer
3. Refurbished existing toilets
4. Foyer extension
5. Bar
6. Kitchen and storage
7. Furniture store
8. Bar to service performance space
9. New toilets
10. New lift
11. New stairs from level below
12. Flexible performance space
13. Backstage
14. Dressing room and amenities
15. Green room
16. New services/goods lift
17. Existing theatre back of house/services plant
18. Void of theatre back of house below



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_3D VISUALISATION



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_3D VISUALISATION



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_3D VISUALISATION



## SPATIAL MASTER PLAN\_3D VISUALISATION





ARCHITECTURE  
INTERIORS  
URBAN DESIGN  
HERITAGE