



**Ben Franklin**  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Minister for the Arts  
Minister for Regional Youth

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday, 25 July 2022

### **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: POWERHOUSE ULTIMO DESIGN COMPETITION**

The call is out from the NSW Government for architectural design teams with bold ideas to shape the renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo and to make their mark on one of Sydney's cultural icons.

Minister for the Arts Ben Franklin said the Expression of Interest phase was the next step towards the future Design Competition and part of the Government's once in a generation investment into cultural infrastructure.

"We are looking for Australian design teams with bold, ambitious ideas to create a contemporary museum in the heart of Australia's most international city. This is a visionary initiative, with a site that presents a unique design challenge to embrace the changing and vital urban context in a way that is sympathetic to its important heritage and history," Mr Franklin said.

"I'm excited to officially launch the Expression of Interest phase of the Design Competition and encourage submissions from leading Australian architectural teams to transform the museum, ensuring it continues to serve the diverse communities of Sydney and New South Wales.

"This is a unique opportunity for an Australian design team to leave a lasting impression on our idyllic city and reinforce Sydney's reputation as a global cultural destination."

The renewal of Powerhouse Ultimo will deliver new and expanded spaces to present exhibitions showcasing the extraordinary Powerhouse collection, international exhibitions programs that support the creative industries and will feature dedicated fashion and design galleries.

The Expression of Interest process and future Design Competition will be managed by CityLab on behalf of Create NSW, Powerhouse, and Infrastructure NSW alongside a jury of architecture and cultural industry experts chaired by Wendy Lewin, Commissioner, NSW Independent Planning Commission and Principal, Wendy Lewin Architects.

The jury is also comprised of Abbie Galvin Government Architect, GANSW; Alison Page Aboriginal designer; Annette Pitman Interim CEO, Create NSW; Billie Tsien Founding Partner, Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Lisa Havilah Chief Executive, Powerhouse, and Peter Poulet Central District and Southern District Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission and Professor of Practice, Western Sydney University School of Architecture.

The Expression of Interest submissions will be assessed by the jury with a shortlist moving through to the Design Competition, when detailed designs will be developed.

Powerhouse Chief Executive Lisa Havilah said the renewal of the Ultimo Powerhouse would revolutionise the precinct and cement the Powerhouse as Australia's leading museum of applied arts and sciences.

"The Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal will see the museum redefined. As we expand our infrastructure, renew and rethink how we experience the precinct, we are inviting Australian design teams to bring their own expansive concepts and ambitions, and collaborate with us to deliver this generationally important cultural project," Ms Havilah said.

Expressions of Interest open today, 25 July 2022 and close on 12pm AEST Friday 12 August 2022.

More information on the national Design Competition will be announced shortly.

Further information: [www.maas.museum/powerhouse-museum/design-competition](http://www.maas.museum/powerhouse-museum/design-competition)

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**Lisa Havilah: spokesperson on the vision**

Lisa Havilah is the Chief Executive of Powerhouse. Through her leadership she is establishing a new museum paradigm for one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions. From 2012 to 2019, Lisa was the Director of Carriageworks. Under her leadership Carriageworks experienced extraordinary audience, artistic and commercial growth, becoming the fastest growing cultural precinct in Australia. From 2005 to 2011, Lisa was the Director of Campbelltown Arts Centre, pioneering an internationally renowned contemporary arts program that brought together culturally and socially diverse communities, and from 1998 to 2004 was Assistant Director of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

**Wendy Lewin: spokesperson on the jury**

Wendy Lewin is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Architects and currently heads her own architecture studio. Wendy's studio undertakes projects spanning multiple sectors including residential, commercial, cultural, and educational facilities. She has a deep interest in exhibition design and was a creative director for the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale. Wendy Lewin is committed to design education and for over thirty years has taught at various universities including The University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney and Hong Kong University and has chaired and participated in numerous state, national and international design competition juries.

**CityLab**

CityLab is a professional consultancy with a singular focus on making better cities through design expertise, strategic thinking and effective delivery. They are committed to fair and equitable procurement processes, ensuring the best ideas rise to the top. They work with both public and private clients to ensure each project is built on a strong foundation, with a rich brief, a rigorous procurement process and a collaborative network of advisors and jury members.

**Powerhouse**

Established in 1879, Powerhouse is custodian to the state collection of over 500,000 objects of historic significance in the fields of architecture, contemporary culture, design and decorative arts, engineering, fashion, health and medicine, physical sciences and technologies. Its sites include the future flagship Powerhouse Parramatta, Powerhouse Ultimo, Sydney Observatory and Powerhouse Castle Hill.