

Key benefits

The proposal offers a number of benefits to the South Melbourne community. It will:

- Contribute to the City of Port Phillip's vision for South Melbourne
- Stop the building's decline and create a valuable and contemporary asset the community can be proud of, at no cost to the community
- Provide opportunities for the community to gather and use the purpose-built spaces in an iconic building
- Generate economic activity for the Emerald Hill precinct by attracting new audiences to the unique performance and event spaces in the building and provide new life through providing new performance spaces
- Allow Council to bring an iconic building back to life
- Continue allowing free access to high quality performances and events for local residents
- Ensure that this community continues to receive the benefit of being home to ANAM through to the middle of the century.

What's happening at other Victorian Town Halls?

In recent years, Councils across Victoria have recognised the need to find a way to invest in the restoration – and, following council amalgamations of the 1990's, repurposing – of ageing town halls within their communities, and to think about how they can repurpose town halls into community and cultural hubs for the public to enjoy. It is important to consider how our Town Halls can be financially self-sufficient, and not go the way of many under-utilised inner-city town halls, as a place for rug sales, computer swaps, crumbling infrastructure and major ratepayer financial liability.

A good example of this is the Warrnambool Town Hall, now operated by the Lighthouse Theatre. Since it re-opened in 2012, there has been a noticeable increase in the use of the facility. Not only has the local community embraced the redeveloped town hall but it has also allowed for commercial hires and provided ongoing performing arts opportunities that meet the community's needs now and into the future.

ANAM, as a long-term tenant and partner for the refurbishment of the South Melbourne Town Hall, are excited by the chance to join other Councils and provide real value to the broader community.

YOUR SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL


ANAM
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF MUSIC


"ANAM is committed to ensuring that the activation of the South Melbourne Town Hall with performances, cultural events and other activities will bring vitality and vibrancy to the precinct, providing a myriad of opportunities for engagement to all residents of the City of Port Phillip."

Nick Bailey, ANAM's General Manager, September 2019

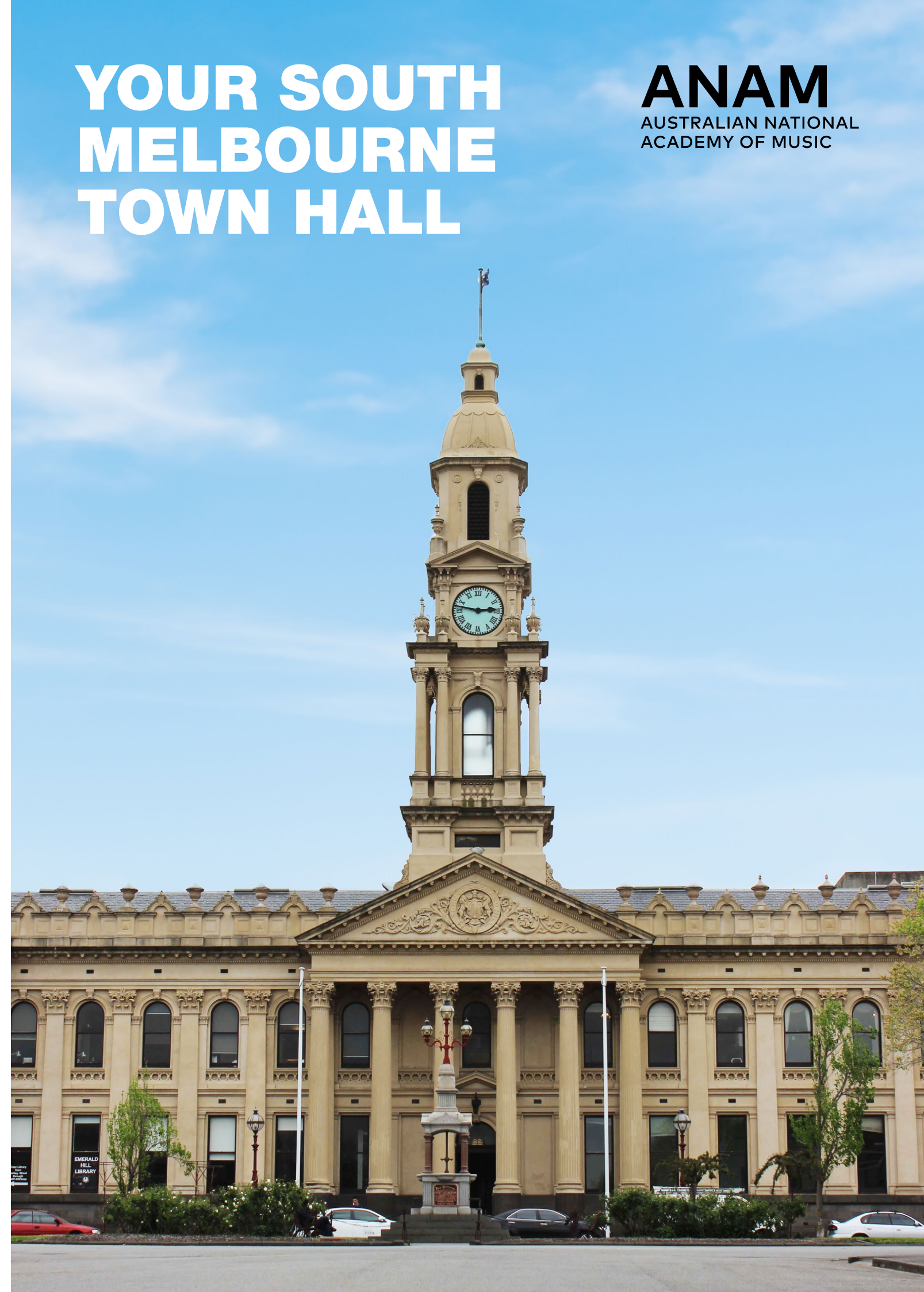
YOUR SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

Please have your say via:

 www.anam.com.au/about/ourhome

 1800 517 387

 community@anam.com.au



Your Town Hall, resting on the lands of the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin nation, is one of Melbourne’s most impressive civic buildings, with a commanding location on Emerald Hill in the heart of South Melbourne.

Since 1880, the South Melbourne Town Hall has stood proudly as an icon of our suburb. Sadly, as you may be aware, this beautiful icon has deteriorated over time and is in need of repair. Currently, some sections of the building are not safe for occupants.

While short-term maintenance has been undertaken, the building needs capital investment to strengthen the space and re-establish the Town Hall as a cultural hub of South Melbourne. There is an opportunity right now to restore the building, renew and make safe the public spaces within it, and create and make a number of new public spaces available for expanded cultural and community use, while preserving its heritage and celebrating its role at the heart of our community.

Now is the time to preserve this beautiful building and give it a renewed purpose for generations to come.

We, the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM), are the current major tenant. We have been filling this building – and community - with world-class music from morning until night for nearly 25 years, we love the building and our community here, and we want to stay a part of South Melbourne for decades to come.

For this reason, ANAM is proposing to raise and invest \$37.5 million of funds into the building in the next three years to renew and restore the Town Hall. With this proposal, ANAM would take responsibility for maintenance of the building for the next 50 years, which will cost us an additional \$33 - \$40 million over 50 years in effect equating to an annual rental contribution of \$800,000.

The City of Port Phillip is currently considering our proposal.

About ANAM

- ANAM is an internationally renowned national institution, firmly connected to its local community and dedicated to the artistic and professional development of the most exceptional young musicians from Australia and New Zealand.
- ANAM is the only professional performance training institute in Australia, and one of the few in the world.
- Every year, ANAM presents over 180 public events, the majority which are in the South Melbourne Town Hall and free to residents of the City of Port Phillip, attracting more than 25,000 patrons to Emerald Hill annually.
- ANAM musicians also develop and present programs in local primary schools and are engaged closely with the community as an integral part of their training.
- The Main Hall is one of the city’s most beautiful municipal halls, affording an intimate performance and community space, superb natural acoustics and commercial recording facilities.
- As part of this building renewal project, ANAM, in partnership with the City of Port Phillip, will renew the building’s Main Hall and additional spaces, opening the building out for significantly increased community and cultural access including for performances, meetings, conferences, dinners and function (with discounted venue hire rates available to residents).

Nick Bailey, ANAM’s General Manager and the team are excited by the opportunity to stop the building’s decline and open up the building through new state-of-the-art cultural and community performance and event spaces. The event spaces will activate the Town Hall for our community once again.



History timeline

