

HAWA EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL BUILDING



Perth Hindu Temple
Hindu Association of Western Australia

An Investment in our Future



THE VISION

To provide a building that will facilitate the empowerment of children and young people, especially of migrant communities, to build resilience and acquire appropriate values and life skills that will enable them to reach their potential. The building will also be used to bring together families through cultural, social and community development activities.



VIEW OF CHARIOT STORE



VIEW OF MAIN ENTRY

BACKGROUND

The concept of the Educational and Cultural Building, especially to assist our younger generation to blossom fully in this country that we now call home, was first formally considered by the general body at the 2015 HAWA AGM. Variations to the concept were considered by subsequent AGMs. At the most recent AGM the concept was accepted in principle, subject to the Management Committee and Board of Trustees obtaining financial commitments of \$1 million towards the construction cost of the building by the next AGM. This paper gives an overview of the proposed building, and the potential benefits to the Community and HAWA.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOME

An exploratory workshop was held on 27 August 2017. The workshop, together with subsequent discussions with community members and potential users, have identified the need for space in the building for:

- Understanding our roots - classes on religious and cultural practices, values and morals
- Personal development - yoga and meditation classes, satsangs and seminars
- Adapting to the new environment - New-migrant guidance and counselling
- Dance and music classes, practices and performances
- Community celebrations - weddings, concerts, graduations
- Library and Museum
- Social activities - for children, youth and seniors

BENEFITS

The benefits to be derived from providing space for the identified needs can be summarised as follows:

For Children (3 to 13 years)

- Early introduction to traditional values, morals, culture and religious practices in a nurturing environment, which will help children to grow up into loving, caring, inclusive and intelligent individuals.

For Youth (14 to 30 years)

- Opportunities to participate in activities that will help youth to develop their self-confidence, values, artistic abilities, and skills in leadership, communication and service, while also building up a network of friends. The activities will be built on both Vedic and modern philosophies, so that the youth will comfortably fit into the wider Australian community. There will also be opportunities for mentoring and counselling by qualified professionals when confronted with challenges.

For Adult Community

- Safe space for their children to acquire beneficial knowledge and skills, and to build relationships with peers. This will be of great assistance to the newer immigrants who have come from homogenous communities to fit into the Australian multi-cultural environment. There will also be activities adults can participate in - satsangs by visiting Gurus, study-circles and community celebrations. These will enable them to enhance their understanding of themselves, while net-working with like-minded persons.

For the whole Family

- The vision is of the whole family coming to the Hindu Centre; the children will participate in activities at the new Educational & Cultural Building while the parents / grand-parents do their prayers in the Temple -or participate in some Seva. The whole family will then gather in the canteen, possibly with other friends, for an affordable and healthy vegetarian meal.
- The Hindu Centre thus becomes a friendly hub for the Hindus in Perth and its surroundings, and helps pre-empt mental health issues.

Wider Community

- The building and its facilities will cater primarily to the Hindu community in Metropolitan Perth (estimated to be more than 50,000 people), but the facilities will also be available to the wider community, especially the residents of the Cities of Canning and Gosnells. The wider community will be invited to participate in activities that will help build harmony and friendship.

PROJECT PURPOSE

This project intends to achieve a facility that is responsive to community needs and is adequate for educational, cultural, social, spiritual, welfare, youth, seniors and community activities.

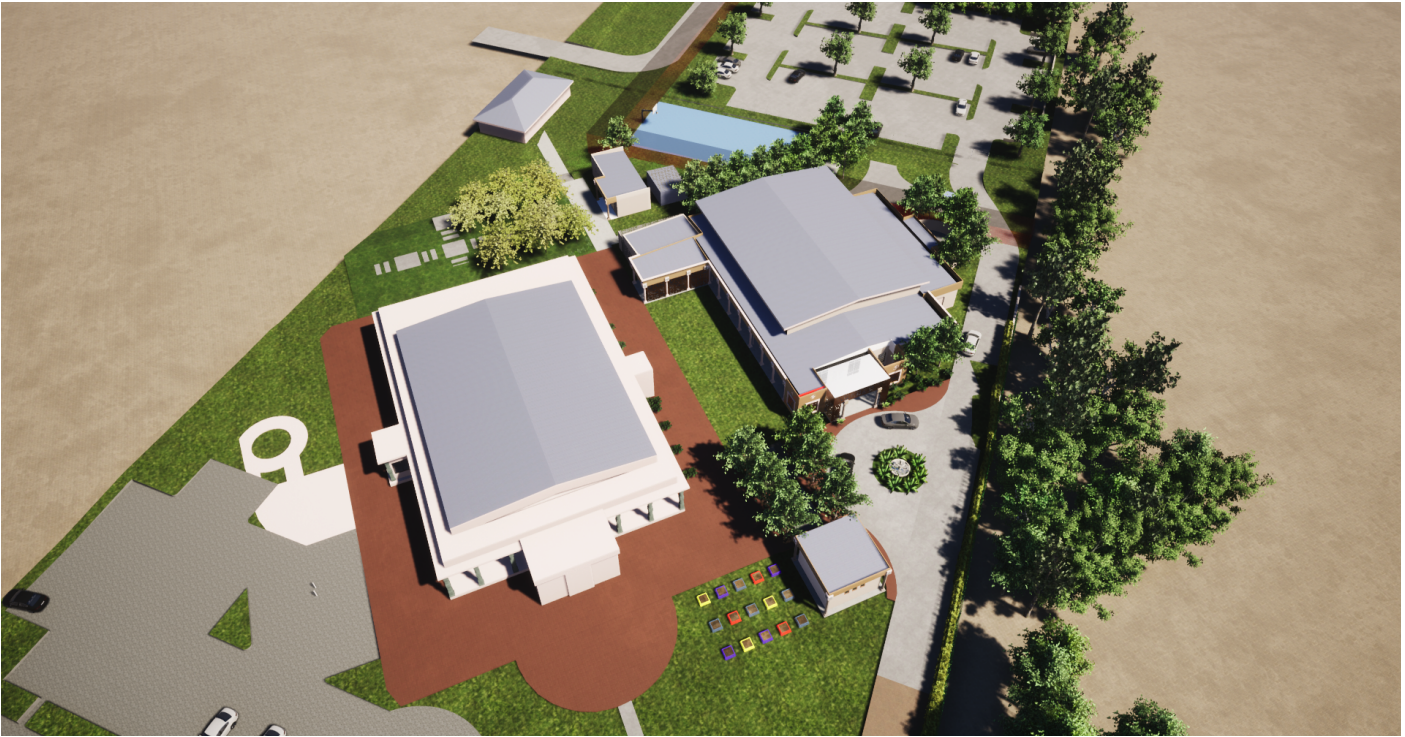
DESCRIPTION

This project involves the construction of a multi-purpose building within the premises of the Perth Hindu Centre, at 271 Warton Road, Canning Vale, Western Australia.

The building will be a single level due mainly to funding constraints. The core of the building is a hall with a seating capacity of 400 people, which can be partitioned into 3 activity rooms of approximately 140 m² each. These rooms can be used as seminar rooms, as well as for yoga, meditation, dance and music classes. When the partitions are opened, the hall can be used as a wedding hall, or for cultural performances and community celebrations. The hall has a stage, with male and female change rooms on either side.



EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL BUILDING IN THE HAWA MASTERPLAN - Plan



EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL BUILDING IN THE HAWA MASTERPLAN - Perspective

SOCIAL IMPACT

This project has enormous scope to involve people of all ages and abilities in whole of community activities. Community connections and social inclusion will be increased through the capacity for events and activities such as educational and cultural activities, museum activities, book club initiatives, library activities, young readers activities, lego club, toy library, school holiday workshops and information technology workshops to all take place in the same location. All of these initiatives aim to deliver a sense of togetherness and interaction, and strengthen the physical and mental wellbeing of users.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Hindu Association of WA, an incorporated body with a history of over 35 years, will be responsible for this project's administration, financial obligations and implementation. As at 30 June 2020 HAWA had net assets of \$ 8.75 million. The President and Chairman of the Trustees will be delegated the authority to act as the project sponsors under a mandate from the general body at a general meeting. The project sponsors, in consultation with the project team, will define the project parameters, oversee the project, make strategic decisions, and review project status reports.

TIME FRAME

The target is to commence construction in early 2022, and complete the building within two years.

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ALL DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIP WILL BE APPROPRIATELY ACKNOWLEDGED