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**Media Release**

## Activity in the centre of town

Mt Barker residents will soon see a transformation of part of the large, vacant site in the centre of town with a temporary area being established allowing for events, daily activities, and engagement on the city centre project to take place.

The council plans to make the site along Morphett Street available for public use from November or December with it remaining in place for approximately 12 months.

Earlier in the year, the council sought expressions of interest from local and high-profile event organisers to run events or festivals on the site during the interim period. The successful submission from Bamboozled Productions has proposed two outdoor open access festivals on the temporary space.

A two-day Christmas festival will see performances from local community arts organisations mixing with world class jugglers, acrobats, comedians and magicians while a street arts festival in March 2024 will include aerial performers offering an entertaining and accessible form of performance art to the community and visitors.

As well as producing festivals, Bamboozled Productions design and build performance tents that have been used in the Garden of Unearthly Delights and Gluttony spaces at the Adelaide Fringe each year. Both of the proposed festivals will feature at least one of these tents as a performance space to attract even more visitors to the pop-up town square.

“These completely free events will see Mount Barker’s CBD turn into a feast for the senses bursting with colour, live performances, food trucks and entertainment galore, Mayor Leach said.

“Across both festivals, a total of 79 artists, arts workers, production crew, tradespeople and security staff will be employed, and wherever possible local companies and local suppliers will be used.”

Council is opening up the temporary area to make it accessible for the general community for day-to-day use to meet and spend time as a first step in activating the site. Between the Bamboozled events, council will reach out to local sports, music or similar groups to provide performances and to generally connect with the community.

The overall master plan for the City Centre Project is being revised by Burke Urban Investments, the council's private sector partner for the delivery of this project. The revised master plan is aiming to achieve a similar mix of community, commercial and retail uses whilst ensuring an integrated and staged delivery.

The adapted master plan will be considered by the council in November 2023 at which point a revised community and stakeholder engagement strategy will be recommended for endorsement and implementation.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mount Barker District Council Manager Communications and Engagement, Ian Hildebrand

P: (08) 8393 6470 | E: [ihildebrand@mountbarker.sa.gov.au](mailto:ihildebrand@mountbarker.sa.gov.au)