

ARTIST STATEMENT

The proposal is a conceptual design response to the City of Port Phillip Expression of Interest for Design, Fabrication and Installation of Gates at the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens, and the St. Kilda Botanical Gardens Futures Direction Plan.

Key Objectives

- Improve security
- Create a welcoming entry (not just gates)
- Create a contextual response to different areas within the Botanical Gardens
- Create a lasting and robust addition to the garden that the local residents and visitors feel proud

Whilst all four entrance gates are demonstrably different, they are all designed within a similar framework, both in proportion and materials, in order to give the gates and the streetscape of St. Kilda Botanical Gardens a consistent artistic expression. The framework is based on the composition of the existing Heritage Gate in Blessington Street. Therefore all four entrances are 3.5 metres in width.

GATE 1

Gate 1 designed to 'complete' the Central Heritage Core and to reflect the scale and proportion of the existing Heritage Gate on the Blessington Street. Gate 1 features two pillars, made of wrought iron like the Heritage Gate, the pillars are 3.5 metres apart and 2.2 metres in height. Within these wrought iron pillars, the pedestrian gate is configured with two fixed panels either side.

Gate 1 celebrates what was once the 'forgotten entrance' in Dickens Street, by creating a memorable entrance (not just gates). The articulation of the entrance panels are a reference to indigenous planting within the gardens.

In the context of the 'forgotten entrance', Gate 1 defines a permanent pedestrian entrance from Dickens Street.

GATE 2

Gate 2 is a contextual response to the adjacent children's playground. The entrance is a composition of fixed panels gates and is aligned to the splayed corner of Tennyson Street and Dickens Street.

The design is playful and lively, identifiable objects such as butterflies and bees give the entrance its own character within the framework of all four gates.

GATE 3

Gate 3 is a contextual response to the indigenous planting area of the Botanical Gardens. The entrance gate is aligned to the splayed corner and features a ceremonial sign that arches over the gate.

The arched sign is a reference to the existing sign over the gate on Blessington and Tennyson Street corner. The proposed sign above Gate 3 is elegant and welcoming. The articulation of Gate 3 reflects the indigenous planting nearby.

GATE 4

Gate 4 is designed as a 3.5 metre wide service entrance from Tennyson Street and to reinforce the east-west axis of the Botanical Gardens. It is also a contextual response to the adjacent Rose Garden.

The articulation of the Gate 4 features an abstracted rose set within the framework of all four gates.

GATE FABRICATION

All four entrance gates will be secure, robust and low maintenances; they are built to be long lasting. The four entrances will be fabricated in steel, hot dip galvanized, meticulously prepared in Dulux Bronze metallic paint finish, industrial spray finish. The fabrication of these gates will be completed on time and within the budget as per the tender.

