

Places of Connection

Public Spaces for people & connection



Acknowledgment

Think of Country as a being, it remembers everyone who has ever been in this place; it will remember you, once you have gone. It remembers everyone who has ever worked here, it remembers everyone whose knowledge has contributed to the care and the continuity of this place. It remembers every industry that has been and gone here; and when you acknowledge Country, it acknowledges you back. It is important to take that time and connect to this place.

Emily McDaniel

Placemaking NSW



Own & manage –The Rocks, Darling Harbour, Ballast Point, White Bay Power Station and Luna Park under legislation set by NSW Government

Advocate & promote strong placemaking outcomes from strategy to delivery to operations

Promote best practice design and place solutions

Collaborate to achieve design & place excellence & integrated outcomes.

Advise & support government & other groups through design & place expertise.

Social Regeneration



Our public spaces foster social connection.

Public spaces and public buildings play an important role – where people from all walks of life can come together.

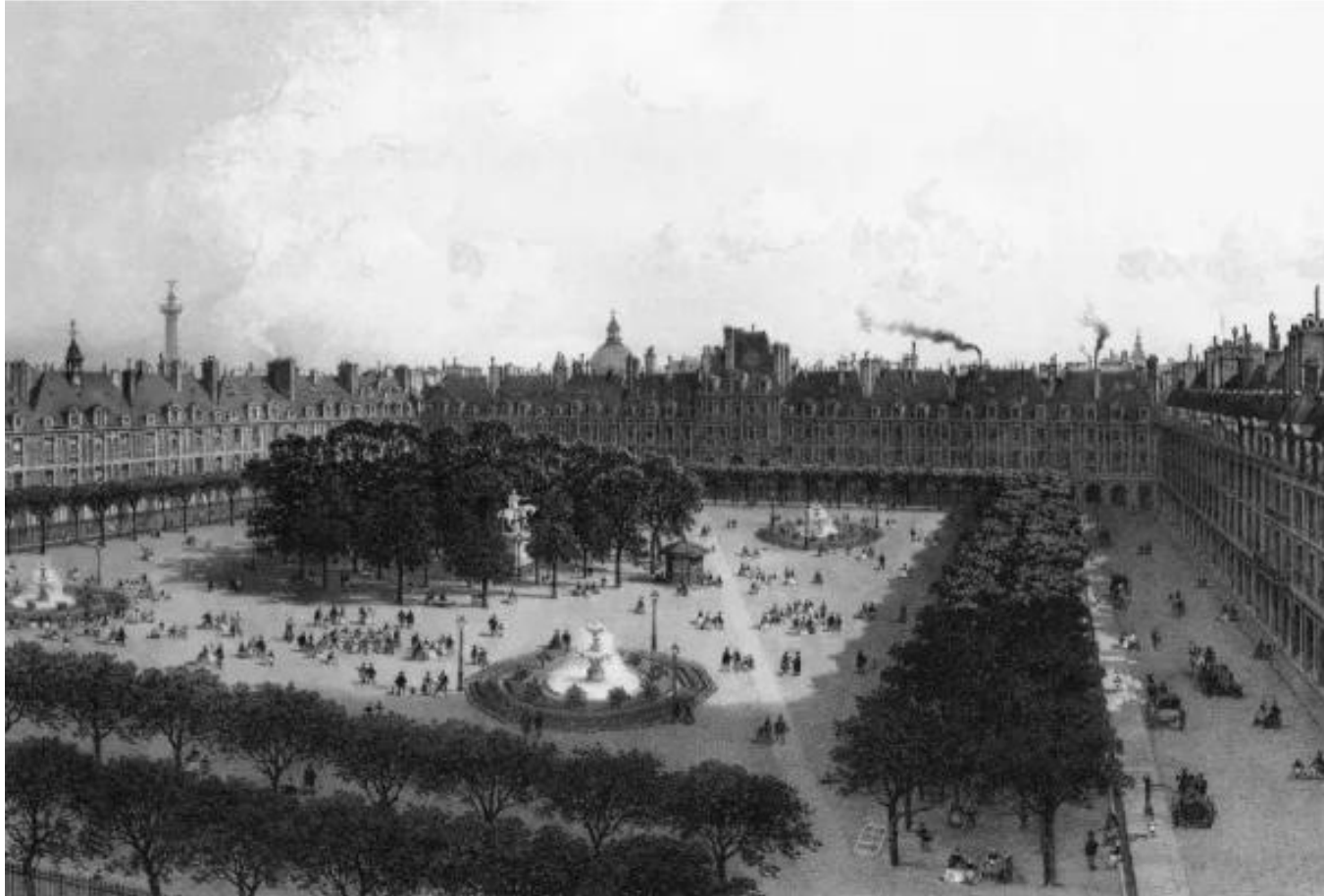
Where socially isolated people have a place to belong.

Where inclusion is of paramount importance.

Public spaces for coming together and doing business



Public Spaces the great equaliser



Public Space as place for sport and ritual



Public Spaces as place to protest



Public Spaces for theatre and expression



Loneliness

Loneliness and social isolation are an epidemic for both men and women

Social isolation – few social relationships and infrequent social contact

Loneliness – feeling of lack of connection to other people, a desire for more satisfying social relationships

Factors that increase sense of social isolation & loneliness:



“Lonelygenic environments“

- Sprawling low-density environments
- Limited walkability
- Car based movements reduces ability to chat with people Instead of walking, reliance on driving places
Longer Commutes



Generational Differences & changes in work

- Communication & working styles
- Emails favoured over phone calls or meetings
- Poor work life balance



Life Events

- Bereavement
- Injury illness
- Birth of a new child
- Children leaving home
- Poverty of low income
- Having a disability

Loneliness

Loneliness and social isolation are an epidemic for both men and women

60% of employees feel
lonely at work

Across all age groups –
men experience more
social isolation than
women.

Across all age groups,
approx. / between 11-
16% of people
experience social
isolation.

Across all age groups,
between 13% - 17% of
people experience
loneliness.

Loneliness is deadlier
than obesity and as
bad for you as smoking
15 cigarettes a day

Loneliness is likely to
increase your risk of
death by 29%
& costs up to \$2.7bn a
year

Connection is
the most
effective way to
put a stop to
loneliness

Preventing & Reducing isolation & loneliness

Opportunities for connection are crucial for health and wellbeing

- Volunteer work
- Active memberships of sporting or community organisations
- Working
- Pets

Create the ability for casual connection

- As simple as hello or small nod.
- Shared experiences
- Fostering connections

Engaging with others

- Regularity
- Welcoming
- Easy to do

Public spaces can create opportunities.

Welcoming
Green / Biophilia
Free
Open
Public
No barrier to participation

PRIVATE SPHERE

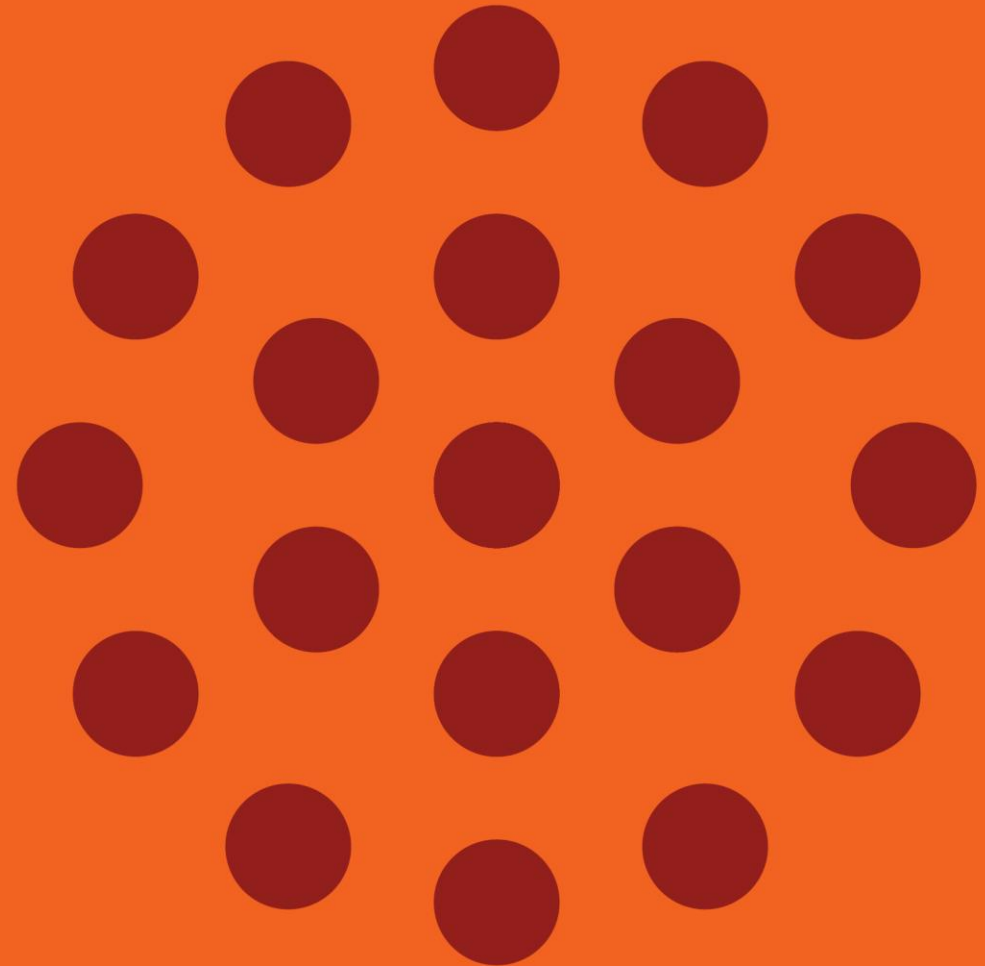
PRIVATE/ PUBLIC

PUBLIC SPHERE



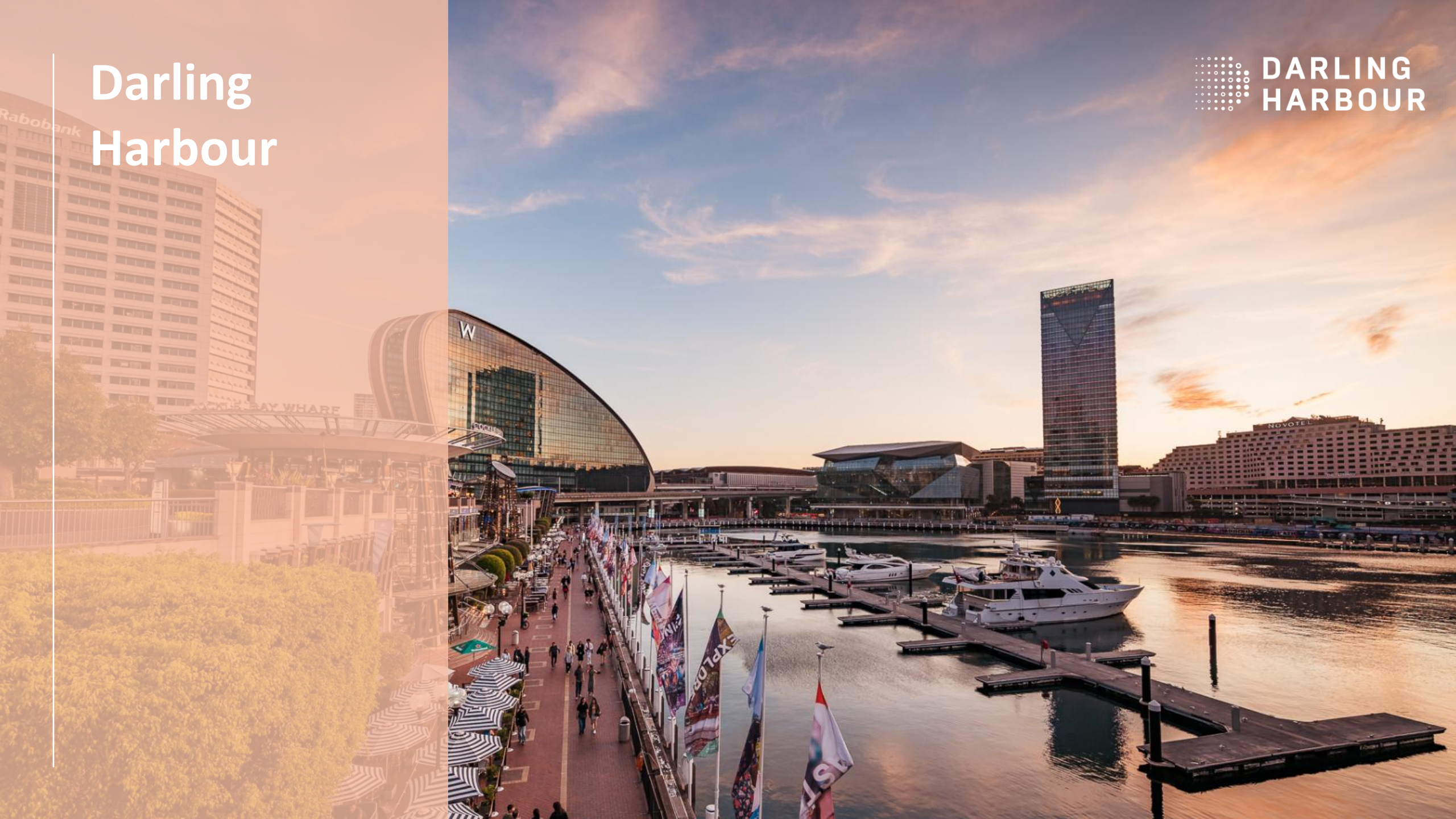
We need a broader culture of connection.

Public places that are free, inclusive and welcoming that create opportunities to connect – for a broad & diverse range of people.



Darling Harbour

 DARLING
HARBOUR



Unique qualities of Darling Harbour



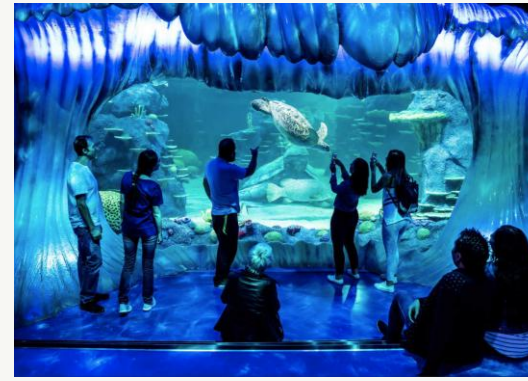
Location

By the harbour, on the edge of the City



Diversity

All abilities, cultures and orientation



Breadth of attractions

Imax, Sealife Sydney and more



Accessible & Inclusive

Pedestrian-friendly



Family-Friendly

Playgrounds, carousel, and more



Public transport

All modes surrounding precinct



ICC Sydney

Premier convention & exhibition centre



Tumbalong Park

Sydney's live site venue

Darling Harbour snapshot



60

Hectares



26m

Annual visitation



\$139.40

Average spend per visitor



\$2.2b

Economic benefit



40%

Public open space



14,000

Jobs



\$3.5bn

Development

Harbourside: \$1.5 billion mixed use development, residential, commercial and retail with additional public domain space

Cockle Bay: \$2 billion mixed use development including new commercial tower, retail and a new public park to be constructed over the existing freeway

Recent Events



Cultural Alive Festivals
March - May



Easter School Holidays
April



Sydney Comedy Festival
April



Nike After Dark Tour
April



StickyBeak Festival
April



Vivid
April



Winter School Holidays
May



Sydney Harbour 10k
May / June

Highest Engaged Social Posts



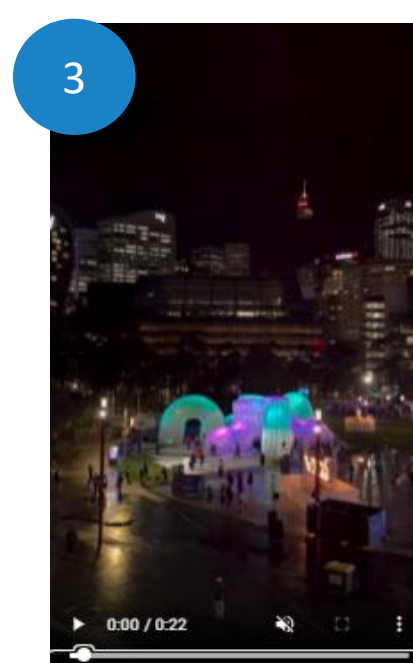
darlingharbour Free salsa? Yes, really! And it's for				
Likes and reactions	Comments	Shares	Saves	
4,638	54	7,759	1,775	
Likes and reactions	Comments	Shares	Saves	
4,514	320	613	605	
89K	3,520	28	2,364	1,236

**Latin Nights - Free salsa
classes**



darlingharbour	Free salsa? Yes, really! And it's for
2,264	56
431	14

**Lunar New Year at
Chinese Garden of
Friendship**



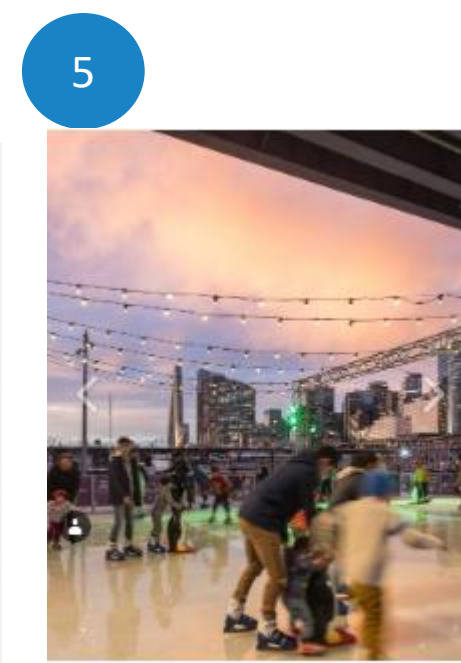
darlingharbour	The lights are on and 23 nights of DREAMS has started for @vivid Sydney
1,802	22
990	226
1,871	137
413	90

Lights are on for Vivid



darlingharbour	Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you back to Darling Harbour in 2025, for another year of unforgettable moments.
1,755	95
82	6

Happy New Year



darlingharbour	Get ready to glide! The Darling Harbour Ice Rink, brought to you by @nova_96...
1,610	1
2,182	365

**Winter - Ice Rink
Carousel**

Upcoming Events



Spring School Holidays
September



International Astronautical
Congress
September



SXSW
October



Sydney International Boat Show
November



Culture Alive Festivals
November - December



Christmas
December



New Years Eve
December



Sydney Festival
January

Place Experience Activation



THE RUN CLUB

Monday, Weekly 7.15am – 8.15am
ongoing

RESULTS

Consistently seeing newrunners each week
Over 60% of attendees are regulars
60% live in the area
30% work in the area



RHYTHM N BUBS

Wednesday, Weekly 10.30am – 11.15am

RESULTS

Consistently 60 attendees each week
Working with over 10 different musicians
Utilising new spaces, Playground Lawn

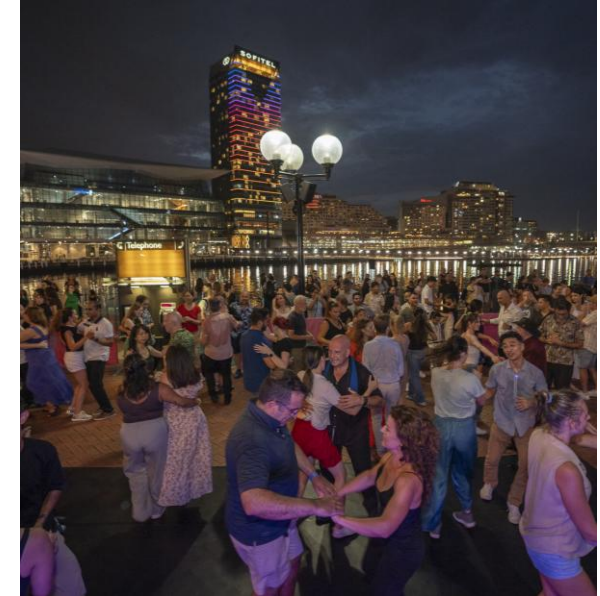


BEAT BREAKDOWN

Thursday, Monthly 5.30pm – 8.30pm

MARKETING RESULTS

Consistently seeing crowds of 500 pax throughout the night each month
Engaging with 30 competitors each month and targeting new audiences and dance community



LATIN NIGHTS

Friday, Weekly, 6pm – 9pm

MARKETING RESULTS

One of our highest attended activities, with over 600 participants each week

A place for all ages to come together and play



Spaces that connect people to Darling Harbour's water story



Chinese Garden of Friendship

A tranquil retreat for cultural connection and rest



Growing social communities

Dancers have found connection, redefining public spaces to create Dancers Alley and free Latin Nights dance classes beside Cockle Bay



Darling Harbour Vision Case Study



“Darling Harbour was a gift to the people. It has a number of roles to play, working hard for all of the people – all of the time.”

Workshop participant

Darling Harbour Vision Case Study



First Nations Soul

Designing with Country and continuous leadership from First Nations advisors to share balanced stories and futures.

A place for all people

Celebrate the legacy of gathering and ceremony that welcomes all to experience this special public place.

Regenerate this place for all kin

Re-establish the connection between Land and Sea Country, recognising the vital role of these interconnected relationships for future resilience.

A future vision shaped and shared by the community

Collaborative and meaningful engagement with diverse community groups, technical experts and stakeholders to establish and deliver the vision for Darling Harbour's future.

Thank you

