

Centennial Park Labyrinth OPPORTUNITY MEMORANDUM

January 2012



www.sydneylabyrinth.org

“Solvitur Ambulando” - It is solved by walking (St Augustine)

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1. Executive Summary

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Imagine if there was a place you could go to quiet your mind and calm your senses in a natural setting - an accessible community facility, available to all...

The purpose of this project is to build Sydney's first public labyrinth, bringing the benefits of walking meditation and contemplation to one of the busiest cities in the world. The site will be the Centennial Parklands, the home of Australian Federation on lands bequeathed by Governor Macquarie.

The labyrinth is a simple contemplative path used for walking meditation. It is inclusive and non-denominational and is an easy way for people to centre and calm themselves. Labyrinths have a rich history, which spans over 4000 years.

Labyrinth walking contributes to individual and community well-being. It is used in many different countries and in different cultural contexts, as a path of insight and self-reflection. Most religious traditions include some form of walking pilgrimage and the Aborigines have always walked their Songlines. The labyrinth invites people to share a common experience, reconciling the interests of a diverse community.

Labyrinth walking activates the right brain, enabling us to walk into the bigger picture or larger context of whatever it is we are contemplating. The result is a sense of balance, ease and wholeness.

Public art is a powerful metaphor. The single winding path of the labyrinth reminds us of the complexities of our journey through life, providing both gentle relief and meaningful purpose. Aesthetically, a labyrinth is a thing of great beauty – a sort of Western Songline.

The Board of Trustees of Centennial Park recently approved the construction of a sandstone replica of the medieval Chartres Cathedral labyrinth. Centennial Park is a

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hub of constant recreational activities with over 10 million visitors per year. Building a labyrinth at its heart would provide a contemplative counterbalance – a calm centre for the activity of the Grand Drive.

The labyrinth is intended as the centrepiece of the Centennial Parklands 125th year celebrations in 2013. By supporting the labyrinth project with your fully tax-deductible donation, you will be contributing to the heritage of this iconic Sydney park and creating a legacy of well-being and inspiration for generations to come.

To experience walking a labyrinth first hand, come to one of our monthly events at the Mosman Art Gallery to walk a canvas replica of the Chartres Cathedral labyrinth. For more information go to: www.sydneylabyrinth.org

*“The labyrinth addresses the spiritual hunger of our times.
We long for ways to quiet the mind and open the heart
to embrace the differences between ourselves and others.
Walking the labyrinth is a way to remember
that we all walk the path together.”
(Dr Lauren Artress)*

2. Labyrinth History

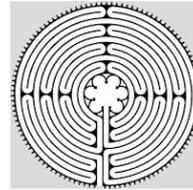
The Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that has been used by many different cultures all over the world as a contemplative pathway, which quiets the mind and opens the heart. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze has several different pathways and dead ends, which are deliberately designed to confuse you. A labyrinth has only a single pathway with no dead ends so you can't get lost. If a maze is an intellectual exercise, a labyrinth is a spiritual one.



Maze: multiple paths

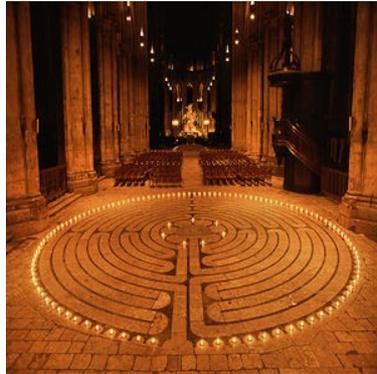


Classical Labyrinth: single path



Medieval Labyrinth: single path

The most celebrated labyrinth is in the Chartres Cathedral in France. (13th century)



Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth

In the last few decades, there's been a revival of interest in the labyrinth. In the United States there have been more than 200 labyrinths built in hospitals alone. They're also being built in universities, parks, schools and thousands of private gardens. This long forgotten mystical tradition is being reborn.



Comberton, UK



Indiana, USA

3. Project Overview

The aim of the project is to construct a full scale Chartres Labyrinth in sandstone.

The time frame is anticipated to be 6 months including:

Site establishment and earthworks	4 weeks
Concrete slab and piling	4 weeks
Paving of the labyrinth	10 weeks
Soft landscaping and handover	6 weeks

The project will be under the auspices of the Centennial Parklands Foundation, managed and administered by William Zuccon of Dods and Zuccon Architects, in conjunction with the Centennial Parklands Foundation.

Life is not a particular place or destination.

Life is a path.

(Thich Nath Hanh)

4. Financing and Funding

Funding is being sought from individual benefactors, private foundations and the broader labyrinth community. Emily Simpson is the seed benefactor.

Estimated budget is \$517,000.

Consultants Fees (Geotechnical and landscaping)	\$10,000
Construction Preliminaries	\$55,000
Earthworks and slab	\$75,000
Stonemasonry (water jet cutting)	\$160,000
Builder	\$100,000
Soft Landscaping	\$20,000
Contingency	\$50,000
Sub Total	\$470,000
GST	\$47,000
Grand Total	\$517,000

*“In an age of abundance, we’re no longer in the maze of those mice
in ‘Who Moved My Cheese?’ The more appropriate metaphor
for our times (the conceptual age) is the labyrinth.”*

(Daniel Pink, ‘A Whole New Mind’)

5. Donations

ALL DONATIONS ARE FULLY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Friend

Acknowledgement on labyrinth project website honour board.

Supporter \$5,000 +

Invitation to opening ceremony

Private viewing of the labyrinth prior to opening

Official acknowledgement on donor board beside labyrinth

Patron \$10,000 +

Invitation to opening ceremony

Private viewing of the labyrinth prior to opening

Official acknowledgement on donor board beside labyrinth

Benefactor \$25,000 +

Invitation to opening ceremony

Private viewing of the labyrinth prior to opening

Official acknowledgement on donor board beside labyrinth

Visionary \$ 50,000 +

Invitation to opening ceremony

Private viewing of the labyrinth prior to opening

Official acknowledgement on donor board beside labyrinth

Catered and facilitated evening labyrinth walk for 50 friends

Cheques are payable to the Centennial Parklands Foundation.

Please specify that your donation is for the Labyrinth Project

All donations are tax-deductible

6. Location Map

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*We give thanks for places of simplicity and peace.
Let us find such a place within ourselves.
We give thanks for places of refuge and beauty.
Let us find such a place within ourselves.
We give thanks for places of joy, inspiration and renewal.
Places where all may find acceptance and belonging.
Let us search for those places;
in the world, in ourselves and in each other.
(Michael Leunig)*

6. CONTACTS

Labyrinth Project
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For more information go to: www.sydneylabyrinth.org

Centennial Parklands Foundation

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*There is nothing so wise as a circle
(Rainer Maria Rilke)*

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APPENDIX A:



Indiana, USA



Washington, DC



Iceland



Foxground, AUS



England



Denmark

*Let us pause from thinking. Let us stop the noise.
In the silence, let us listen to our hearts.
(Michael Leunig)*