



Bridge to Opportunity

The Rural City of
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BRIDGE**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Piano Sanctuary to Remain at Carey's Park.

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MURRAY Bridge's Carey's Park Piano Sanctuary - a place where pianos are left to degrade in the natural environment as artistic expression - has been supported by Council to remain and expand to fully realise a concept first proposed in 2017.

The expansion of South Australia's first publicly accessible Piano Sanctuary is on track to be completed by the end of 2022 with the introduction of six additional pianos spaced along the stretch of the reserve.

Jesse Budel, project curator, composer, and sound artist worked with Council and the Community Advisory Group over the past four years to trial two pianos at the reserve. Council recently secured grant funding of \$5,000 through the Country Arts SA quick response grant fund to implement the project.

The Piano Sanctuary will feature a variety of aged and derelict pianos, gradually degrading. Over time, this decay affects the structure and appearance of the instruments and, as a result, the sound produced. Members of the public are welcome to play the pianos, pluck the strings, plan a photo shoot and admire the instruments as they age.

The Piano Sanctuary is located adjacent Mannum Road between Bigmore and Guerin Roads. Carey's Park is a reserve featuring remnant Mallee vegetation on the way into Murray Bridge. The Piano Sanctuary provides a space for performances, exhibitions, and nature walks in the surrounds of the park's native Mallee Scrub.

The first event planned at the Sanctuary will be a twilight concert on Saturday 4 March 2023 during Adelaide Fringe, featuring performances by project curator Jesse Budel and the internationally recognised award – winning pianist Gabriella Smart.

"Pianos are a significant part of Australia's cultural heritage, being a social and entertainment fixture of nearly every colonial household" states project curator Jesse Budel.

"Over the past century, many of these instruments have exchanged hands and travelled vast distances, resulting in rich and detailed stories and experiences for each piano. Although seen as cultural icons, it is often the case that once pianos move beyond the traditional understandings

of playability and functionality (becoming aged and derelict), they are neglected and ignored" he said.

The project trial has been well received by the community "We know there is community interest in the project as we have received several offers to donate instruments since the trial of two pianos in the space commenced in 2018" says Public Art Officer Tegan Hale. "We are grateful for the community support that has been offered to date."

'This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, which supports the arts in regional and remote Australia'

For more information, please contact Tegan Hale, Public Art Officer via t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au or 8539 1100