Thank you for joining us on the Student Precinct journey this year.

Amongst a year of co-creation activities, events and initiatives with students, an Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Student Precinct was developed and finalised, a new Student Precinct Engagement Office opened and the qualitative phase of the online Co-creation Community was completed.

The 2015 UMSU President and former Student Engagement Officer for Chancellery Projects, Rachel Withers, aptly summed up the progress achieved this year via a short vignette you can view [here](#).

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016**

In response to the University’s commitment to co-create a Student Precinct with students, an **Engagement Strategy** was developed to ensure students were given opportunities to meaningfully engage with the project. The co-creation approach to this project invites the end-users – the students – to drive the direction, design and requirements of this student-centred space. In 2016 the Project moved through the *Explore* stage to the *Create* stage. The *Implementation* phase will commence in 2017 with activations, events and pop-ups happening in the new Student Precinct site.

The **Student Precinct Project Mailing List** was established to provide students and stakeholders with regular updates and news regarding the Precinct. Student Precinct updates, news and event information are also available to view on the University’s [Your Campus](#) website at [ourcampus.unimelb.edu.au](http://ourcampus.unimelb.edu.au).

**Pop-up comment walls** sprung up across the campus in May, inviting students to share their views about what they think the Precinct should be. Over 800 comments were captured, penned by approximately 400 students. Our fantastic Student Precinct Ambassadors were also on hand to provide background about the Project, answer any questions and to importantly, supply sustenance to participating students with a lolly or two!

The **Urban Design Framework (UDF)** for the Student Precinct was finalised in November. The UDF provides a detailed understanding of the Precinct’s location and relationship to the Parkville campus more broadly, the existing condition of the buildings, and identifies the opportunities and challenges to upgrading existing infrastructure.
A Student Precinct Engagement Office was established at the rear of John Smyth Building in semester 1. Mid-year the office served as a ‘go-to’ hub to catch up on the progress of the Project and have your say.

Several open forums and consultations with students were presented early semester 2, providing another avenue for students to get involved with the Project. Masters of Architecture student, Zachariah Dahdoule, presented a forum to 70 students and staff in the Student Precinct Engagement Office, sharing his experience working with architecture firm, Jackson Clements and Burrows, to develop the UDF. Zachariah was also interviewed by UoM student publication, Parkville Station, about the UDF and his contribution to its development. The Project Team also held a focus group with residents of the Student Village Melbourne.

In October Future Foods were engaged to develop a preliminary Food and Retail Strategy for the Precinct to better understand the opportunities for food and retail in the space. Key insights noted in the report included:

- $14 per person is the average spend on food and beverage at the Parkville Campus
- The Precinct is well placed to provide opportunities for extended hours of operation for outlets and to provide healthy, affordable and sustainable food and beverage options
- Opportunities exist to tap into Melbourne’s laneway personality and ‘micro-space’ exemplars.

The Co-creation Community was launched online in Semester 2. Informed by the responses gathered from co-creation activities in May, The Lab Strategy & Research presented online forums and discussions over an 8 week period to 312 active community users. Through collaborative discussions The Lab invited the Co-Creation Community to respond to eight broad design concepts. Features they would like to see in the Student Precinct—and those they wouldn’t—were identified whilst the generation of new ideas for the space were also encouraged. The average number of posts shared by users was 7 with unique posts totaling 2273.

As the data was analysed, the notion of ‘connection’ resonated as a key theme. Connection to the future, to the past, to others, to student themselves, to the university surrounds and connection to the city.

Student responses reflected their needs and how the Precinct should deliver them. These needs sat under these three pillars:
AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD...

• A quantitative analysis survey will be conducted by Nature Research in early 2017, providing a way of testing and validating the co-creation feedback gathered from the online Co-creation Community this year. Look out for an e-invite in semester 1, inviting participants to take the survey and to further shape and refine the project.

• Activation events and pop-ups will be happening throughout the year in the new Student Precinct site. Look out for an outdoor gallery, a pop-up kitchen and various other interactive activities that you can engage and get involved in.

• The Student Precinct Engagement Office will remain in the John Smyth Building in 2017 but will be relocated to a larger more convenient space facing Swanston Street—so be sure to come say hello.

FINALLY, THANK YOU!

As the year draws to a close, the Student Precinct Project Team would like to thank the integral groups and individuals that have allowed us to achieve our goals this year.

The Co-creation Community
Farrago
Graduate Student Association
Parkville Station
Student Precinct Project Student Ambassadors
Student Precinct Project Mailing List
Student Precinct Project Steering Committee
University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU)
University of Melbourne Student Union Clubs and Societies
University of Melbourne Student Union International

Have a wonderful, safe and sunny break everyone,
The Student Precinct Project Team

We value your feedback throughout all phases of this exciting project, so feel free to email us at student-precinct@unimelb.edu.au