

The background image shows the interior of Brisbane City Hall. Two young women are in the foreground, looking upwards at the ceiling. The ceiling is highly ornate with a repeating geometric pattern of octagons and squares. A chandelier hangs from the ceiling. In the background, there is a doorway with a decorative pediment.

TEACHER  
RESOURCE

# BRISBANE CITY HALL

THE PEOPLE'S PLACE

MUSEUM • OF • BRISBANE

LEVEL 3, CITY HALL  
KING GEORGE SQUARE

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## TEACHER RESOURCE

Heritage-listed Brisbane City Hall is the backdrop to many cultural, social and civic events and is considered by many to be the heart of our city.



Built between 1920 and 1930, City Hall is classified as a significant site in Brisbane and it is rich with art, architecture as well as local government history. In 2009, it was discovered that the building suffered from severe structural problems. After a three year restoration the building was re-opened in April 2013.

City Hall is the civic seat of the city and home to the Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Unlike a heritage home, it is a busy and active working building with many offices and function rooms and it plays host to community and corporate events each day.

The newly restored City Hall is one of Brisbane's most iconic buildings, lovingly known as 'the People's Place'. It provides an opportunity to learn about the art, architecture and history of our city.

Come with us as we explore one of Brisbane's most significant historic buildings – Brisbane City Hall.

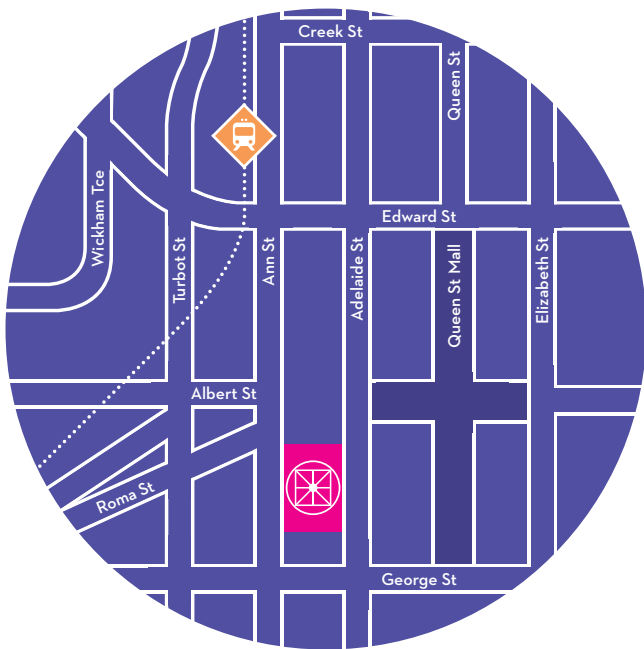
In this teacher resource you will find:

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Significant site	p5
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# LOCATION

City Hall is located in the centre of Brisbane City at 64 Adelaide Street Brisbane.

It is located adjacent to King George Square, where the rectangular City Hall has its main entrance. City Hall also has frontages and entrances on both Ann Street and Adelaide Street. The building is considered one of Brisbane's finest and has been listed on the Register of the National Estate since 1978.



Museum of Brisbane / Brisbane City Hall

## History of the site

- PRE 1800s** → Very little is known about Aboriginal use of the site. For at least 2,000 years much of North Brisbane was occupied by Murri clans who belonged to the larger Turrbal community. City Hall's location is included in this area.
- 1800s** → The site was a swampy waterhole that went by the name of 'Horse Pond'. European observers recorded that the water on the site was deep enough to swim in!
- 1870s** → The land was purchased by the Brisbane Municipal Council and stables were established on site.
- 1882** → The land was set aside for building a Town Hall.
- 1888** → The Columbia Skating Rink was established on the site.
- 1890s** → It was the site of Brisbane's first roller coaster!
- 1920s** → Construction begins on City Hall.
- 1930** → City Hall was officially opened!
- 2010** → City Hall is closed for major restoration.
- 2013** → City Hall is reopened to the public.

# THE BUSINESS BEHIND THE BUILDING

City Hall is an enormous building consisting of over 200 rooms.



Over the years City Hall has been affectionately referred to as 'the People's Place', earning this name by playing host to a number of different events and functions. From eisteddfods and citizenship ceremonies to weddings and gallery exhibitions, City Hall has been a place for the people to come together and celebrate our city.

The building itself is made up of four levels, including the basement, and throughout any given day these four levels are buzzing with activity. During the week many of the spaces are used as offices, housing the Lord Mayor's administration and Museum of Brisbane staff to name a few. Many of the function rooms are used to host events, from school celebrations to Mercedes Benz Fashion Festival! City Hall is a hive of activity and hub of Brisbane city.

As 'the People's Place' there is an understanding that City Hall belongs to the people of Brisbane. Most of the building is kept open all day for the public to explore and come and go as they please. A number of rooms are kept especially for functions and office space so these rooms are not accessible to the general public. It is possible to view a selection of these rooms on a City Hall tour that give a behind the scenes look at this magnificent building and a great insight into what makes it so special.

Come with us as we explore each level and learn more about the history of Brisbane City Hall.

## CITY HALL MAP KEY



ELEVATOR



PUBLIC ACCESS



TOILETS

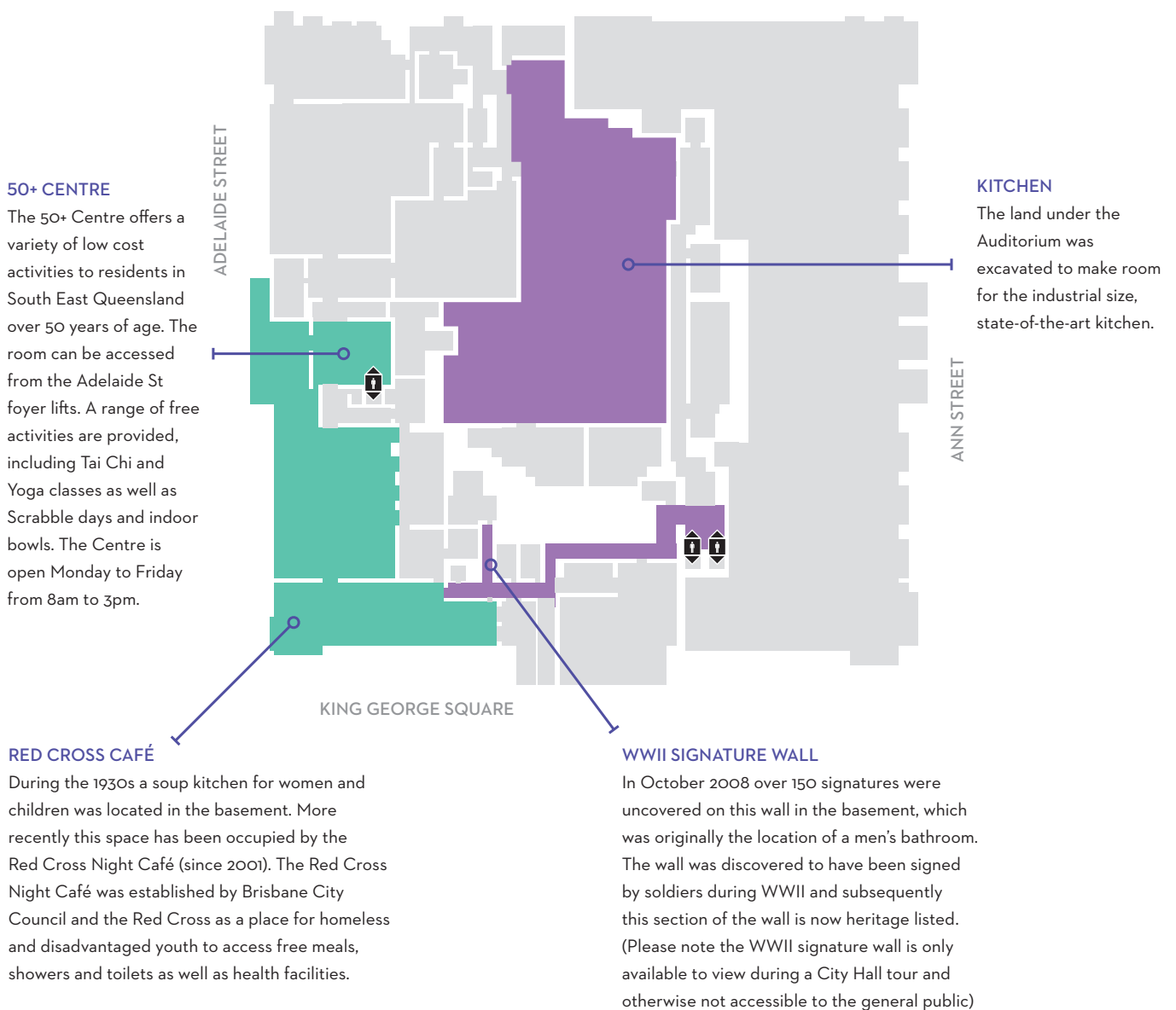


NO PUBLIC ACCESS

## BASEMENT

The basement has been used for a number of purposes since the building was completed in 1930.

Originally this level of the building was the location of a soup kitchen for women and children. More recently this space has become the home to the much loved Red Cross Café which was established by Brisbane City Council and the Red Cross as a place for homeless and disadvantaged youth to access free meals, showers/toilets and health facilities. This level is now also the location of a new industrial kitchen which lays beneath the Auditorium floor.



## GROUND FLOOR

There are three main entrances on the ground floor including the well-known grand foyer that leads off King George Square.

This foyer features large heritage chandeliers and two large marble staircases adding to its impressive appearance. This entrance has welcomed many famous guests over the years, including Pope John Paul II, Prince Charles and Diana Princess of Wales who visited Brisbane in 1983. The ground floor is also the location for the largest single space in City Hall, the Auditorium. This space has been used for a broad range of different events over the years from the everyday to the unexpected – in 1982 it was the location of the Commonwealth Games wrestling tournament!

### AUDITORIUM

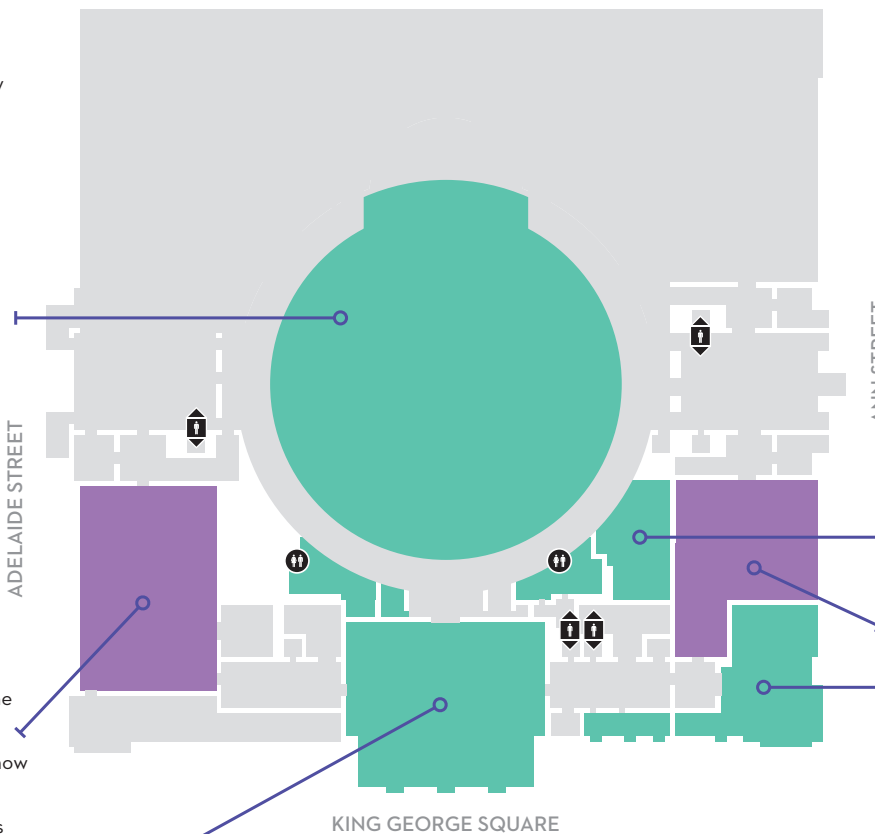
The Auditorium is the single largest space in City Hall. Within the Auditorium you will notice the organ, which is considered one of the finest examples of its type in the world. Above the organ runs a decorative frieze by legendary sculptor Daphne Mayo. The organ was built by Willis and Son Company Limited in 1891. Father Henry Willis was acknowledged to be the leading organ builder of the Victorian era.

### TOOWONG ROOM

This room was originally the location of Museum of Brisbane. The Museum is now located on the top floor of City Hall and this room has been turned into a function room for hire.

### KING GEORGE SQUARE FOYER

This grand foyer and main entrance of City Hall showcase some unique architectural features including a mosaic floor. This mosaic artwork includes a large central geometric pattern and external borders. The border pattern is called a meander, which means 'to wander'; it is a stylisation of the curving form of the Meander River of ancient Greece.



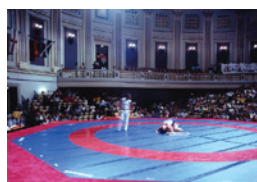
### ENOGERA COURTYARD

The original cobblestones and drain which was found during the archaeological dig beneath the Auditorium can be found here in the Enoggera Courtyard. The stone used at the time was called 'tuff' and was gathered from the iconic Kangaroo Point Cliffs. The Courtyard also features cobblestones discovered during the excavation dating back to the 1880s.

### SANGATE ROOM

### SHINGLE INN

Originally located on the site where Queens Plaza stands today, the Shingle Inn was placed in City Hall during the restoration to acknowledge the importance of this Queensland heritage landmark. The furnishings are from the original Shingle Inn café and were designed by TR Hall who also partnered with George Prentice to design Brisbane City Hall itself.



Commonwealth Games wrestling tournament 1982



Prince Charles and Diana Princess of Wales visiting City Hall in 1983

# LEVEL ONE

## City Hall is the civic seat of the city and is home to the Lord Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Since the building opened in 1930, Level one of City Hall has been the place for local government, including Council Chambers, the Lord Mayor's office, media rooms and function rooms. This level also houses some of the memorabilia related to our city's civic history such as the Letters Patent and the Brisbane Banner.

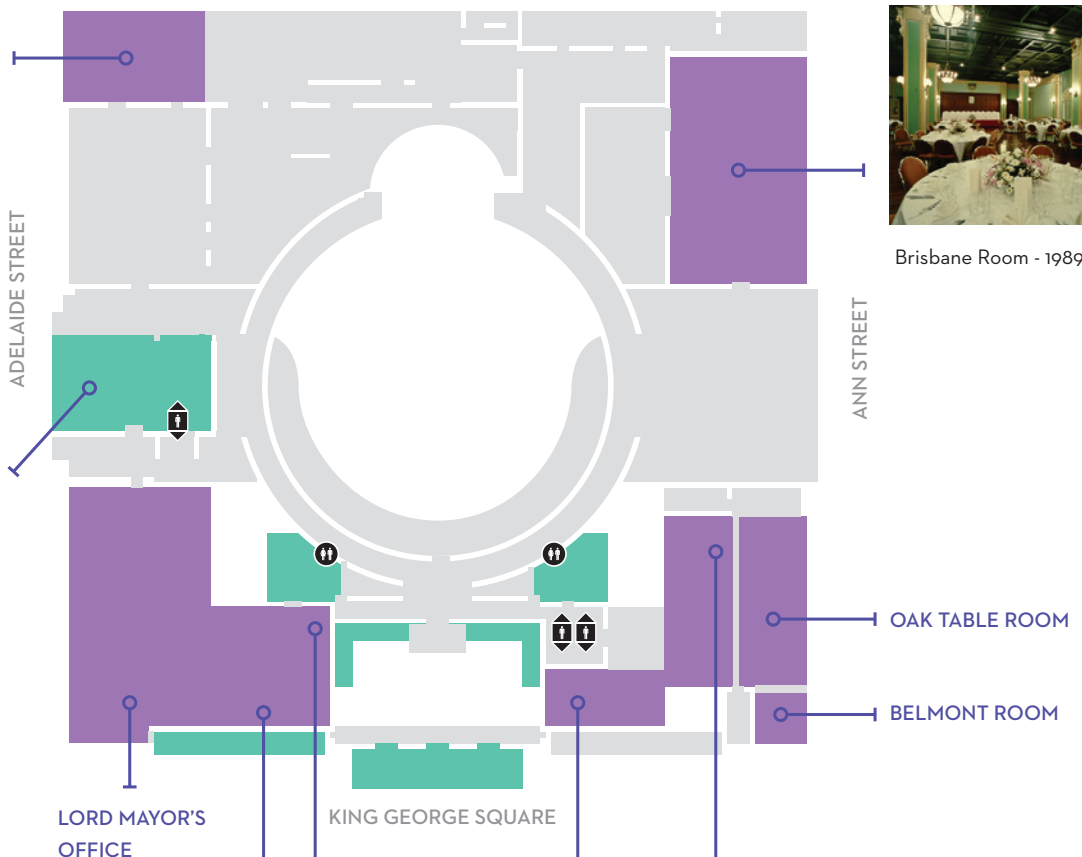
### COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Chambers have many beautiful details. It was first used in August 1927 and has changed very little over the years. Council sits each Tuesday at 2pm and the general public are invited to watch from the public gallery access via Level 2.



### ADELAIDE STREET ANTI-FOYER

Three semi-circular leadlight windows were commissioned (2 on Adelaide St side, 1 on Ann St side) by artist William Bustard. Each 4.2 metre wide window features the City's original coat of arms and motto. William Bustard was a prolific producer of fine stained glass and worked on several of Brisbane's inner-city buildings, including St John's Cathedral.



Brisbane Room - 1989

### GOLD MIRROR ROOM

The gold mirror was crafted from hand-carved timber and then covered in gold leaf. This mirror was donated to the City of Brisbane by the Rosenstengel family (resident furniture makers).

### LORD MAYOR'S FOYER/HALLWAY

Photos of all the previous Lord Mayors can be found in this hallway, including our first Lord Mayor of Greater Brisbane – William Jolly (1930-1932) and Lord Mayor Clem Jones – Brisbane's longest serving Lord Mayor (1961-1975).

### WINDSOR ROOM

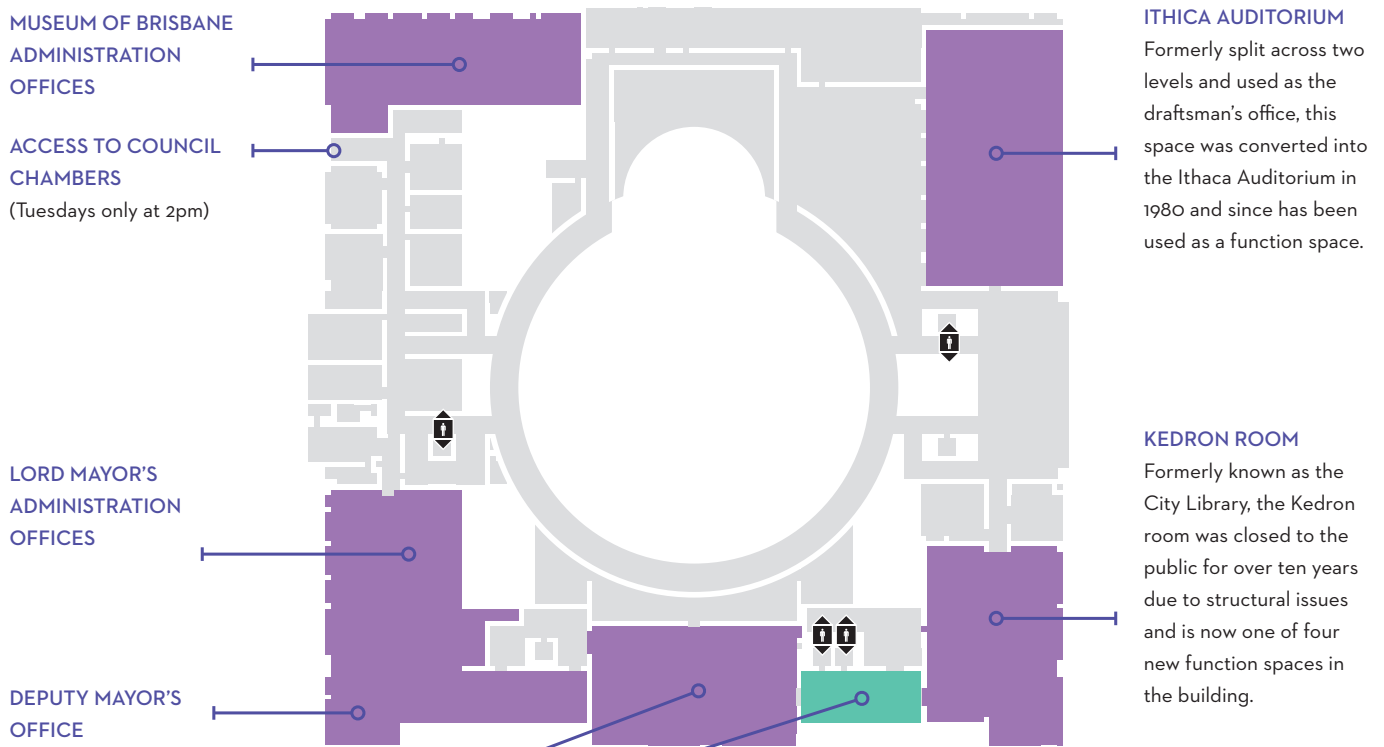
### BALMORAL ROOM

These rooms feature furniture that was handcrafted for City Hall in the 1920s. The carpets are a replica of the original floor rugs made for these rooms when City Hall was built. These rooms are used for civic events during the week and make up some of the many grand rooms that can be hired for use in the restored City Hall.

# LEVEL TWO

## Level two of City Hall is now made up of administration offices and function rooms, including the office of the Deputy Mayor.

This level was once the location of the Brisbane City Library, now located at Brisbane Square on George Street in the city. Level two is also the home of the newly created Sister Cities room which showcases many of the gifts that Brisbane has received over the years from our Sister Cities (listed below).



**ITHACA AUDITORIUM**  
Formerly split across two levels and used as the draftsman's office, this space was converted into the Ithaca Auditorium in 1980 and since has been used as a function space.

**KEDRON ROOM**  
Formerly known as the City Library, the Kedron room was closed to the public for over ten years due to structural issues and is now one of four new function spaces in the building.

City Hall Library 1955

### SISTER CITIES ROOM & DISPLAY

This newly created function space features Brisbane's Sister City displays outlining our nine Sister Cities. Sister City relationships provide significant social, cultural, educational and economic benefits for the residents of Brisbane. The glass cases displayed in this room house some of the more interesting cultural gifts, gifted to the city from our Sister Cities from around the world.

- Brisbane's nine Sister Cities are:
- Kobe, Japan (since July 1985)
  - Auckland, New Zealand (since August 1988)
  - Shenzhen, People's Republic of China (since June 1992)
  - Semarang, Indonesia (since January 1993)
  - Kaohsiung, Taiwan (since September 1997)
  - Daejeon, Korea (since June 2002)
  - Chongqing, China (since October 2005)
  - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (since February 2009)
  - Hyderabad, India (since October 2010)

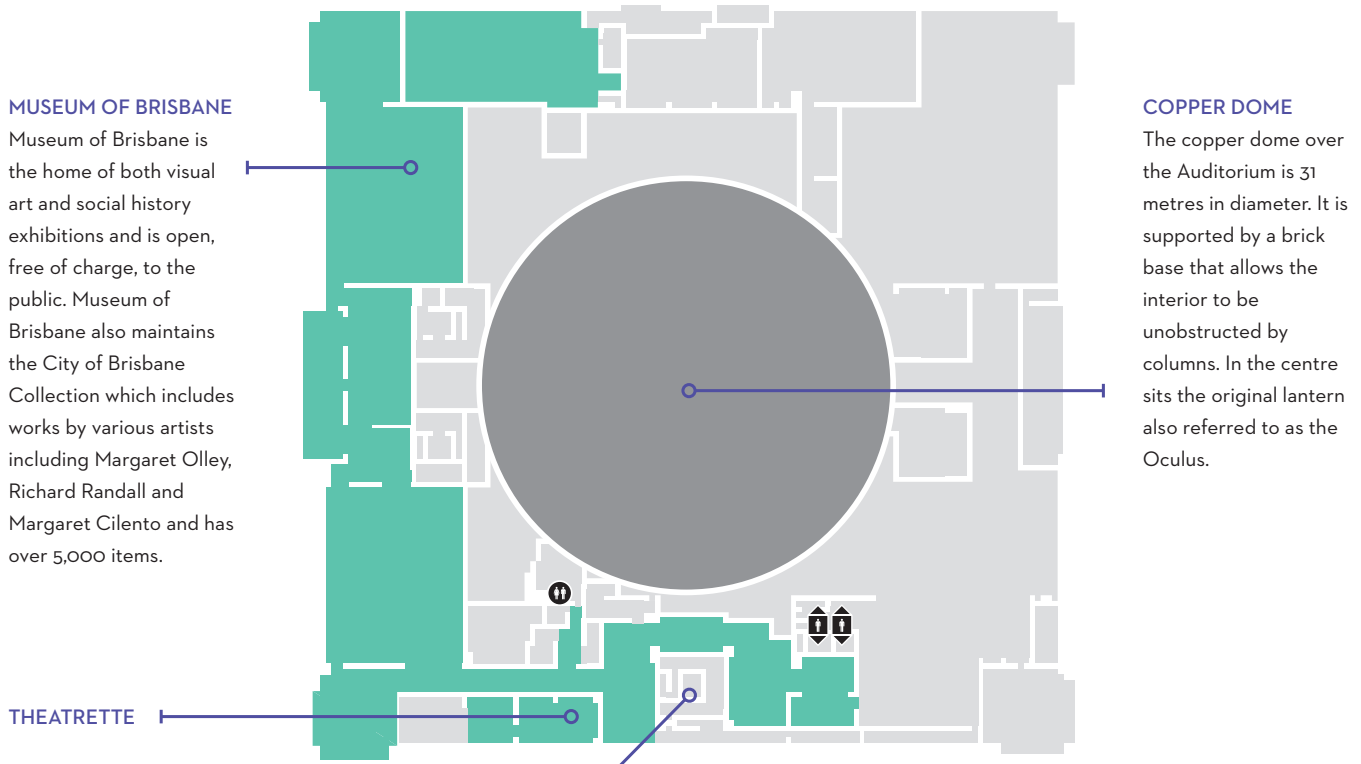




## LEVEL THREE

Level three underwent a radical transformation during the restoration between January 2010 and April 2013.

During the restoration, the entire top level of City Hall was converted into a purpose built gallery space to house Museum of Brisbane. During the 1940's the rooftop of City Hall was the location of the Kindercraft Childcare Centre which operated until 2009. This level also allows access to City Hall's Clock Tower via a manually driven cage lift. Tours are run daily to give visitors a unique view of the city.



### MUSEUM OF BRISBANE

Museum of Brisbane is the home of both visual art and social history exhibitions and is open, free of charge, to the public. Museum of Brisbane also maintains the City of Brisbane Collection which includes works by various artists including Margaret Olley, Richard Randall and Margaret Cilento and has over 5,000 items.

### COPPER DOME

The copper dome over the Auditorium is 31 metres in diameter. It is supported by a brick base that allows the interior to be unobstructed by columns. In the centre sits the original lantern also referred to as the Oculus.

### THEATRETTE

### CLOCK TOWER LIFT

The clock tower, like City Hall, is a well-known symbol of our city. The tower itself stands at 92 metres high with the observation platform at 76 metres. Tours are free and are available at the Museum of Brisbane reception desk on Level three.



Kindercraft Daycare 9 January 1950

## RESOURCES

You may find the following resources useful when researching Brisbane's City Hall and the building's historical significance.

### Publications

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McBride, Frank, et al. 2009, *Brisbane 150 Stories*, Brisbane City Council

Mitchell, Lyris, 2013, *The Soldiers' Wall: A glimpse into their world*, Boolarong Press

O'Rourke, Kerry, 1989, *How it is: talking about City Hall*, Brisbane City Council Community Arts Unit

Brisbane City Council, 2006, *One book many Brisbanes: an anthology of Brisbane stories*, Brisbane City Council (note: also see the second to sixth anthologies of Brisbane stories, available from Brisbane City Council Libraries)

### YouTube

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Brisbane City Hall YouTube channel, Brisbane City Council  
[www.youtube.com/user/BrisbaneCityHall](http://www.youtube.com/user/BrisbaneCityHall)



## CONTACT

For more information about education support or your booking, please contact

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Email: [education@museumofbrisbane.com.au](mailto:education@museumofbrisbane.com.au)

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## Bookings

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To book City Hall specific tours for school groups please call (07) 3339 0836 or visit [www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/education](http://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au/education)



## PRE & POST RESOURCES

This resource has been created to aid teachers in linking their visit with the classroom.



To maximise your students time with us at City Hall please use the following pre and post visit suggested activities to aid in preparation and follow up after your class visit.

Like any lesson or activity, students who are prepared for their excursion will be better able to participate and learn when they arrive. These activities are intended to prepare students for a positive experience and then consolidate their learning post visit.

All activities are fully adaptable and can be changed to suit your individual grade and ability level as needed. We suggest you incorporate at least one activity into your classroom lessons if possible. This will help students begin thinking about City Hall in a broader sense, help reinforce their learning and give further opportunities for research after their visit.

**These icons are used throughout our resources to identify the skills base for each activity.**



To discuss



To create



To read/research



To write

## ACTIVITIES

### MOSAIC TILES



**Age group:** Prep - Grade 4

**Worksheet:** page 15

One of the most easily recognisable features of City Hall would have to be the beautiful mosaic tile pattern in the King George Square entrance. With its large central geometric pattern and intricate meander external borders, it is hard to miss. Meander means 'to wander'; it is a stylisation of the curving form of the Meander River of ancient Greece. The black and white colours used were often chosen for formal buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

**Activity:** Ask students to complete the mosaic tile pattern that is featured on the floor in the grand King George Square entrance.

**Tip:** Use a small mirror to help younger grades grasp the concept of this symmetrical pattern.

### CITY HALL OVER THE YEARS



**Age group:** Grade 4 - Grade 10

**Worksheet:** page 16

If you look at photos of City Hall over the years, you'll notice that its surrounds change dramatically.

**Activity:** Ask children to cut out the dates and pictures of city hall and match the date to the corresponding photograph. You may want to simplify the activity for younger grades by taking some of them out. Ask students why they have made the decisions they have? What in the picture helped them decide what year it might have been?

### WHAT MAKES CITY HALL A SIGNIFICANT BUILDING TO YOU?



**Age group:** Grade 2 - Grade 7

**Worksheet:** page 17

City Hall is a significant building to the residents of Brisbane. The building has been used for many things over the years and is important to different people for many reasons. The building holds some very special memories for locals and tourists alike.

**Activity:** Ask students why they feel City Hall is such a significant building to Brisbane and the local community? Why is it important to them personally? Students can then draw a picture of themselves in the space provided and write their reason beside their picture. These reasons can then be shared with the class or in small groups.

### VIEW FROM THE TOP!



**Age group:** Grade 2 - Grade 7

**Worksheet:** page 18

Since City Hall was opened in 1930, it has been a constant reminder of where we have come from. Although City Hall has stayed relatively unchanged the city has grown exponentially around it. Buildings have been demolished and replaced with high-rise office towers, roads have been changed and the skyline has been given a very different look.

**Activity:** Take a look at the photos taken from the top of the Clock Tower from the past. Next time you're at City Hall take a tour up the clock tower and compare what you see with these pictures. The view is quite different now. What has changed? Have the children complete a Venn diagram when they return to school illustrating the differences and similarities.

## ACTIVITIES

### BUILDING BRISBANE CITY HALL



**Age group:** Grade 2- Grade 7

**Worksheet:** page 19

Although City Hall has been renovated over the years, the building today is almost identical to its original structure and interiors. Although the building hasn't changed, the world, Brisbane and its immediate surroundings have changed enormously.

**Activity:** Have students construct City Hall using the printable pieces on the worksheet provided. Once City Hall has been constructed, students can choose a decade to illustrate in a diorama. Students will need to research that decade to decide what to include in their diorama that will be representative of the time. Students will also need to research City Hall to see what the immediate surroundings looked like during that decade.

**Students will need:** Tape and scissors

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### CITY HALL - FACTS PUZZLE



**Age group:** Grade 2- Grade 7

**Worksheet:** page 21

City Hall has a very interesting history and some great fun facts to learn.

**Activity:** Have students read the facts on City Hall and then place them together to create their completed City Hall picture. Younger grades may like to glue these into their books and/or colour in the illustration. Older grades may be asked to research a particular fact to find out more.

**Students will need:** Scissors, glue and coloured pens/pencils

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MOSAIC TILES



# CITY HALL OVER THE YEARS

1916



1928

1930

1942



1953

1962



1971

1988



1990

1995



1999

2012



# WHAT MAKES CITY HALL A SIGNIFICANT BUILDING TO YOU?

In the early 1970's when I was about 3 years old my mum would come into the city to go to yoga classes. My grandmother worked at the Kinderkraft located on the roof of City Hall. Mum would leave me there, and since my grandmother lived a fair distance from our house this was a great opportunity to see her. I vividly remember swimming in a wading pool on a hot sunny day in a space that was open to the sky. One day mum returned earlier than expected, and my swim was shorter than expected . . . not a happy girl!

When the Museum was under construction, we came up to the roof of City Hall during the demolition of the kindy. It was then that I realised where I swam was probably going to be the new Theatrette which is used for school groups and events. I have always loved history, and the idea that it is layered, one story on top of another. When I walk past the Theatrette now, and see visiting schools in there it makes me smile – another layer of history is happening right now. **LEANNE KELLY**

"I was working in City Hall in 1965, the year the *Rolling Stones* played in the auditorium. I remember the employees sneaking up onto the walkways near the roof of the dome to watch the band rehearse"

"It was a time when governance was fun. A time before technology changed the way we worked in City Hall. I started here in 1966, and I'm still here in 2013". **BOB SHEPPERD**

"As a junior Clerk in 1969 working in the Treasury Accounts Department located on the ground floor of City Hall I have a few fond memories. The day in July 1969 was a particular highlight when man walked on the moon. We were allowed a special treat, two black and white televisions . . . in the foyer off King George Square so staff could watch the event". **LES MURPHY**

Draw a picture of yourself at City Hall

Why do you think City Hall is such a significant building to Brisbane?

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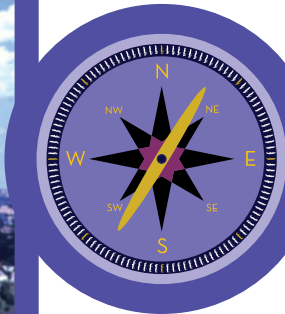
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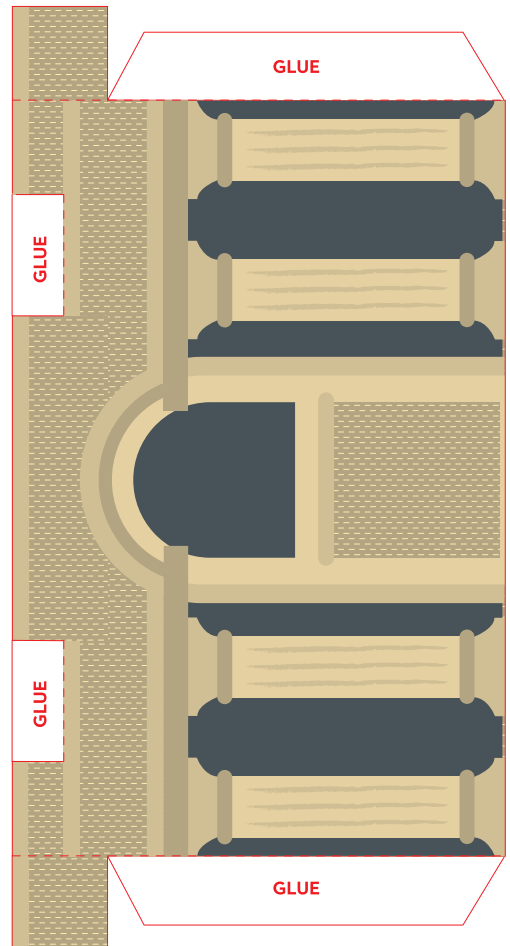
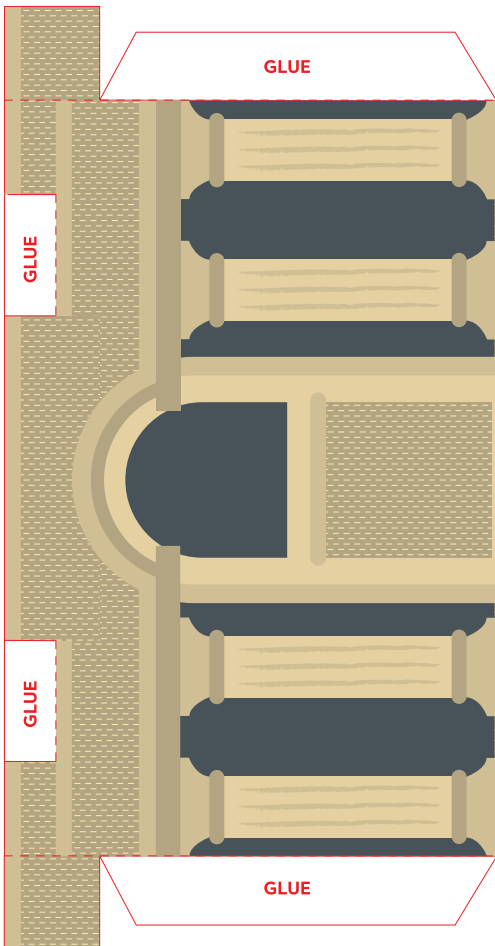
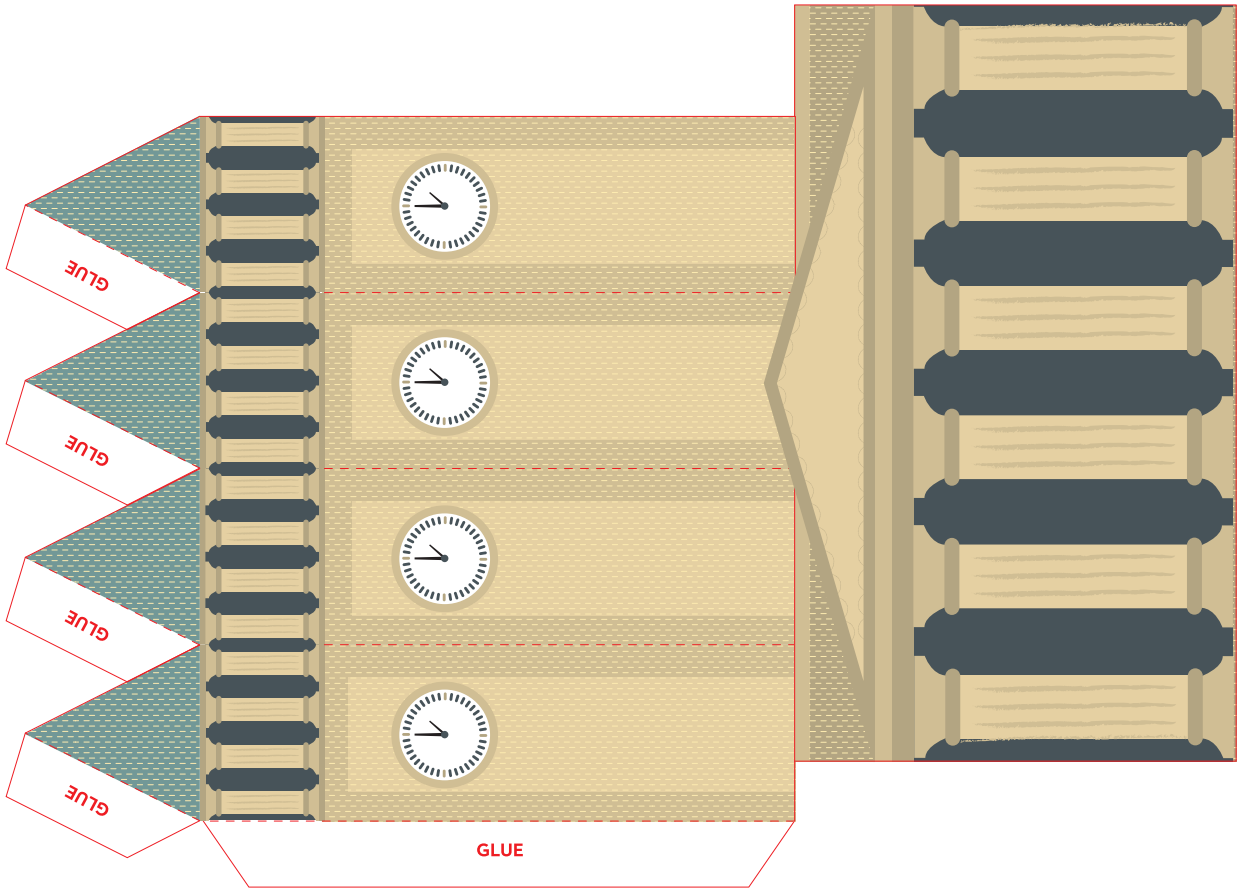
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CITY HALL: THE PEOPLE'S PLACE

# VIEW FROM THE TOP!



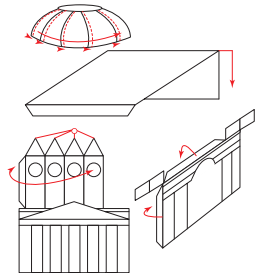
# BUILDING BRISBANE CITY HALL



# BUILDING BRISBANE CITY HALL

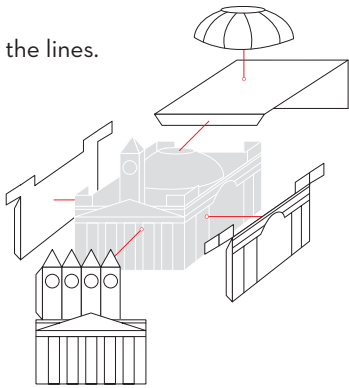
**Step 1:**

Cut out all pieces.



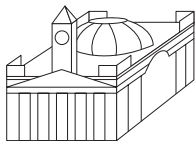
**Step 2:**

Fold along the lines.



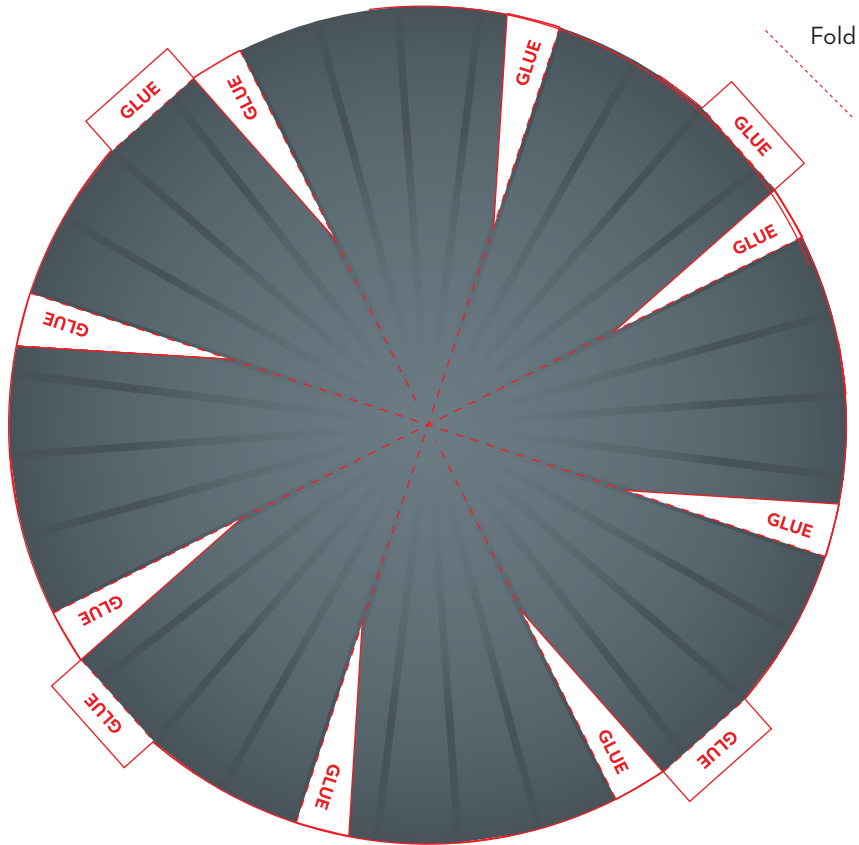
**Step 3:**

Glue and construct.

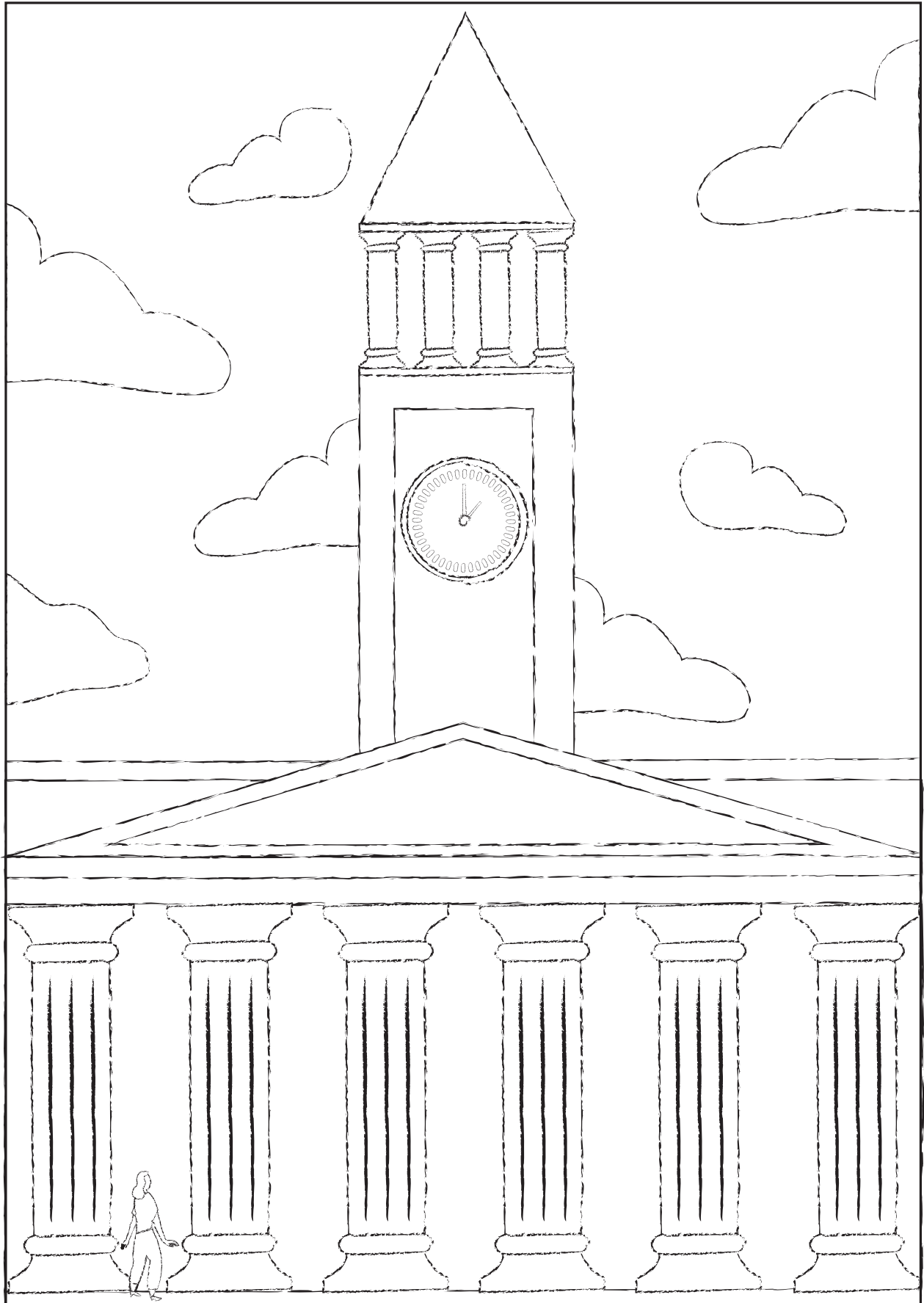


Cut

Fold



# CITY HALL - FACTS PUZZLE



# CITY HALL - FACTS PUZZLE

## PRIDE OF PLACE

The artwork on the front of the building is called the Tympanum and was created by sculptor Daphne Mayo. It took three years to complete and is titled The Progress of Civilisation in the State of Queensland.

## THAT SWEET SOUND

The large organ located in the Auditorium was built by Willis and Son Company Limited (London based company) in 1891 and was acknowledged to be the leading organ builder of the Victorian era.

## HIGH IN THE SKY

The clock tower stands at 92 meters high with the observation platform at 76 meters.

## OUT WITH THE OLD

The coat of arms that features throughout the building was Brisbane's original coat of arms. The Latin inscription *Conjunctis Viribus* means 'with united powers'. However it was never registered and was replaced by the current coat of arms in 1946.

## OVERTAKEN

City Hall was the tallest building in Brisbane at the time it was built, and remained that way for 37 years!

## BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

The chimes are known as the Westminster or Cambridge Chimes and the words to the chimes are: 'Lord in the hour, be thou our guide, kept by thy power, no foot can slide'.

## TIME FOR A POLISH

The most recent restoration took place between January 2010 and April 2013.

## QUEENSLAND MADE

Designed by Brisbane architects Messrs Hall and Prentice, City Hall was mainly constructed of Queensland freestone, most of which was obtained from Helidon, 96 kilometres from Brisbane.

## FOLLOW ROME

The building was modelled on the Pantheon in Rome. There are distinct similarities with the shapes and architectural features of City Hall.

## HOMELESS HELP

During the 1930s a soup kitchen was located in the basement of City Hall. Now this is the location of the Red Cross Café.

## WWII HISTORY

During WWII General Douglas MacArthur used City Hall as a rest and recreation point for his troops.

## A LARGE UNDERTAKING

City Hall took 10 years to build and at the time was a major Australian undertaking, ranking second only to the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

## LAYING LIONS

The bronze lion sculptures at the front of the building were initially part of the King George V memorial, unveiled in 1938 as a tribute to the King from the citizens of Brisbane.

## IT'S A CLASSIC

City Hall is an example of neo-classical architecture.

## DING DONG

When City Hall was built it had the largest public clock in Australia!