

Councillor Irene Doutney

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Gordon and Elaine Syron
Black Fella's Dreaming Museum
499 Wilson Street
Darlington NSW

City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
Sydney 2001

7th April 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Aboriginal artist Gordon Syron and photographer Elaine (Kitchener) Pelot-Syron have produced many fantastic and powerful artworks. Alongside the collection of their own work they have purchased and put together an enormous collection of works by many Aboriginal artists, artefacts and historical memorabilia. This culturally and historically valuable collection makes up The Black Fella's Dreaming Museum, currently located in Darlington.

This collection is one of the most important collections of contemporary and traditional Aboriginal art in the state and as such desperately needs support and encouragement. It is criminal that the collection of 545 works is languishing in a warehouse in Darlington when it should be on view for all Australians and tourists to visit and appreciate. It is essential that the Keeping Place find a permanent home for future generations before the works deteriorate.

Gordon and Elaine are now passing the responsibility for finding a permanent "Keeping Place" for the collection to a committee of Aboriginal professionals. The aim is for the collection to be taken over by a trust that will repay Gordon and Elaine for their investment in the collection but keep the collection permanently for public viewing.

The paintings have almost all been catalogued and valued and are therefore able to be assessed by the committee and potential benefactors. This work still needs to be done for the collection of photographs which includes significant documentation of Redfern's Aboriginal history.

This collection is not only valuable for its artistic merit but as a significant record of Aboriginal culture and history. For these reasons I urge public and private institutions and individuals to support the establishment of a "Keeping Place" for this collection. The collection deserves recognition and support by Local, State and Federal government.

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The "Keeping Place" should ideally be in the Redfern area as part of the local community, its history and as an attraction for visitors. This would be in keeping with the City of Sydney's plans to reinvigorate the area, highlight Redfern's rich Aboriginal culture and support the local community.

I believe this is a project that must be supported and call on all patrons of the Arts to put the creation of a permanent "Keeping Place" for these wonderful artworks at the top of their agendas for future support and financing.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Doutney
Greens Councillor
City of Sydney

City of Villagers