

Book Links: The Centre for Children’s Literature in partnership with
The Children’s Book Council of Australia (Qld Branch)
look at the Cultural Precinct Strategy

The only spaces that currently cater for children in the Cultural Precinct are:

1. The State Library of Qld programs but not in dedicated spaces for children.
The Corner at State Library of Queensland - targeting 0-8 – opens 10am – 3pm, free
<http://www.thecorner.slq.qld.gov.au/home.html>
2. The Science Centre- caters for all ages - <http://www.sciencentre.qm.qld.gov.au/> - costs \$11.50 per child – cultural tourism
3. Queensland Museum - caters for all ages but does not have a special area for children except the dinosaur garden - free except for special exhibitions – cultural tourism
4. QAG/GOMA - caters for all ages but does have a special area for children – cultural tourism
<http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/kids> Has a good extension program in nearby school at West End.
Produces resources to support the national curriculum.

An Arts-Literature / Story Centre for children 0 - 15 established in the Cultural Precinct would:

- bring new life to the precinct by attracting more children and their families
- create spaces for activation and creativity – e.g. child centred spaces for Wordplay and Out of the Box Festivals, workshops, interactive exhibitions, performances, creative play etc.
- be a beacon for tourism, creativity and knowledge, provide connections between the arts and the community, allow people to celebrate our unique cultural identity
- help grow the Qld cultural arts sectors through programs that showcase creators of story and performances from local, national and international arenas (e.g. Local group THAT Production Company developed script and presented play at StoryArts Festival Ipswich based on Qld author Pat Flynn’s book The Tuckshop Kid. Potential for touring)
- help grow the Qld cultural arts sectors by developing and supporting new and emerging writers and artists through networks such as Write Links (a sub-group of Book Links)
- help grow the Qld cultural arts sectors by nurturing child creators. (Note: The Very Hungry Caterpillar exhibition, part of the StoryArts Festival Ipswich, included an exhibition of artwork by children that the Qld Studies Authority are now considering developing into a unit of work to support implementation of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts)
- maximise return on public investment (Seven Stories UK has shown that this type of centre is valued and runs at a profit. See Seven Stories Annual Review for figures. The value of its contribution to creative literacy is immeasurable)
- promote the unique role of the South Bank precinct in providing cultural programs for all members of the community in designated, easily accessible zone
- provide partnership opportunities for Book Links and CBCA (QLD Branch) to work more closely in consultation and collaboration with the Big4 taking advantage of the two organisations’ links with literature, education and library sectors

Strategy support

Book Links and CBCA (Qld Branch) support an integrated approach with a centralised website that provides information relating to the whole cultural precinct and coordinated signage that provides information for all venues in the precinct.

We support a specialised website that caters for children providing centralised information relating to children's cultural programs and events in Qld. The website would provide information for adults similar to <http://kidsfuninseoul.wordpress.com/> but also have a children's portal to provide access to digital resources and online events.

Book Links and CBCA (Qld Branch) have many ideas to contribute towards incorporating a dedicated cultural space for children in the Cultural Precinct.

Activities, projects and achievements of Book Links

Regular activities

Romancing the Stars – Adult event promoting local authors and illustrators held annually

Book launches – programmed as opportunities arise. (April 2013 – Narelle Oliver's new book launched by Governor General Quentin Bryce)

Big Lit Quiz – in partnership with Moreton Regional Libraries – a literature quiz to celebrate The Reading Hour with families

Book Gig at Brisbane Writers Festival developed in partnership with QUT – promoting books through drama to young people

Writing and illustrating workshops and competition for young people run in partnership with Ipswich Central Library and StoryArts Festival Ipswich

Projects and Achievements

Book Links Travelling Suitcases - a project funded by Arts Queensland and The Children's Book Council of Australia (Qld Branch), is designed to provide a range of interesting and quality resources in one suitcase, that a Queensland author or illustrator has used to create a book. Each suitcase contains: books by the author/illustrator, illustrator's tools and/or author's rough drafts, biography, an interview on DVD with each author/illustrator filmed in their own home, display and activity ideas and teaching notes for schools to use within their curriculum. The kits are designed to engage children with books and encourage the love of reading through an understanding of the creative process of a book. They are available for loan for free to schools and public libraries.

ReadUp is a library loyalty scheme for library members aged 8 and under with resources available to download free from the website.

The Big Read – In 2012 created a list of books that represented life in Qld as part of National Year of Reading. Winners were announced for The Reading Hour celebrations. List available for public use.

Undercover Stories – DVD showing process of book creation

Write Links - Establishment of a support group for local emerging authors.

Look! Bush Books –Macintyre young writers and illustrators project

Metal and Mangroves – Curtis Coast young writers and illustrators project

<http://booklinks.org.au/> | <http://booklinksinc.wordpress.com/> |
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Book-Links-The-Centre-for-Childrens-Literature/149760451724487>

Activities, projects and achievements of The Children’s Book Council of Australia (Qld Branch)

The CBCA is a national organisation which will celebrate its 70th year of operations in 2015. Its main focus is to bring children and stories together. One of its major events is the celebration of **Children’s Book Week** across the nation.

Book Of the Year Award - an annual award to the best book for children published in Australia. It is awarded across four categories

- Older Readers
- Younger Readers
- Early Childhood
- Picture Book

The CBCA also awards a prize to new illustrators, the Crichton Award , and a prize for the best information book published each year, the Eve Pownall Award. The awards help to bring publishers, authors and illustrators, teachers, parents, and of course children together. They promote quality writing to children in significant events every year.

In Queensland, as well as celebrating Children’s Book Week across the state (done with the support and help of teachers and teacher-librarians in the participating schools, early childhood centres and public libraries) we also have:

Shortlist event – Expert panel presents their choices for the Book of the Year Awards

Judge’s talks – The current Queensland judge for the Book of the Year award gives talks to schools, teachers and interested groups at various venues and dates as required, including conference presentations

Children’s Book Week - dinner and events for children

Readers Cup – 485 teams of 4 or 5 students take part in a literature quiz. Winning teams from 16 regions come to Brisbane to take part in the state finals and attend Wordplay at the Brisbane Writers Festival.

The BILBY Awards – children’s choice awards organised by the Queensland Branch of the Children’s Book Council of Australia. The acronym stands for: Books I Love Best Yearly. The BILBY Awards were instituted in 1990.

Projects and Achievements

Book Trailer competition for children

Regional author tours to Longreach, Winton and Nanango regions

Book launches and author talks

Community projects provide quality children's and young adult books to children in need

Support for CBCA regional group in Townsville to deliver Books North Literature Festival

Acted as national executive and coordinated national conference

<http://qld.cbca.org.au/> | <https://www.facebook.com/CBCAQLDBranch>