**DRAFT DOCUMENT for comment:**

**Building requirements for a new site: APS in 2020**

**Introduction**

Artist Proof Studio (APS) has been part of the Newtown Cultural Precinct as an anchor cultural tenant from its inception in 1991. We have a 29-year history as a strong and resilient Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) with a vision and mission is consistent with the democratic ideals of supporting an open access organization committed to the promotion of human rights, equality and redress. We provide subsidised quality education to talented and passionate art students and artists who due to economic and educational inequality, would otherwise not have access tertiary training. APS has graduated over 500 young artists over the past three decades who have the skills to be able support themselves and their families and contribute actively to the creative industries and economy. APS has established itself as both a local and internationally recognised centre of printmaking excellence.

**Context**

After a tragic fire in 2003 of “Building 9” that took the life of co-founder Nhlanhla Xaba, and destroyed the studio with artwork supporting livelihoods for over 50 artists; the JDA relocated APS to the Bus Factory where they housed us in the Basement until the new APS was built to specification. We launched the new space on March 9th 2004, with a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, and other funding partners that enabled us to equip the structure with state of the art equipment and fittings. APS has proudly functioned as a Printmaking centre of excellence that attracts printmakers from around the world and trains up to 80 students a year. The subsidised rental from the JDA for all its cultural tenants has enabled the thriving of the centre as enabling APS to fulfil its mission to provide “free education” to talented young artists. We currently pay about R12000/m for 490sqm.

**The Bus Factory**

One of the biggest risks to our long-term sustainability has become our current location in the Bus Factory. Clients are reluctant to come into Newtown as the area is increasingly neglected and unsafe. We have a short-term lease agreement (month to month) with the JDA that makes our future vulnerable. This lack of sustainable venue has also affected our ability to achieve permanent local and international accreditation. At the end of 2019 we found out (indirectly) that the JPC will take over the Bus Factory and that both the JDA, APS and the other cultural tenants will have to move out. The APS Board of Directors have identified the relocation of APS as a key strategic focus for 2020. This will require the leverage of government and corporate investment into the refurbishing of a dedicated building.

**A new site**

At a meeting held on 16 January at the Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) offices, the APS management team met with Kgomotso Morero (Newtown Manager JPC), Douglas Cohen (Exec Manager Planning and Strategy JDA). (With apologies from Nikki Pingo (JDA) and Fanis Sardianos (JPC)). The agreement reached was that both the JDA and JPC will work with APS over the next six months to identify a suitable site/ building for APS to move into. We requested the option of a 50-year lease with the city to secure long term investment by corporate partners.

**Building REQUIREMENTS FOR APS**

APS currently occupies 500sqm in the Bus Factory. We are very limited with space and seek additional space of a minimum of 2000sqm to 4000sqm, that could have 3 levels.

The UJ Department of Architecture, under HOD Dr Finzi Saidi, who also serves as a Director on the Board of APS, supervised a second-year architecture class project, to design a suitable building for APS. The students undertook research and interviewed staff members before designing a space. Five of the best designs were selected by the APS team and presented at an AGM to the Board and Directors. The project designs were however retained by the students for their final assessments.

Outcomes established the need for separate spaces for the different functions at APS:

An artist residency was considered to accommodate visiting artist (2 x living spaces)

1. EDUCATION:

* 3 x Printmaking training spaces for 1st to 3rd year classes (100 students)
* A professional Studio for 4th and 5th year alumni (30 students)
* Cafeteria/meeting area for students (roof-top garden)
* Lecture room/auditorium
* Drawing studios with windows and natural light
* Storage rooms: Paper and artwork and materials
* Special workshops with ventilation: Dark room, Silkscreen room, Acid room, spray booth,
* Computer room for students
* Library room for student research

1. GALLERY

* Large professional public Gallery
* Student Gallery space
* Archive room for humidity- controlled artwork storage
* Sales and show room
* Packaging room
* Gallery reception

1. PRO-SHOP FOR PUBLISHING PRINTS

* Visiting artists studio spaces
* Storage room for paper and materials
* Large publishing studio in 4 sections for Etching, screen-printing, lithography and relief printing
* Ventilation area for acid etching steel-facing plates, darkroom and vacuum-table exposing room
* Ground floor Papermaking studio with good drainage and outside area

1. ADMIN AREA

* 8 to 10 offices for Education, Finance, Administration, sales and marketing
* Graphic Design unit

1. SPECIAL PROJECTS

* Workshop area for commissions, contact work and outreach classes
* Framing workshop
* Merchandising and product making workshop

1. An artist residency was considered to accommodate visiting artist (2 x living spaces) with a roof-top garden