

The Substation

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
RESTORATION,
REDEVELOPMENT AND
ULTIMATE HIJACKING OF
THE SUBSTATION

The Substation



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In 1994 local residents of Hobsons Bay began the visionary restoration and redevelopment of the formerly derelict Newport Substation, to create a vibrant arts and cultural asset for all the whole community to enjoy.

It was to be filled with artistic and cultural programs, events and activities that engage **all ages and backgrounds**, from the youngest children to the elderly.

The vision was to empower our community through social enterprise activities. Including; employment and training opportunities in tourism, building maintenance, gardening and landscaping, venue management and administration, hospitality training, artistic performance and cultural programs.

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Unfortunately our community space and the original vision for The Substation was hijacked by a small group of self elected, self serving individuals that have taken control of the Committee of Management.

The current focus of The Substation is very narrow and discriminatory in its programming content and use of the building.

The current self elected regime restricts opportunities for community engagement, intergenerational access or inclusive community access by the grass roots community that created the Hobsons Bay **Community** Arts Centre.

The organisation also demonstrates a lack of transparency and accountability in its finances, policies, relationships with staff, stakeholders and users of the building. **The current Committee is self elected and restricts membership of the organisation; these actions are discriminatory and disregard the original vision of a democratic inclusive organisation.**

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Many hundreds of Members of the Association have been deliberately disenfranchised by the Committee and Management and Hobsons Bay City Council to further **their aims of creating a contemporary/experimental arts space in The Substation.**

The current Committee and management have been unwilling to engage with the hundreds of members and supporters that created the venue. Their actions have demonstrated a blatant disregard for members rights under the Associations Incorporations Reform Act, the spirit of the legislation and good governance practices

The Membership has not been afforded their right to renew their memberships, they did not receive the required notifications of Annual or Special General Meetings. The membership was not consulted nor notified about the changes to the Rules of Association or the future direction of The Substation for the past six years.

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The current regime is completely dependent on Council funding to survive. It is operating as a ratepayer subsidized event space that unfairly competes with local business and community organisations, it is a symptom of a disengaged, exclusive and discriminatory organisation.

The Committee and Management have not presented a plan to address the high future cost of building maintenance and capital improvements required at The Substation.

The organisation is operating under a flawed and outdated model that keeps increasing costs to the ratepayers of Hobsons Bay without giving much back. Despite widespread opposition, Hobsons Bay City Council has supported this private fiefdom by recently approving a new \$1.05 million dollar grant to this self elected Committee (on top of the \$1.05 million it provided from 2016-2019).

Council must be held accountable for this disgraceful decision to fund a self elected organisation that is not representative of our community; one which is to be investigated for breaches of the Associations and Incorporations Act.

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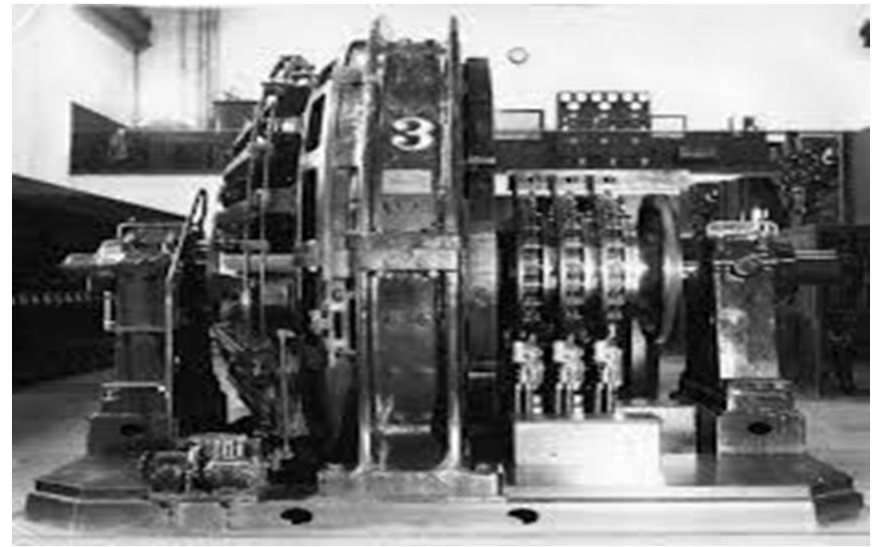
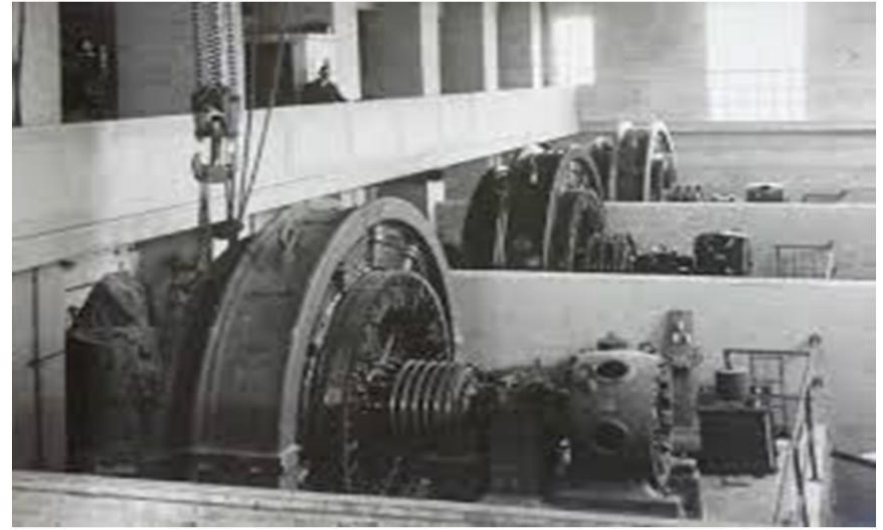
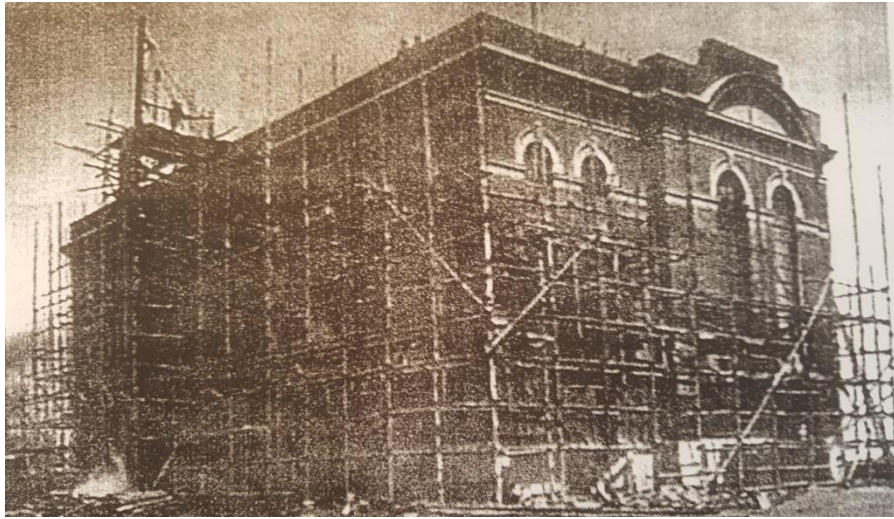
The Substation has enormous potential for community engagement and community capacity building. That potential is far from being realized with the current self elected and self serving Committee and Management.

An unrestricted membership elected Committee structure is essential to demonstrate an open, accountable and transparent organisation that meets the needs and expectations of our community.

It is essential for The Substation to move towards self sufficiency. A venue that promotes access for all, employment and training opportunities and one that creates positive outcomes for all residents in the City of Hobsons Bay.

**THE SUBSTATION WAS CREATED BY
OUR COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT
OF ALL OUR COMMUNITY.**

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Newport Substation Redevelopment Funding Sources 1999-2011

- **COMMUNITY & BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP**

\$2.5 Million

- Federal Government - \$680,000
- Victorian State Government - \$2 Million
- Hobsons Bay City Council - \$507,000 (10% of the restoration and redevelopment budget)

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HISTORY OF THE SUBSTATION ARTS CENTRE

- 1996 – Two local residents tendered for the lease of the building – Leased from Victrack (25 year lease). 1998 - Created the Hobsons Bay Community Arts Centre Inc. (HBCAC Inc)
- 1998 - 2010 - HBCAC Inc. Committee managed all elements of the restoration and redevelopment of the Newport Substation including conducting six years of employment and training programs for the long term and at risk unemployed.
- 1998 - 2010 - HBCAC Inc. Committee set about building a broad based network of supporters including; local residents, school communities, businesses, Victoria University, service groups – Rotary, Lions, Zonta, Probus, Local, State and Federal Government.
- 1998 – 2010 - Created and facilitated hundreds of COMMUNITY arts and cultural events and initiatives.
- **2008 – Official opening of The Substation. (HBCAC Inc. has over 560 Members).**
- 2010 – 2015 – Jeremy Gaden appointed Director of The Substation.
- **2013 – Association membership restricted to five members (the Committee of Management), including one non elected Hobsons Bay City Council (HBCC) representative. No membership renewal notices or AGM notification sent to wider community membership.**
- 2013 - Decision made by the self elected HBCAC Inc. Committee and HBCC representative to become a Contemporary Arts Centre and discontinue community arts programming. **No wider community consultation process undertaken.**
- 2014 – Association Rules changed without wider membership consultation or approval.
- **2015 – Brad Spolding appointed Director by the self elected HBCAC Inc. Committee and HBCC representative. Decision made to become an Experimental and Contemporary Arts Centre - No wider community consultation process undertaken.**

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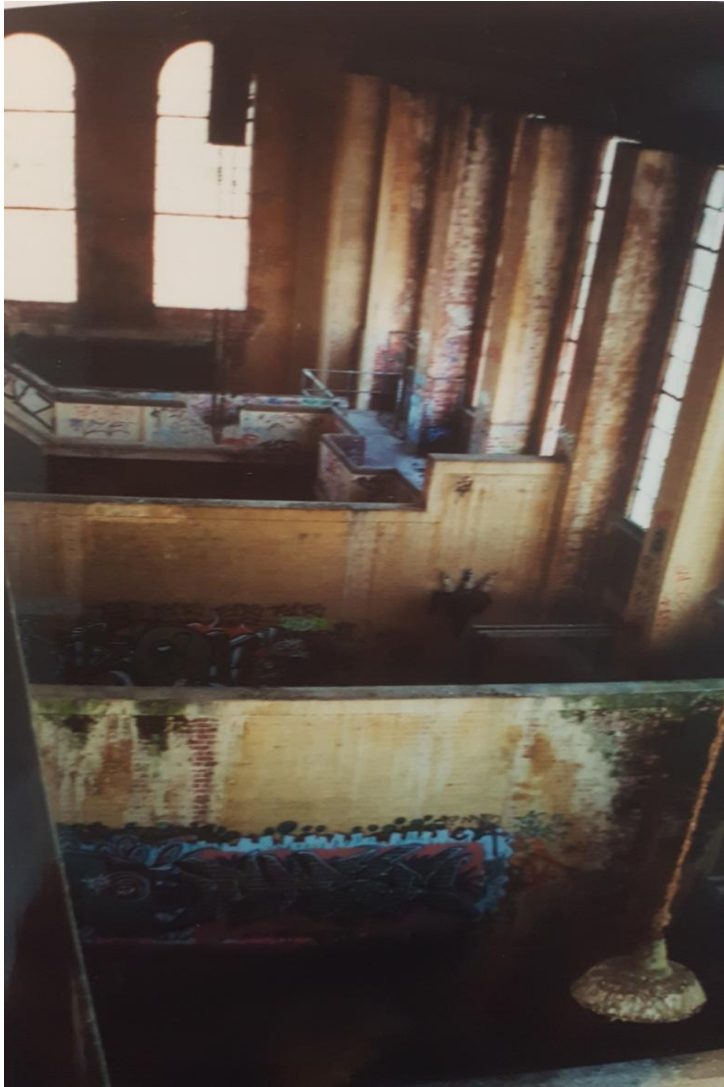
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HOBSONS BAY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE INC. OFFICIAL PROJECT LAUNCH 2001



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The Substation

SCHOOLS MURALS PROJECT 2001

Meeting with Principals and art teachers of the west



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COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROJECT

1999-2002

**Work for the dole program
in partnership with
Victoria University**

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COMMUNITY JOBS PROGRAM 2002-2006

Over a four years ninety long term and at risk participants received full time wages, trade work experience and accredited vocational training during our annual four month employment creation programs.

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VCE ART EXHIBITION 2002 - 2011

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**The Substation
Long Dinner
Fundraiser
2005**

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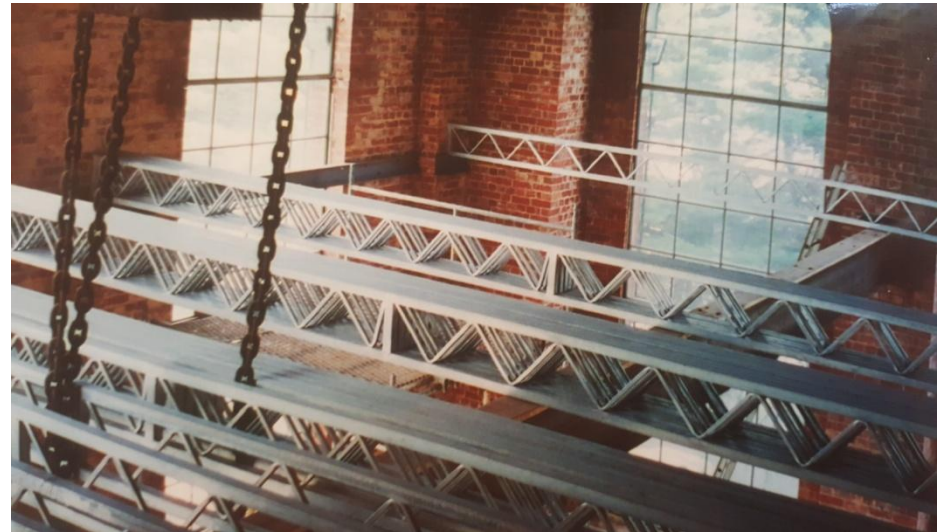
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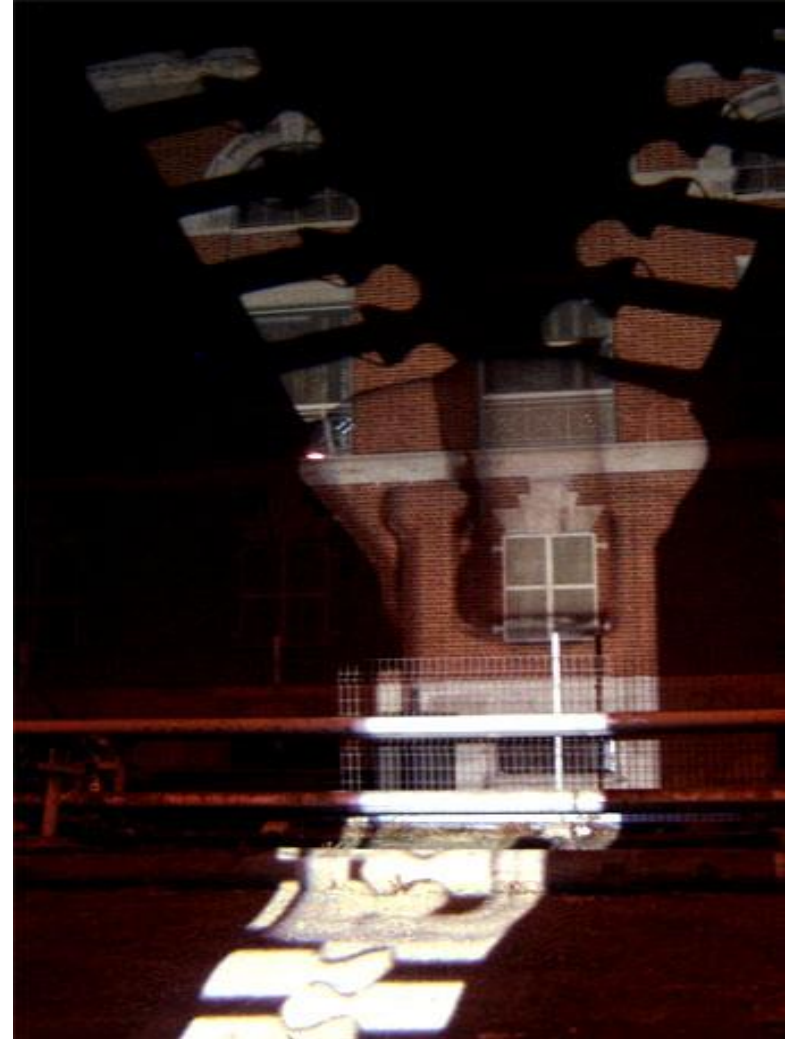
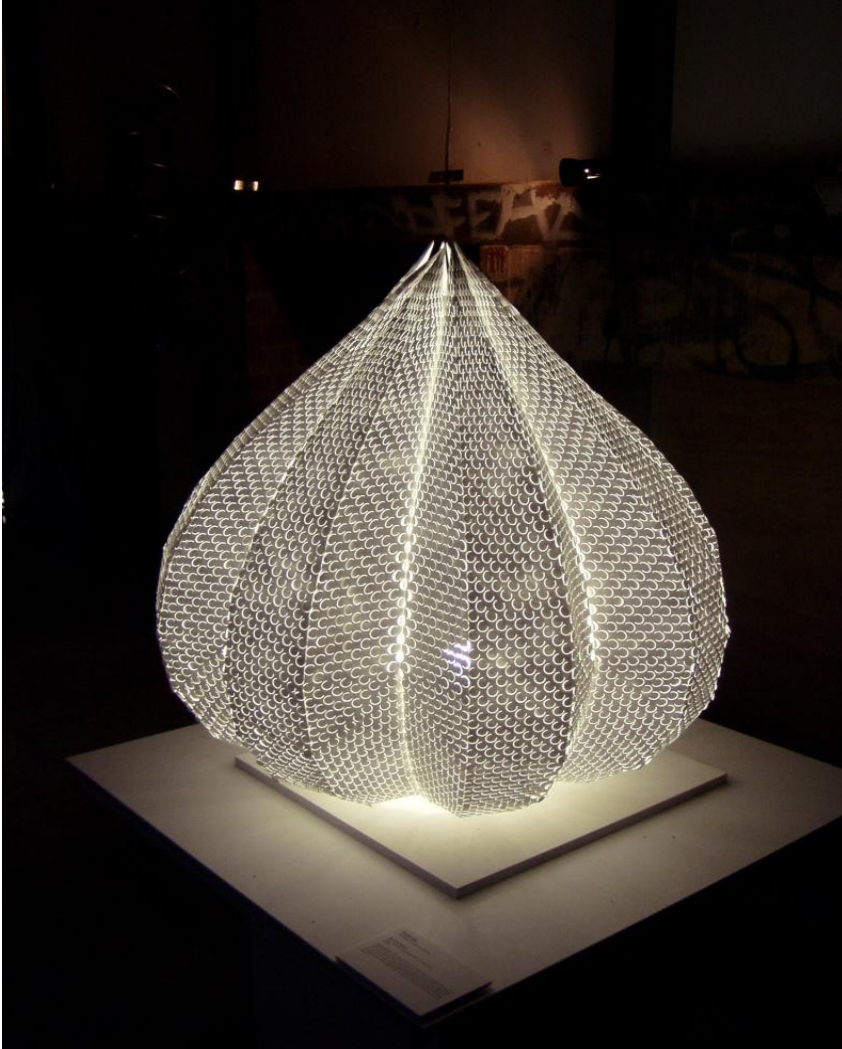


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Contemporary Art Prize

2005 - 2013

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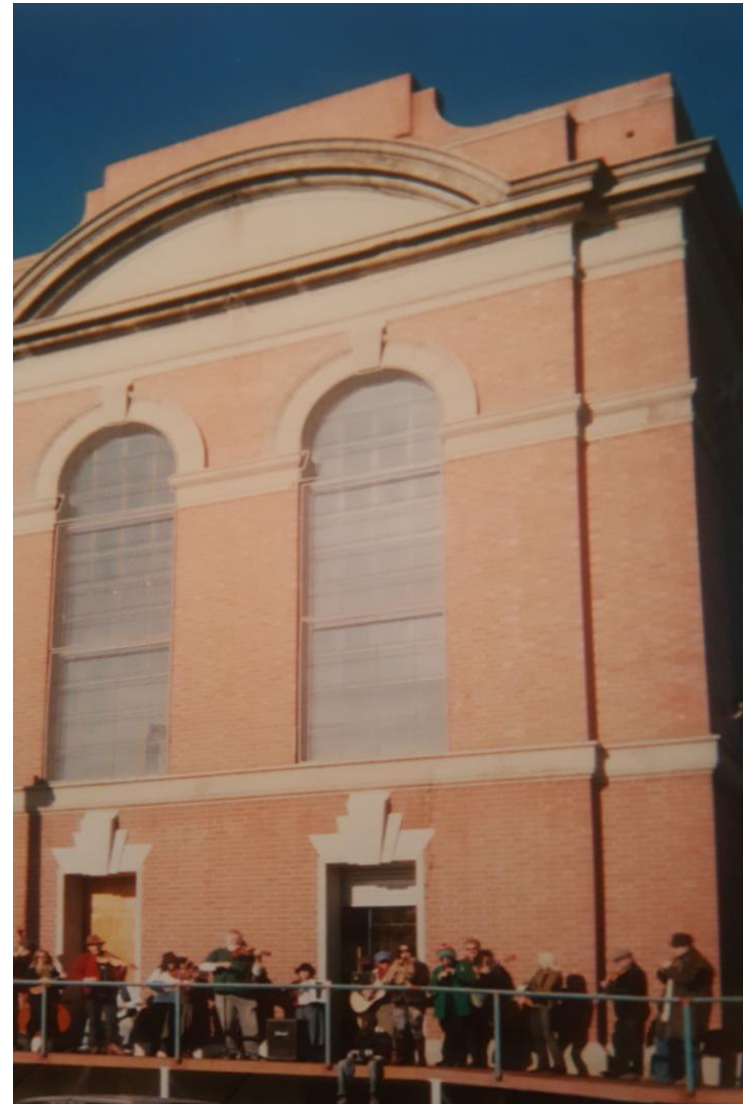
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Official Opening
Hobsons Bay
Community Arts
Centre
2008

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A4 Exhibition

Access All Arts Abilities

& lift opening

2009

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The Substation Artist's Market 2009-2016

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Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards 2010



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