

6. CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION DAY

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The purpose of this report is to request funding assistance towards a Chinese New Year Celebration Event to the amount of \$1,975 (+ GST).

BACKGROUND

In February 2000 the Rewi Alley Chinese School successfully ran the Chinese Cultural Festival. According to the News Advertiser "the event was a blaze of colour and sound with lion and dragon dances, drums and cymbals". Also included were food stalls with traditional Chinese food. Overall this was a highly successful event and was attended by 1000 staff, pupils and parents from Wharenui School as well as members of the wider community.

This year the Rewi Alley Chinese School are wishing to co-organise a Chinese New Year Celebration Event which will be held at Aurora Centre for the Performing Arts at Burnside High School on 17th February 2002. The event will provide cultural and recreational opportunities to the local Asian Chinese community, especially Asian young people. Qiangfu Jin, the Principal of the Rewi Alley Chinese School believes that this unique and colourful Chinese cultural performance will increase cultural awareness in local communities as well as benefiting residents of all ethnicities in the Riccarton/Wigram ward and wider Christchurch.

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

The following is an itemised costing of the event.

	\$
Hire of Aurora Centre at Burnside High School for final performance	700
Hire of Aurora Centre at Burnside High School for rehearsal	350
Hire of the Aurora Centre piano	100
Hire of the sound system	350
Hire of the lighting system	250
Costume material purchase and costume making	600
Venue hire for performing practice (\$15/session x 15 sessions)	225
Volunteer recognition	500
Food and beverage	200
Miscellaneous and hidden cost	200
Total	3,475 + GST
Contribution from Chinese School, local business and other funders	1,500 + GST
Amount requested from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board	1,975 + GST

The Rewi Alley Chinese School was not able to access financial assistance from Creative Communities as funding applications closed on 11th September 2001. This event does not meet the Hillary Commission criteria for funding assistance. The Community Board put aside \$15,000 from Project Funds 2001/02 for local events. The Community Recreation Adviser, Jacqui Leask has allocated all of this money for specific festivals which have been organised according to budget. Contributions from the Chinese School, local businesses and other funders have amounted to \$1,500.

The overall cost of running this event is \$3,475 (+ GST) so there is a shortfall of \$1,975 + GST.

The Rewi Alley Chinese School is therefore requesting that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board (which supported this event in 2000) meet this shortfall through Project Funds.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL POLICY

One of the nine priorities listed in the Christchurch City Council Social Wellbeing Policy is "To respect cultural diversity". Christchurch has a growing Asian population, which is highly represented particularly in the Riccarton Ward.

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board have supported the Rewi Alley Chinese School on previous occasions and has highly valued the school contribution to Chinese families and particularly youth.

In March 2001 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board allocated \$40,000 towards the establishment of a Community Initiatives Fund "to provide a funding source for community initiatives in the Riccarton/Wigram ward" (see Riccarton/Wigram Community and Social Plan Matrix 2001/02).

The Sockburn Advocacy Team believes that this event meets the criteria of a community initiative.

Recommendation: That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board contribute \$1,975 (+ GST) from Community Initiatives Project Funds (\$34,000) towards the Chinese New Year Cultural Event to be held on 17 February 2002.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the Officer's recommendation be adopted.