

<b>Officer responsible</b> Art Gallery Manager	<b>Author</b> Councillor David Close
Corporate Plan Output: Information and Advice to Council	

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal to secure the above work for the city.

Councillors will be aware from newspaper publicity that a major artwork by Philip Trusstum - 80 metres long - has been installed at the Convention Centre. It was the intention that the individual panels would be sold off to defray costs when the exhibition 'closed' in February 2001. However, since the installation many people, including a number of would-be purchasers of the panels, have urged that the entire artwork should be retained on permanent display in the Convention Centre.

The Committee gave consideration to a report from Mr Warren Feeney, Director of the Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA), which described the work, outlined the proposal for public ownership together with the benefits for the city and the projected budget. The relevant extracts from the report are detailed below:

**“1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

Canterbury artist Philip Trusstum, one of New Zealand’s most recognised contemporary painters of major works, has created an 84 metre long mural titled *Passport to the New Millennium*.

It will hang on the West Wall of the Christchurch Convention Centre until January 2001.

It is the largest known two dimensional work in the country, reflecting the huge scope of its subject, the millennium itself.

Since the mural was hung, a number of art experts and administrators have been given private previews. There has been an overwhelming response from them that the mural should stay in one complete piece and that it should stay in a major public venue in Christchurch.

CoCA is prepared to assist with funding applications to the Millennium Office, Creative New Zealand and other potential sponsors.

**2. THE WORK**

The mural consists of 140 panels and is based on the dictionary definition of the word "millennium". Symbols and some inventions by the artist changed the words and enabled him to play around within these words. So eventually the words all but disappeared. The painting means underlying things for him, but other people can take their own feelings and meanings from the shapes, symbols and colours and really complete the painting cycle.

### 3. PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The CoCA proposal is simply that every effort should be made to retain this significant and exciting work in public ownership, in Christchurch, and under the protection of the Christchurch City Council.

There are questions arising about its display and use. These are for serious consideration. The new city art gallery is a fortunate opportunity to incorporate provision for permanent display.

### 4. BENEFITS FOR CHRISTCHURCH

- It is a major work by one of New Zealand's most important contemporary artists. Trusttum has exhibited in New Zealand for more than 30 years. He is featured in all significant art publications currently available on the history of contemporary New Zealand art. He has work in all the major public galleries. Moreover, Trusttum has exhibited internationally.
- Trusttum has produced a rich and complex body of work that is able to sustain international and long term interest.
- Securing this work in public ownership would enhance Christchurch's cultural reputation, and firmly state that as the city looks forward to the next century it is from a strong cultural and artistic tradition that goes back to Petrus Van Der Velden, Colin McCahon and W A Sutton.
- The presence of *Passport to the New Millennium* in Christchurch is confirmation that the city celebrates its artists and their ongoing and lively contribution to New Zealand's culture.
- Represents a significant millennium presentation to the city.
- Promotes Canterbury art.
- Consolidates the region's reputation as arguably the most important centre for the training, development and practice of fine art in New Zealand.

### 5. PROJECTED BUDGET

<b>Purchase Price (five years to pay)</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Grants (to be applied for)</b>		
Millennium Grants Committee	\$25,000	
Lottery Grant Committee	\$50,000	
Creative New Zealand	\$25,000	
Public Subscription		
\$20,000 over five years	\$100,000	
<i>Balance to find</i>		
<i>\$10,000 over five years</i>	\$50,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$250,000"</b>

The Committee was optimistic that most of the funds required were likely to be raised by public subscription

- Recommendation:**
1. That, because of the significance of the work “Passport to the New Millennium” the Council agree to retain the work in public ownership at the Christchurch Convention Centre.
  2. That the public be invited to subscribe for individual panels, with the panels remaining in situ, and such subscriptions being suitably acknowledged.
  3. That the balance of the cost be found from surplus funds from millennium projects and the Art in Public Places Fund over the next five years.