

1. SCULPTURE 2000, CATHEDRAL SQUARE

RR 10951

Officer responsible CEO, Turning Point 2000	Author Rae Finlay, CEO, Turning Point 2000
Corporate Plan Output: City Promotions	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Turning Point 2000 Trust is seeking approval from the Christchurch City Council as owner of Cathedral Square for the installation of a major contemporary sculpture by internationally celebrated local sculptor Neil Dawson to celebrate the new millennium.

This approval is being sought to enable the commissioning agreement with the sculptor to be finalised. The three parties to the commissioning agreement are the Turning Point 2000 Trust, as commissioner, the Christchurch City Council, as owner of the land on which the sculpture is to be constructed and installed, and Neil Dawson, Sculptor. Ownership of the sculpture will pass from the artist to the Christchurch City Council on completion.

The commissioning agreement needs to be finalised in order to progress:

- a press conference to unveil the sculpture to the media and public
- the building and resource consent process
- foundation work for the Sculpture to be incorporated into the Stage 4 redevelopment of Cathedral Square.

The Community Trust has granted \$226,000 to this project and the Turning Point 2000 Trust has secured a grant from the Lottery Grants Board Millennium Arts Funding for New Works for \$117,000. The funds secured by Turning Point 2000 cover the initial concept proposal by Neil Dawson, project administration and the contract price for creation, design, materials, construction, installation and sale of the sculpture by the Sculptor.

Within the commissioning agreement the Council will be responsible for the building and resource consents, construction of the foundation and drainage works, provision of lighting and ongoing maintenance of the sculpture.

It is estimated the cost of the foundation, drainage works and lighting is \$30,130.

The concept and images of “Chalice” cannot be released publicly until the commissioning agreement is in place.

Neil Dawson is due to be commissioned in October 1999. “Chalice” will be installed in the Square in October 2000.

BACKGROUND

In January 1999 Turning Point 2000 invited Neil Dawson to make a proposal for a sculpture that would provide a memorial to the new millennium.

Dawson presented a marquette of “Chalice” to the Sculpture 2000 Committee in May 1999. The unveiling of the marquette elicited an emotional response from the group, all were awed. The brief requested a major long lasting abstract work of art which would complement the existing structures in Cathedral Square. It was to form the third vertical element and accordingly should relate to the Cathedral Spire and War Memorial. The marquette of “Chalice” fulfilled these requirements as well as reflecting the Turning Point 2000 theme of looking back – looking forward.

The Sculpture 2000 Committee comprises:

Anna Crighton (Chair), Christchurch City Councillor
Sir Miles Warren, Architect
Barbara Stewart, Christchurch City Councillor
Don Peebles, Artist
David Sheppard, Architect
John Dryden, Environmental & Policy Planning Manager, Christchurch City Council
Rae Finlay, CEO, Turning Point 2000

Councillors, and appropriate Council Officers were invited to an Environment Committee Seminar in October 1999, and again the presentation of “Chalice” by Neil Dawson, drew resounding support and acclaim.

THE SCULPTURE - “CHALICE”

- **Concept**

“Chalice” provides an icon for the new millennium and will be a major focal point, with a height of 18m, in Christchurch’s principal urban space. It reflects the natural and cultural history of Cathedral Square, Christchurch.

The Cathedral Square redevelopment, scheduled to be completed late in 1999, will see the Square become an almost entirely pedestrian area, emphasising its significance as the city’s prime urban space. “Chalice” is to be installed in the south west corner of the Square and will provide a valuable contribution to this place of recreation and repose (see site map). The redeveloped Square will emphasise its major features by careful night lighting of the perimeter buildings and trees.

“Chalice” will be lit at night with one flood light inside the base and one spotlight aimed at the exterior of the structure from the pavement.

- **Artist - Neil Dawson**

The installation of a major art work into Christchurch’s Cathedral Square to mark the dawning of the new millennium is a convergence of time, place and artistic endeavour.

Local artist Neil Dawson has an international as well as a national reputation and has installations in numerous countries. These include “Globe” in the Pompidou Centre, Paris, France 1989, “Vanishing Stairs” in Kuala Lumpur, “Ferns” in Wellington and the up coming “Feathers and Skies” to be an integral part of the Olympic Stadium, Sydney 2000.

- **Production**

Production of “Chalice” will be carried out under the close supervision of Neil Dawson. He is anticipating involving several local sub-contractors.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council as land owner permit the installation of the major contemporary sculpture by artist Neil Dawson, subject to any building consents and resource consents being obtained.
 2. That the Christchurch City Council take responsibility for the foundations, drainage works and lighting associated with the installation of the “Chalice” and these be incorporated into the Stage 4 redevelopment of Cathedral Square and this recommendation be referred to the Projects and Property Committee for action.
 3. That Turning Point 2000 Ltd be responsible for seeking the building and resource consents required for the “Chalice”.
 4. That the Christchurch City Council agree to take ownership and responsibility for the on-going maintenance of the “Chalice” upon completion.

Timeline

March 1998	Turning Point 2000 Trust secured \$226,000 from The Community Trust to develop Sculpture 2000
November 1998	Sculpture 2000 Committee established and brief prepared
January 1999	Invited Neil Dawson to submit concept to Sculpture 2000
May 1999	Neil Dawson presents marquette of “Chalice” to Sculpture 2000
July – September 1999	Balance of funding sourced and \$117,000 secured through the Lottery Grants Board.
October 1999	“Chalice” marquette presented to Christchurch City Council Seminar prior to resource consent application
October/November 1999	Neil Dawson commissioned
October/November 1999	Resource Consent notified
December/January 1999	Resource consent gained
March to October 2000	Construction of “Chalice”
October 2000	Installation of “Chalice” into Cathedral Square, Christchurch
November 2000	Ownership of “Chalice” passes to the Christchurch City Council.