

4. FESTIVAL OF ROMANCE FUNDING

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| Officer responsible Leisure Manager | Author Dawn Brown, DDI 371 1916 on behalf of the Festival and Events Interim Advisory Board |
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The purpose of this report is to present the recommendation of the Interim Events Advisory Board regarding the proposed change to funding for the Festival of Romance pursuant to the adopted recommendations of the report presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee on 13 September 2000.

The Festival City Trust submitted a proposal to the Council for the Festival of Romance to become a biennial festival and to be funded at the same level as the annual festival. The proposal provided for the Valentine's Day Dance to be held annually. This proposal was presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee on 13 September 2000. The current level of funding for the Festival of Romance is \$86,955.

The Trust's loss in revenue from The Community Trust and the additional cost of including the Valentine's Day Dance in the festival programme, without an increase in funding, created a financial burden under which the Trust felt it could not continue working.

An allocation of \$20,000 was made from the 2000/01 budget for the production of a Valentine's Day Dance in 2001, leaving a balance of \$66,955. The Board proposes this balance be carried forward to next financial year to fund:

- the production of the 2002 Valentines Day Dance
- an enhanced festival programme, subject to Leisure staff approval
- festival development

The festival providers submitted two programming options; a six-day festival requiring funding of \$105,000 and a thirteen-day festival requiring \$154,000. The board is recommending the six-day option, with the addition of the following event from the thirteen-day programme:

An Exploration of Love: Dancer Bronwyn Judge brings to life one of last century's greatest love stories, between Antarctic explorer Captain Scott and his wife Kathleen, as seen through the eyes of Kathleen, recreated from Scott's letters to her and her diaries. Bronwyn Judge is the first choreographer ever sent to Antarctica and this will be the premiere performance of this show. There will be three performances.

The board believes that An Exploration of Love is an important addition to the festival because of its particular historical significance to Christchurch as the gateway to Antarctica. The board is recommending that additional funding of \$15,000 be allocated from balance of the Festival of Romance's 2000/01 funding to enable its inclusion in the 2002 festival programme. The recommendation results in no additional funding to the festival and leaves a balance of \$31,955 to be used for festival development. This development is part of the strategic review the board is undertaking of current festivals. The board will make appropriate recommendations on the balance to the Parks and Recreation Committee for consideration.

Furthermore, the Board recommends that no commitment be given for funding the festival beyond 2002, as it is considering the possibility of merging this festival with the Festival of Flowers. The Festival City Trust will be included in the process to develop new proposals, which the board is currently undertaking.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the proposal submitted by the Festival City Trust for the funding of the 2002 Festival of Romance and the 2002 Valentine's Day Dance be approved, subject to the Council confirming, at its budget meeting on 12 July, the funding of \$89,564 provided for this festival in the draft plan.
 2. That the balance of the funding provided in the current year's budget for the Festival of Romance (\$66,955) be carried forward to be used as follows:

\$20,000 for the production of the Valentine's Day Dance
\$15,000 for the production of An Exploration of Love
\$31,955 for festival development
 3. That no commitment be given for funding for the festival beyond 2002.