

# Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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**Your Submission:**

The Arts Centre strongly endorses the Council's contribution to arts and culture within the plan and in particular the support of The Arts Centre and the wider cultural precinct. We commend to the City the new plans for developing the cultural precinct. They will ensure that this part of the inner city continues to flourish as a key part of city life. The precinct, from the Cathedral to the Museum and gardens, remains a major touchstone and attraction for both locals and visitors.

We particularly wish to thank the Council for their continued support of The Arts Centre, in particular the annual grant we receive for work on the buildings. We endorse this ongoing support for our care and conservation of these important buildings. We appreciate that the Council shares our vision of wanting to hand on this wonderful city asset to future generations in the best possible condition.

In the 10 years covered by the CCC Community Plan, we estimate that 8 million locals and 8 million visitors to Christchurch will come to The Arts Centre. They will stay an average of three hours each visit and we estimate they will spend a total of \$240 million dollars on shopping, concerts, films, theatre and events at The Arts Centre. 20,000 businesses, organisations and individuals will hire a venue at The Arts Centre for functions, concerts, meetings, festivals and events - including 500 couples who will get married here!

It is in the context of this extensive use of The Arts Centre by locals, our central role in the visitor industry and our contribution to the quality of life in Christchurch, that we thank the CCC for your ongoing support of our work on the buildings. In the 10 years covered by your Community Plan we will, with your support, ensure that all buildings are protected by fire sprinklers and at least 4 major buildings will be protected by seismic strengthening. Three slate roofs will have been replaced and extensive repairs and replacements to stonework will have been completed.

We think this work is very important. It will ensure that The Arts Centre can continue to offer the wide range of cultural and arts attractions so important to the enjoyment of life in our city and mean that this significant group of heritage buildings endures in very good condition for future generations.

Tony Paine  
Director  
The Arts Centre of Christchurch Trust