

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA
ANNUAL PLAN MEETING**

**THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2000
AT 9.00AM**

27. MULTI CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Officer responsible Leisure Unit Manager	Author Monique Alispahic & Aroha Rangi
Corporate Plan Output: Festivals and Events	

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to use all existing funds allocated in the 1999/2000 Festival of Japan line output, for the creation of a Multi-Cultural Festival.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last several years the Council has funded the Festival of Japan as well as various other cultural projects. The festival and events output budget presently contains a line item for the Festival of Japan, which holds \$30,000 for the current financial year.

The previous Council directed officers to consider the funding allocated to the Festival of Japan, could be utilised in a multi-cultural way. This interpretation was signalled in the draft pink pages in 1997/98 and 1998/99, advocating the change to a Multi-Cultural Festival in the year 2000.

The Council has over the years commissioned two feasibility studies, which although several years old, advocate the need for such a festival and the need to cultivate participation and promote diversity within Christchurch.

THE FESTIVAL OF JAPAN

The 1996 Christchurch Festival of Japan, whilst successful in both audience participation and media coverage, made a financial loss. It is for this reason and the adverse economic position in Japan that no festival was held in 1998.

The 'rolled over' funding was drawn by the newly formed Festival of Japan company, with Don Crabb and Councillor Alistair James as directors, who in turn appointed Astrid Anderson (The Events Company) as festival co-ordinator. This has paved the way to rebuild the biannual festival, which in 1999 delivered a successful compilation of outcomes. The organising committee would like to continue the Festival of Japan as a separate cultural festival.

There has been no expectation given by the Council that there will be continued funding available for this project in future years.

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THE MULTICULTURAL PROJECT

Staff believe, having considered the outcomes of previous research, that it is more reflective of the makeup of the Christchurch community to celebrate our multiculturalism rather than singling out one particular culture. Assuming the Council will support such a move, the festival could be held during August 2000, combing as many as possible of the various cultural groups from within Christchurch. This initial festival will require further consultation with stakeholders to ensure consideration of everyone's needs. The opportunity to develop an infrastructure which can build and incorporate the Festival of Japan, whilst incorporating other cultural groups, may leverage a wider and more diverse programming of events.

At the present time the \$30,000 in the 1999/2000 budget would go towards establishing the festival and ensuring community involvement. An additional \$20,000 for this festival will be sought in the pink pages for the next financial year.

BENEFITS

The 'Multi-Cultural Festival' will be an observance of the city's unique cultural spirit and diversity. There are significant Pakeha/European (258,381), Maori (21,462), Pacific Island (5,979), and Asian (12,597) populations in Christchurch¹. Each of these populations is distinct and varied within the broad "ethnic categories" they are defined as and should be celebrated. This celebration would offer a great deal to our substance and 'feel' as a city.

The project will enable the different cultural groups opportunities to partake in and/or observe the arts and cultural activities that are at the source of their cultural identities.

It will fulfil goals that are contained in the Arts and Culture Policy:

- An active, creative performing and visual arts sector contributing to the city as a centre of excellence and innovation.
- A city possessing artistic and cultural activities attractive to residents, visitors and business.
- An artistic and cultural identity celebrating the city's heritage.

It will also contribute to several elements of the Council's community cohesion and social well-being strategic objectives of:

- celebrating, protecting and increasing understanding of cultural diversity by supporting a range of arts, festivals and events and facilitating the cultural expression of ethnic and cultural groups
- maximising opportunities for residents to participate in learning and leisure activities by supporting and provided visual and performing arts
- strengthening communities by facilitating collaboration between public, private and community agencies

¹ From 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings Ethnic Group – Resident Population in Christchurch City

10. 2. 2000

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The project will facilitate the development of greater cultural understanding and appreciation in real terms and provide a catalyst for increased social cohesion whilst promoting recognition in Christchurch that 'difference' can be great and adds value to the quality of our lives.

Recommendation: That the Council support the creation of an annual Multi-Cultural Festival, which incorporates the needs of the Festival of Japan, together with other like-minded smaller events.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.