

10. ZIGGURAT 2000

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks Plans and Policy Statements	

The purpose of this report is to gain the Committee's support for a proposal for a temporary art installation in Hagley Park.

BACKGROUND

Art and Industry 2000 is a biennial festival of contemporary visual art that will run between 23 of September and 31 December 2000. This will be the first festival of its kind in New Zealand, showcasing specially commissioned art works in public spaces. Art and Industry brings together the realms of art and engineering and Ziggurat 2000 is an excellent example of this. The Art and Industry team, together with the artist, Pauline Rhodes, are keen to showcase Ziggurat 2000 for three months in North Hagley Park near the Carlton Mill Corner.

Pauline Rhodes has exhibited many such art works over more than ten years. In 1995/96 she created the "Moonstone Spiral" for Sculpture in the Gardens. Her work has been recognised by being awarded the 1987 Olivia Spencer-Bower Award, a Merit award in the Visa Gold Art Awards and an Artist in Residency at Otago Polytechnic.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ART INSTALLATION

Ziggurat 2000 is a large art work, described by Pauline Rhodes as "simple, powerful and celebratory". Themes of Time, Place and the Universal will be realised through the symbolic use of form and material which are grounded by its mass. It relates back to the ancient monuments of Mesopotamia, Indonesia and Africa as well as encompassing the contemporary industrial fabrication and civil engineering processes.

The Ziggurat 2000 has a monumental form covering an area of 11 metres square and reaching a height of five metres. It is constructed of large, local Waimakariri river stones encased by galvanised wire gabion baskets. The steps allow public participation as the Ziggurat can be climbed and people can sit on the bottom step. It would be lit up at night.

SITING ZIGGURAT 2000

Two sites were initially suggested, one being Hagley Park and the other being the Addington Railway Station. Sites near the railway station are a little problematic due to the zoning and ownership of the area and the Ziggurat would potentially have less public profile here. The Parks Unit supports the North Hagley Park site for the three month installation. The site is highly visible and can easily accommodate an installation of this scale.

The site is also ideal because there is a large area of flat ground necessary for the installation and because access to the area is readily available for vehicles bringing in materials.

Because it is desirable to have the art work lit and lighting connections are available in the North Hagley Park site, as the nearby pines presently have uplighting. Interpretation of the Ziggurat would be provided on site.

Once the festival is over the Ziggurat would be completely dismantled or it could be relocated to another public area if this was favoured by the public.

NEXT STEPS

The structure will require approval by the Art in Public Places Committee and a resource consent. Parks Unit staff will advance the necessary consents following support from this Committee.

CONCLUSION

Art and Industry's promotion of Pauline Rhodes's Ziggurat 2000 in Hagley Park is supported by the Parks Unit as it will be an exciting feature, visible and accessible to all. It will provoke thought and debate on how we utilise our parks and natural environment, as well as challenging perceptions of parks and the place of art in our local landscape. Parks Unit staff would like to see more art in open space areas and Ziggurat 2000 will provide an opportunity to gauge public opinion on this.

Additional background information on the work has been separately circulated to Councillors.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Committee support the installation of Ziggurat 2000 in the North Hagley Park near the Carlton Mill Corner, subject to:
 - (a) The approval of the Art in Public Places Subcommittee;
 - (b) A resource consent being obtained.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.