

14. MALTHOUSE THEATRE TRUST – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Project Funds	

The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to consider allocating:

- \$1330 from its 1999/2000 Heritage Project Fund (being the remaining balance)
- \$1570 from its 1999/2000 Discretionary Fund,

for the purpose of upgrading facilities within the Malthouse Theatre building, located at 71 Colombo Street. The building has been classified as a Group Two Heritage building. Classifications range from one to four, with one being the highest.

A request for funding (attached) has been made by Ian Beswick, Chairperson of the Malthouse Theatre Trust to enable the Trust to extend the laundry facility, enlarge the existing office and create a new storage room. There is a need to upgrade the existing facilities in order to maintain the current tenants (Canterbury Children’s Theatre). Mr Beswick will be in attendance to answer any questions the Board may have.

The proposed plan is to extend the laundry into the existing office and convert the old storage room into a new office. A new storage area will be created downstairs. The inside of the building has several rooms with low ceilings, and some of these ceilings slope to the shape of the roof, thereby restricting adequate use of the floor space. The proposal to change some of the rooms around and to create more roof space in the new storage room seems a sensible idea. This will enable better storage of stage props and equipment. The loading and unloading of equipment will be a lot easier as the storage room will be nearer the front loading dock area. The present laundry area is too small to cope with the increasing demand for hire costumes.

Over the years the Trust has endeavoured to change rooms around to fully utilize existing space. This time however, there is a need to create more space by moving wall partitions and raising a small section of the roof at the side of the building. An architect has looked at the site and has provided instructions to the Trust on how the work should undertaken.

The proposed work is to be carried out by the caretaker on his rostered days at work, with voluntary assistance being provided by the Trust and Malthouse Theatre Society members. Most of the plumbing and electrical fittings can be relocated and the cost has been based on the lowest price obtained from at least three retailers for building hardware. Quotes were also received for the contracting work required for concrete cutting and electrical work. The work will be carried out as time permits. The funds sought (\$2,900) are to cover the cost of materials and sub- contracting work.

It should be noted that in an assessment of the building by engineers, Holmes Consulting Group shows that urgent earthquake strengthening work has been identified as requiring attention. Separate funding is being sought for this work. Depending on the conditions set out in the Building Consent this work may have to be carried out at the same time.

By supporting this request for funding the Board will be meeting the following of its objectives and performance indicators:

4. To encourage the protection of Spreydon-Heathcote's Heritage sites.

4.1 To encourage the retention and enhancement of heritage sites and buildings.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board allocate \$1,330 from its 1999/2000 Heritage Fund (leaving a nil balance) together with \$1,570 from its 1999/2000 Discretionary Fund.
 2. That the above funding be granted subject to Resource Consent application for work on a Heritage site being made and the necessary Building Consents being obtained.

**Chairman's
Comment:**

The project appears to be more from the point of view of the operation of the building and the Canterbury Children's Theatre, than for the protection, retention and enhancement of the heritage building.