

6. LEGAL ARTS PROPOSAL – MURAL AEROSOL WORK ON LINWOOD PARK FENCE

Officers responsible Leisure Unit Manager and Community Relations Manager	Author Community Recreation Advisor – Delia Walker, DDI 3722628 Legal Arts Co-ordinator – Sharon Williams, DDI 3722327
Corporate Plan Output: 3.2 text 14	

The purpose of this report is to ask the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board to allocate funding to a legal arts project aimed at tidying up the tagging on the East fence of Linwood Park.

Currently there is a tagging/graffiti problem at Linwood Park. This proposal aims to place “mural aerosol” art work along the wall from Linwood Avenue to the pathway that runs through to Smith Street, including part of the skate ramp that faces Linwood Avenue.

This project will be coordinated by the Legal Arts Co-ordinator and will use youth who are part of the Legal Arts Programme. Approximately 75% of youth on the programme are from the Hagley/ Ferrymead area.

The Legal Arts Programme aims to:

- Reduce the amount of tagging occurring within Christchurch.
- Encourage graffitiists to lift their artistic standards to a higher level.
- To undertake legal art activities.
- To increase community respect for legal graffiti art.

The advantages of the legal arts programme include:

- The provision of a positive environment for which graffitiists can redirect their energies and express their art form legally.
- The promotion of community safety by providing an organised structured programme.
- A reduction in the incidence of graffiti vandalism.
- The development of strategies to divert young people away from graffiti vandalism and towards positive, creative and productive pursuits.
- Raising community awareness regarding the reporting of graffiti and ways of dealing with graffiti.
- The promotion of civic pride.

The proposed process to be used is as follows:

1. The Legal Art Project will be overseen by the Legal Art Co-ordinator.
2. Three tutors will work with local youth to establish design of the mural.
3. Consultation will take place with local schools, businesses, churches, residence groups, community board and other local groups deemed appropriate.
4. Design will be drafted and presented to the community board and appropriate committees.
5. Any feedback will be considered and appropriate measures taken.
6. The design will take place at Linwood Park.
7. A community event could be arranged to promote the skate park and incorporate the art project work. Preferably as a separate event to the LYFE festival, but if necessary could incorporate within it. A theme for the event could incorporate the four elements of “Hip-Hop” culture. Hip-Hop being part of the graffiti sub-culture.

Budget Estimate

Mural aerosol art work	Total Cost
Undercoat/ Spray paint	4040.00
Paintbrushes/Trays/ Rollers etc	560.00
Catering	150.00
Tutors wages	450.00
T/shirts / sweatshirts for volunteer artists	685.00
TOTAL COST FOR MURAL ART WORK	5785.00

Community Event –Estimate depending on event	
TOTAL COST FOR COMMUNITY EVENT	2000

WORKING WITH TAGGERS AND GRAFFITI ARTISTS

The Legal arts Co-ordinator comments on the structure of working with “taggers and graffiti artists” who are part of the “Legal Arts Project”.

A relationship was established between the “Legal Arts Project”, “Youth and Cultural Development” and a “Hip-Hop” Centre. Hip-Hop being part of the Graffiti sub-culture.

Here we meet up with the Graffiti artists and taggers. Using the space available we have our:-

- crew meetings
- design sessions

We have two mentors/tutors in Graffiti and Aerosol Art, Jonny Wartmann and Michael Slade who are both highly respected in the Hip-Hop culture in Christchurch. Together they mentor and tutor the youth on:-

- design/structure
- colours
- Aerosol Art
- Graffiti Art History
- Can control
- community / wants and needs

Jonny and Michael both work voluntarily at this point.

Through Jonny and Michael’s knowledge of Graffiti Art and local grafters, we can hook into crews (local groups of taggers and grafters) throughout Christchurch.

I also connect with tagger and grafters through:-

- Police
- families
- community service
- YCD
- word of mouth

We have 40 taggers and grafters on our phone list already.

For each project we use youth from each local area as well as our mentors and some community service youth. The community service youth do the clean up work on the sites, eg buffing/painting out tags. I use this strategy as “restorative justice”.

A contract is also being compiled. All grafters will have to sign the contract to be part of each project. The contract will outline our relationship as a crew:

- behaviour / expectations
- rehabilitation
- no more tagging etc etc

We have also established a relationship with “Orion”. We are given power boxes in different locations around Christchurch. I then give graffiti artists, who have not tagged in a long time, the opportunity to do legal graffiti pieces with Jonny or Michael on a “one-on-one” basis, which to the grafters is a privilege.

I use this system and these youth as an example to those who are still tagging.

For further information on the “Legal Arts Project” please phone Sharon Williams 3722327.

Recommendation:

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Board allocates \$5,785.00 of its Discretionary Funding towards the development of a mural aerosol artwork in Linwood Park.
3. That the Board funds \$2,000.00 for an event to promote the skate park and the new artwork. The amount may vary depend on the type of event.
4. That the Board considers future funding support for appropriate projects co-ordinated by the Legal Art Co-ordinator.
5. That items purchased above be utilised for future art projects within the Hagley/ Ferrymead area where appropriate.

Comment from Community Advocate:

The Community Advocate advises that there is \$3,000 from Board project funding 2000/2001 already allocated to graffiti which could be used with the remainder coming from the discretionary fund 2000/2001.

Chairman's**Recommendation:**

1. That the Community Recreation Advisor (Delia Walker) and Legal Arts Co-ordinator (Sharon Williams) be thanked for their report
2. For discussion.