

2. HERITAGE VALUES + VISION + MISSION STATEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Heritage Values + Vision + Mission Statements developed by the Urban Design and Heritage Team for use in best practice cultural heritage management.

INTRODUCTION

Heritage specialist staff have formulated the following Heritage Values + Vision + Mission Statement to guide the development of the Heritage Management Strategy currently in progress.

The Heritage Values Statement underpins the development of the Heritage Vision + Mission Statement.

The Heritage Vision Statement sets out an aspiration statement for the Urban Design and Heritage Team and the development of a management strategy to guide and inform best practice cultural heritage management.

This statement is followed by more detailed Vision Expanded. This sets out a comprehensive range of heritage concepts that need to be considered as part of development, management and delivery of the Heritage Vision Statement.

The Mission Statement sets out how the Vision and Vision Expanded are to be delivered.

We value our heritage because:

- HERITAGE helps to define a unique sense of identity for individuals and communities and the city of Christchurch.
- HERITAGE helps to create communities by connecting individuals to neighbourhoods, social groups and the city as a whole through its physical, cultural, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects.
- HERITAGE provides continuity in a constantly changing society and environment, affirming where our communities have come from and enabling an understanding of the present in order to plan for the future.
- HERITAGE has value to the whole community and serves beyond individual interests to contribute to the greater public good and community prosperity.

OUR VISION FOR HERITAGE

We envision a Christchurch in which an informed and concerned community values its diverse cultural heritage* for its unique contribution to the identity, amenity and quality of the city. The community works together to protect its irreplaceable urban environment and is supported by its elected representatives with adequate human and financial resources. We continue to celebrate the city's cultural heritage through innovative and dynamic heritage management, with an emphasis on co-ordination, integration and managed change for the experience, enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

* Cultural heritage is defined as the tangible and intangible heritage values of European, Maori and other cultural groups of New Zealand and includes, but is not limited to buildings, places, sites, objects, archaeological remains, cultural landscapes and associated people, stories, events and memories, and wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas.

THE VISION EXPANDED

City and Community Identity

We envision a city where cultural heritage is valued, respected and celebrated as a major contributor to a unique city and community identity, character and sense of place, and is consequently recognised as an essential component for community well-being.

Social Relevance

We envision a city where cultural heritage is seen as socially relevant, because it attaches individuals to their past personally and collectively through its physical, cultural, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects. The stories and events, people and aspirations, communities associate with heritage give meaning to its past, present and future relevance.

Continuity and Managed Change

We envision a city whose cultural heritage is appreciated as an integral part of the environment because it provides important links to the past within a dynamic and ever changing built environment, and remains as a reference point for future planning and development. Past buildings, places, objects and cultural landscapes are appreciated for the opportunities they provide for present and future communities, and are managed in a way that accommodates contemporary aspects of our current lifestyle, whilst also maintaining the traditional and historical aspects of it.

Best Practice Management

We envision a city committed to best-practice cultural heritage management and planning that advocates continuing use and compatible new uses that generate sustainable management and development outcomes.

Public and Individual Benefits

We envision a city that has a strong and focused vision for heritage, with strategic long-term planning and management outcomes, providing for the short and longer-term management and decision making by the Council, the community and individuals that support both the individual and public good.

Decision Making

We envision a city that establishes and implements policies and regulations (etc) and carries out decision making in a holistic environment, providing for a balanced resolution of competing interests, whilst regarding heritage resources as key community assets that contribute to an attractive and dynamic city.

Economic Opportunities

We envision a city that ensures the conservation of its cultural heritage resources with incentives and support and realises the economic benefits for owners and the community. The city recognises heritage as a valuable educational and interpretation resource, which contributes to the foundation of a world class tourism industry, and creates employment opportunities in tourism, building and other industries.

Leadership and Advocacy

We envision a city committed to providing leadership and advocacy for the implementation of best-practice heritage conservation and contributing to the strategic management of cultural heritage across the nation.

Research and Education

We envision a city where increasing our knowledge of and interest in cultural heritage management and heritage conservation skills required to meet the needs of both city and nation, are fostered through its continual research, reassessment, re-evaluation, promotion, and education.

Our Mission for Heritage

We work with key stakeholders (the Council and the community) for the delivery of this vision using international best practice concepts and methods to foster and promote sustainable management of cultural heritage buildings, places, objects and landscapes for the wellbeing and prosperity of the whole community.

Recommendation: That the Council endorse the Heritage Values + Vision + Mission Statements to guide best practice cultural heritage management.