

UPDATE FOR ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
November 2011

**PERFORMING ARTS**

- Court Theatre is to reopen in Addington site on 10<sup>th</sup> December with Roger Hall's *Shortcut to Happiness*. Launch of Theatre on 6<sup>th</sup> December. The *Scared Scriptless* programme and Court Jesters have continued throughout the year in a range of school halls.
- Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Cantabrian Christmas concert 10th December in CBS arena.
- Showbiz Christchurch is operating again from their Balfour Terrace building which had minor damage. Offering theatre technical training and due to stage *Buddy* in April 2012 at the Aurora Centre. Court Theatre currently using their rehearsal rooms.
- Repertory Theatre demolished. Society planning to rebuild again on their Kilmore Street site. Relocated to Stewart Street and have produced their plays throughout the year in a range of venues including the geo dome.
- Riccarton Players Theatre is inaccessible and they are negotiating with the Mill developers for a theatre, café complex. The organisation has continued to offer performances throughout the year in school halls and the NASDA theatre at CPIT.
- Christchurch School of Music has relocated most classes to Christchurch Boys High School and their Youth Orchestras are still rehearsing and performing.
- Southern Ballet have relocated to studios in Carlyle Street where they have a flexible space including performance possibilities.
- Canterbury Ballet continue to offer their professional ballet training in a new venue in Riccarton.

**VISUAL ARTS**

- The Art Gallery has moved 6,300 items from their normal storage areas to reduce the chance of damage being caused by the vibrations from the demolition of the adjacent Gallery Apartments. Staff are housed off site. The Gallery continues to offer its Outer Space programme on the forecourt, the website collection and is finding new ways to interact with viewers, for example the new *My Gallery* website function.
- New Gallery Chambers@241 on Moorhouse Avenue has regular exhibitions for Christchurch artists.
- The Physics Room is planning to return to the Alice in Videoland building hopefully early in 2012, depending on the area being reopened. They plan to have two floors including a residency facility and an increased gallery space. CNZ is supporting this move.
- COCA Gallery closed but with CNZ support will launch its Window project in Feb/March 2012.
- The recently launched ArtBox project will provide 18 mobile and flexible modules placed in and around Christchurch Polytech and city sites providing exhibition and retail space for approximately 100 artists, craft practitioners and designers.
- Many galleries located in the red zone have been able to continue using on line access to their art works.

## **ARTS SERVICE ORGANISATIONS**

- Creative NZ has been extremely generous to the city's arts organisations contributing a total of \$1.6 m since February. This includes a \$500,000 grant to the Court Theatre and at least 50 artists and arts organisations have received grants. They have appointed a liaison officer to inform CNZ Wellington and to work with CCC and MCH.
- Arts Canterbury continues to hold successful exhibitions for Christchurch artists and crafts people in the George Hotel.
- The Christchurch Community Arts Council is providing small project funding for arts projects and is working on the next Arts Participation Guide.
- Chart Music Industry Trust continues to be the voice of the city's contemporary music scene and is working towards a rehearsal venue for bands.
- The Christchurch Civic Music Council is holding the National Concerto Competition and continues to support its 50 classical music affiliate groups.
- Arts Voice Christchurch was formed in March to represent the arts community, particularly with the city plan and rebuild.
- South Island Dance Network continues to advertise and support professional and community dance opportunities.
- CPIT has provided office space for displaced arts organisations through a partnership with CNZ and currently the following organisations are housed on their campus in the Creative Hub: Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, City Choir, Creative NZ, Chart Music Industry Trust, Body Festival, Buskers Festival, Christchurch Arts Festival, Jazz Festival, Readers, Writers Festival, Arts on Tour NZ.
- CPIT has asked their temporary residents to move by Christmas. Jo Blair is looking at a large space which will house Buskers and all the other organisations. CNZ (Chris Herbert) has undertaken to fund the infrastructure costs of a new set up and the organisations will pay the rent. They are fully energised and it looks like they will have confirmation of a space shortly.

## **VENUES**

- The CBS Arena (flexible seating up to 9,000) and the Aurora Centre (seats 600) have been the major performing venues, but both have backstage and technical difficulties for groups.
- The geo dome in Hagley Park has been very well used but again has backstage and technical difficulties.
- The Isaac Theatre Royal is hoping to reopen by the end of 2012.
- Town Hall Auditorium and James Hay have an uncertain future.
- Many school auditoria such as the Middleton Grange Performing Arts Centre, have been used by music and theatre groups.
- The Christchurch Music Centre is planning to rebuild following the cancellation of the lease of their Barbadoes Street venue. They continue to offer lunch time concerts in St Augustine's Church, Cashmere as they plan their new venue.

