

Information Sheet November 2020

The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project

- The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project is a partnership between Whanganui District Council, Whanganui Iwi, central Government, large and small private donors and Trusts.
- The Redevelopment Project will double the size of the existing facility.
- The Redevelopment Project includes earthquake strengthening and restoration of the existing 100-year-old Sarjeant Gallery; and the addition of a new, modern wing which will be joined to the rear face of the Gallery.
- The new wing will house a temperature and humidity-controlled storage area for the Sarjeant's nationally significant permanent collection, further Gallery spaces, an education facility, event and function areas, staff offices, a board room, reception area, a café and retail space.
- The new wing will honour the memory of Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa, for his contribution to leadership in the Manawatū-Whanganui region and will be known as Pataka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa.
- Pataka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa has been designed by Warren and Mahoney Architects. The design arrived at as the result of an Australasian design competition run in 1999. The redeveloped Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui is currently projected to re-open summer of 2023.

Current Redevelopment Timeline

- Current: Work is now progressing on site in two concurrent stages.
New wing:
- Current: Excavation has reached its lowest level, compacted hardfill has been placed, and installation of ground beams for the basement of the new wing is underway. This will take some months to complete.
- Current: A temporary retaining wall is being installed along the former tree line behind the Sarjeant to ensure the existing building is not undermined during the final stage of construction of the new basement.
- Current: The Project Archaeologist has returned to site after the discovery of colonial artefacts, late October.
Existing building:
- Current: We have used ground stabilising concrete and erected two large buttresses to support the east and west stone exterior walls during strengthening works.
- Current: Datum monitoring sites have been strategically attached to the building so that any subsidence or movement can be detected

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- Current: Drilling of hundreds of vertical core holes down through the exterior wall cavity, from roof to ground level, is advancing. Steel bars will be inserted down into the holes as part of the post tension strand strengthening system.
 - Current: Demolition works to the interior gallery walls is complete and installation of 7,900 python wall anchors which will provide stiffness and increase the structural integrity of the double brick cavity wall is on-going.
 - August 2020: Excavation and archaeology work ongoing with Cultural Monitors present on site daily
 - August 2020: PM Jacinda Ardern visits the project site
 - July 2020: Minister Shane Jones visited the site and announced \$12M in further Government support
 - June 2020: Topsoil has been stripped and excavation has commenced for the new wing with lwi monitors and the project archaeologist in daily attendance.
 - June 2020: demolition works and uplifting of the timber floors inside the Sarjeant is on-going.
 - June 2020: underground service connections located near the Band room are being redirected.
 - June 2020: McMillan & Lockwood's price for the earthquake-strengthening component of the redevelopment was submitted and accepted by Council on 15 June wrapping up the two-part construction tendering process.
 - May 2020: the peer review of the structural strengthening methodology for the existing building has driven an 8-month extension to the construction programme due to works needing to be undertaken and sequentially, rather than concurrently as originally estimated.
 - May 2020: fencing erected around the site perimeter and project site offices and portacoms have been moved onto site.
 - May 2020: with the move into Level 3, two mauri stones were laid at the rear of the Sarjeant Gallery and more trees were removed to enable safe construction of the basement loading area and access road.
 - March – May 2020: all redevelopment project on-site activity went into hiatus during COVID-19 Level 4.
 - February 2020: The revised design of the seismic strengthening solution for the existing Gallery has been completed and is now subject to negotiation with the principal contractor McMillan & Lockwood (MML) to ensure efficiency of construction and best value.
 - February 2020: The conservation architect met with the main contractor to review and approve the methodology for lifting, storage and reinstatement of the timber floors which has since commenced.
 - January 2020: In accordance with the Resource Consent nine trees were removed from the site designated for the Gallery extension, Pataka o Sir Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa. New plantings will be included in the landscaping in the later stages of the development.
 - January 2020: a site access and parking plan is developed and shared with the public

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- December 2019: The Archaeological Plan outlining the monitoring and treatment of any findings during the excavation of the site at Pukenua Queen's Park was granted by Heritage New Zealand (HNZ). No digging could take place until the Archaeological Authority was granted.
- November 2019: The existing Gallery was blessed by Te Runanga o Tupoho so that work inside the existing gallery can commence to lift and protect the timber floors ahead of strengthening and restoration works.
- November 2019: Whanganui District Council passed a resolution to proceed with construction of the Sarjeant Gallery and to award the main construction contract to McMillan & Lockwood Group. This contract for \$20M is for construction of the new wing of the Gallery. It also allowed for a variation to the contract, so it can be changed to include earthquake-strengthening of the original gallery building at a later date.
- September 2019: \$12M Provincial Growth Fund grant announced by Parliamentary Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau at the formal public ceremony to celebrate the Sarjeant Gallery's 100 year.
- August 2019: Request for Proposals (RFP) period closed
- May 2019: Post tension strand accepted as the seismic strengthening method and revised detailed design for the Sarjeant Gallery building underway
- April 2019: Expression of Interest document made public in Australia and NZ calling for interested contractors
- January 2019: Detailed design underway for the new wing and alternatives sought for the seismic strengthening method to ensure best value outcome for the 100-year-old building
- December 2018: Gaye Batty appointed as Project Director, Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment. As Project Director Len Lye Centre Gaye Batty successfully delivered the Len Lye/Govett Brewster Redevelopment Project within budget and on time and has most recently as project Director led the redevelopment of the New Plymouth Airport Terminal Development
- October 2018: Cost estimate provided by quantity surveyors for developed design exceeded funds raised.
- August – September 2018: Design phase workshops occurred to ensure building plans fit for purpose
- December 2017 – April 2018: Key consultants engaged
 - Warren and Mahoney – Architects
 - Clendon Burns Park – Structural Engineers
 - Pacific Consulting – Building Services
 - Pacific Fire – Fire Design
 - BlackYard – Electrical Design
 - Rider Levett Bucknall – Quantity Surveyors
- December 2017: Council approved the appointment of RCP to undertake Design Management to the completion of the Detailed Design.
- 2016: Developed design drawings are prepared

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Funding

- The funding for this project comes from a combination of sources: Whanganui District Council; Ministry for Culture & Heritage; Significant Projects Fund (DIA); New Zealand Lottery Grants Board; Provincial Growth Fund (MBIE); public and private trusts and a multitude of individual donations both large and small.

Sarjeant Gallery History

- The Sarjeant Gallery was founded in 1912 with a bequest of £32 000 from Whanganui farmer and land-owner Henry Sarjeant. This represents approximately \$70M in today's money (this is based on a calculation of % of GDP).
- Building commenced in 1917 and was completed in 1919, and the Gallery was opened to the public for the first time on 6 September 1919.
- The Sarjeant Gallery, clad in Oamaru stone, is situated on a historically important site on Pukenui Queen's Park overlooking Whanganui.
- It is one of New Zealand's oldest purpose-built galleries.
- The neo-classical Greek-cross style building with its distinctive dome was designed by architect Donald Hosie, from the office of Edward Anson (Dunedin).
- The building is listed as a Category 1 heritage building by Heritage New Zealand. It also won an award in 2012 for Enduring Design from the New Zealand Institute of Architects.
- The Gallery currently meets only 5% of the current building code.
- The Sarjeant Gallery staff, operations and collection have been relocated to temporary premises - Sarjeant on the Quay at 38 Taupō Quay near the center of Whanganui.
- In 1995 the Sarjeant Gallery was gifted the Maori name Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui, meaning 'House of Inspiration'.
- The re-location costs of around \$2.68 million over five years were funded by a \$472k Lottery Grant and Whanganui District Council

The Collection

- The Sarjeant Gallery collection has approximately 8,300 pieces spanning 400 years of international and New Zealand art history.
- Outside main centers, the Sarjeant's collection is the largest art collection held in a regional art Gallery in New Zealand.
- Included in the collection are works in a broad range of media from paintings and works on paper to sculpture, installations, ceramics and glass.
- The Sarjeant Gallery was the first in New Zealand to begin collecting photography with the acquisition of the Denton Collection in 1925.
- The Denton Collection is the largest collection of pictorialist photography in Australasia and is of international significance, with works by photographers from Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand.
- The Sarjeant Gallery holds the largest collection of works by Edith Collier, over 400 items are held in the Edith Collier Trust Collection.

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- Contemporary collecting is led by the Tylee Cottage Artist in Residence Programme, the longest running artist residency in New Zealand and forms a significant body of work responding to the Whanganui region and history.
 - The entire collection can be viewed on the Sarjeant Gallery's multi-award-winning digital collection portal Explore the Collection – accessible via Sarjeant.org.nz
 - The collection has been appraised by both Art + Object in Auckland and Christie's of London and was valued at approximately \$30 million in 2019.
 - The collection is temporarily housed at Sarjeant on the Quay in a climate-controlled facility using state of the art storage systems until the redevelopment is completed.

Resources:

- Whanganui District Council's website has a Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment project page where timeline and construction information are kept updated. [Click Here](#)
- An information sheet and videos are available on the Sarjeant Gallery's website, where you can also find out about the Sarjeant Gallery Trust. [Click Here](#)