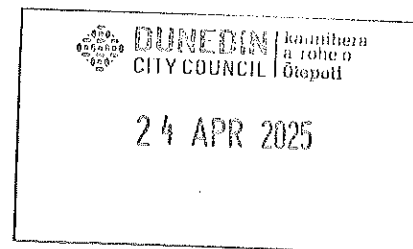




22/04/2025

Dunedin City Council  
PO Box 5045  
DUNEDIN 9054



Tēnā koutou

I am making this submission as:

- the owner of the Athenaeum Building in the Octagon;
- an experienced developer of heritage buildings; and
- a believer in the importance of the cultural life of our city.

For the past three years, I've been working with Council as part of the Dunedin Theatre Network and other theatre advocates and venues. I believe the group came up with an ambitious but achievable plan for a great network of performing arts venues across the city.

The Athenaeum Buildings were part of this plan. This complex, in the heart of the Octagon is presently way under-utilized. The building has the ability to deliver for this city an unparalleled, edgy, multi-use events centre. This would include:

- A 120-seat flexible "black box" theatre. This would serve the Fringe Festival particularly, but also other festivals and smaller performance seasons;
- A headquarters for our UNESCO City of Literature activities, including events space to enhance this
- A mid-sized 500+ capacity music venue, connected to the Octagon street frontage, with a large staircase and lift.

You only have to look at the Warehouse Precinct to see what

amazing things can happen when we work together.

A network of different but connected performing arts venues around Ōtepoti Dunedin would reflect the vibrancy and creativity which this city is known for and can be proud of.

Please include capital expenditure for venues within the 9 Year Plan.

Ngā mihi  
Lawrie Forbes  
Zeal Land Ltd