

Performing Arts Group
Statement of Intent
21.01.25

PLEASE NOTE that the cornerstone funding attached to the Playhouse, Athenaeum and Performing Arts Centre was predicated on the \$17.1m of council funding budgeted in the 2021-31 10 Year Plan, which has since been removed.

Ka whati te tai, ka pao te tōrea.

When the tide ebbs, the oyster catcher strikes – seize the opportunity!

This proposal has been agreed to in principle by the Performing Arts group of Stage South, the Dunedin Theatre Network and the Regent Theatre Trust, having worked individually and collectively with Dunedin Council staff.

In a nutshell the idea is to future-proof Dunedin's performing art eco-system by refurbishing, developing and innovating as follows:

1. The Playhouse Theatre **refurbishment** of the existing Albany St building as per the DTN Stage 3 Report (**\$3.35m**), the home of children's theatre.
2. The New Athenaeum **development** a Central City performance venue (**\$4.25m**) as per the DTN Stage 3 Report, a home for new Dunedin music, UNESCO City of Literature and Fringe arts.
3. The Ōtepoti/Dunedin Performing Arts Centre **new build (\$9.5m)** as per the Stage South Report and costed plans.
A community amenity
Fit for purpose contemporary facilities
Affordable / equitable / accessible for all users
Multiple income streams
Partnership with Council and other stakeholders

- The status quo to remain until buildings are completed i.e. Mayfair Trust continues to work on its existing lines.
- Te Whare o Rukutia kept open until Athenaeum build complete (as NAT will need to shut temporarily)

We propose this as a viable long term strategy for performance infrastructure.

- *It directly delivers on ALL the Ara Toi strategic themes.*
- *It offers meaningful progress based on the feedback from our community over the last seven years, and can provide a backbone for any future refresh of council vision.*

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past

- This proposal sees the **performing arts community unite** to build upon the best of the past to create a future for our city where creativity and performance stands tall and strong.
- Professional, commercial, educational and community theatres and their **creative communities will work together** to enhance Ōtepoti/Dunedin's performance eco-system to maximise the city's venues and expertise.

He Waka Eke Noa
Working together for one collective vision

- We are a small city with large performance expertise
- There are new fiscal realities
- Under this proposal the existing “silo approach” of the past will give way to a **collaborative approach** that will work for the collective good of all our citizens, venues, artists, performers and patrons
- Our collective will create and **maximise efficiencies** through shared resources, operational expertise and industry know how
- Consideration will be given to a **united fundraising** approach (underpinned by the Dunedin Council's \$17.1m cornerstone funding) undertaken by a unified group that ensures the staged fundraising is completed for all three projects.

Mā whero, mā pango ka oti ai te mahi
With red and black the work will be complete

- Ōtepoti / Dunedin is poised to step towards an exciting future
- Every great journey starts with a first step. **DCC cornerstone funding is this step**
- A future that builds upon the strong foundations of performance our city was built upon
- Key stakeholders have united to speak with one voice to create one vision for Ōtepoti / Dunedin's performance eco-system
- A well-established practice for councils around the country is to work in partnership with government agencies, charitable trusts, and community groups to develop and maintain suitable infrastructure
- ***NB: Not included in this report are any discussion relating to the details of ownership structures, and operating models, etc***

