Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
The Dust Palace is a circus theatre company, circus facility and circus school based in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki.

**Who are we:**
Lead by company directors Eve Gordon and Mike Edward, The Dust Palace is a group of professional circus practitioners intent on producing Aotearoa’s highest quality circus performance, training opportunities and artistic output.

**What we do:**
We produce circus theatre shows, which we tour nationally and globally. We teach hundreds of students, of various levels and ages, circus arts and performance. We also hone our creation skills and support our professionals by performing at community, corporate and private events.

**Who do we support:**
Of the 856 respondents who were involved in the circus industry between April 2018-April 2019, 17% said that they either trained at or worked with the Dust Palace.

In Tāmaki Makaurau, 56% have trained at or worked at DP.

We have a core team of 21, almost all of whom fulfil roles as teachers, leaders, admin staff and performers. We have approximately 250 students attending classes, working with us, or training in our studio every week.
The growth of our community:
We have held a yearly scholarship program since 2014 which has produced a number of professional circus artists working in the New Zealand circus sector and working or in further study abroad.

We formed a Student Committee in 2014 in order to be responsive and supportive of our students. From 2015 we’ve been presenting the circus community (not limited to our student body) with multiple opportunities to develop and hone their craft in a performance setting. These include the trajectory of our grading system, performance nights and other community activities and workshops.

In 2018, core team members Jay Clement and Eve Gordon saw the need for a teacher training program which provided more support than what was currently available (a weekend course). The two developed a six month-long course which includes all aspects of circus pedagogy; ethics; progressions; health and safety documentation; rigging and rescue training; creativity; anatomy taught by author of the book ‘Applied Anatomy for Aerial Arts’; lesson planning and reflexive methodologies; and industry expectations.

The Dust Palace Charitable Trust’s purpose is to support and develop the circus sector in Tāmaki Makaurau.
Attachment A

Item 8.1

The Dust Palace Charitable Trust’s purposes:
- Supporting Circus Facilities and Learning in Auckland
  - Raising funds for circus training at both professional and community levels
- Up-skilling Circus Professionals in Auckland
  - Making circus in Auckland an internationally recognised standard that can be toured nationally and internationally
- Supporting Circus Theatre
  - Raising money for circus theatre productions
  - Supporting persons working in this field

"...a trusting and secure environment. It has helped me achieve things I never thought I could."
Quinn Vale - Scholarship Program Alumni

"I honestly don’t know where to start or how to form this into words, because Dust Palace Scholarship has honestly changed my life."
Katelyn Reed - Scholarship Program Alumni
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The recent pandemic forced us to re-model the entire Dust Palace entity.

Further developing our outreach potential will focus our effort into our local area, and ensure the work we are doing is vitally important to those participating.

It highlighted for us the limited reach and scope of our scholarship program and other outreach and social circus activities. The solution became investing significant time and effort into developing and undertaking outreach work.

- Outreach provides participants with new learning, development of motor skills, social skills, bravery and confidence and applied physical progression.
- Outreach programs will offer not only basic physical skills but skills and experience in creation and expression. Participants are able to delve into creative exploration in a safe and inclusive environment.
- Our outreach programs are still focussed on providing a pathway from outreach to professional careers in circus and physical arts.
Research:
World-wide there is significant research highlighting the benefits of circus to the participants in the community.

Mental Health:
In terms of mental health, in circus, we are faced with the physiological and emotional impact of encountering activities that can feel initially out of reach. As we ultimately find mastery of these skills within a safe and supportive context, we experience regulation and a physiological and emotional return to calm. As neuroscientist Lacy Alana explains “This provides our bodies with an opportunity to “practice” moving between states in a safe way, and ultimately expands our window of tolerance.”

Lacy Alana, LCSW, RSW, MSSW

Participation:
Circus promotes a supportive environment which attracts people who would often feel alienated from traditional sports. “Non-competitive activities shift the power from the outside (teacher, coach, referee) to the inside (participant) and in doing so the participant constantly determines the level and type of engagement. In comparison with competitive activities, circus participation may hold more intrinsic properties, more meaning and overall influence on all areas of life.”

Jessica Baumgold OTRL
Physical Competency:
In addition to helping us build mental and social skills, circus, of course builds our fitness and motor skills. "The Impact of Circus Arts Instruction in Physical Education on the Physical Literacy of Children in Grades 4 and 5" explored this by comparing children who took regular PE to those who took PE with circus. Children in the PE Circus cohort revealed greater movement terminology comprehension, reported greater confidence, were more eager to participate, and felt more talented. Interestingly, in PE Circus, girls associated physical activity with happiness more, and the gender gap was less in PE Circus than those in the regular PE group.
Kriellaars, Dean & Carmey, John & Bortoleto, Marco & Kiez, Tia & Dudley, Dean & Aubertin, Patrice.

Inclusion:
Circus has a unique place as a non-competitive, highly physical, and expressive medium improving the lives of the individuals who practice it through fitness, confidence, emotional intelligence, and artistic outlet. However, its focus on inclusion rather than exclusion is one of the strengths that set circus apart from other physical disciplines. A participant know as “Sam” in Jessica Baumgold’s study shared their thoughts on the historical aspects of circus’s place in society, and its relationship to contemporary ideas of inclusion:

“(It’s) not just inclusion, in like an “everybody’s welcome” but like, ‘No because you are different, you are important’”
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Attachment A
Attachment A

Item 8.1

The Dust Palace outreach programmes will initially be focussed towards community centres, community groups, and schools in our local Maungakiekie-Tāmaki area.
KEY PERSONNEL:

Eve Gordon, founder and Artistic Director of The Dust Palace, is an acclaimed circus theatre performer and creator. A graduate of acting from UNITEC, Eve has focussed her last decade on developing the Dust Palace entity and community. 2021 will see her in further training as a director at The Actors’ Program.

Geoff Gilson, Executive Director of the Dust Palace is a trained dancer and circus performer. Also a graduate of UNITEC, as a dancer, Geoff has achieved a Masters in performance and media arts from AUT.

Mike Edward, Chairperson of The Dust Palace Charitable Trust, currently works in property development as the Commercial Director at Gaze. Prior to this appointment Mike has spent the last two decades as a circus practitioner, director and actor of notable success.
For further information about The Dust Palace, our offerings to the community, our activities, programs or products please contact us:

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The issue

• Currently, former refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, wishing to access support; need to navigate a variety of service providers geographically dispersed across Auckland.

• Personal transport is often non-existent and public transport not always easy and direct.
A snapshot of 2018 Auckland census data

5\% of all Aucklanders (75,252) do not speak English.


24,046 former refugees and their families came to NZ in the last 10 years.
We are growing more diverse

- **28.2%** of Auckland’s population identify with an Asian ethnicity. An increase of 44.1% since the 2013 census.

- **43.7%** increase in the Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) category since the 2013 census.

- An increase of **25.1%** since the 2013 census of people identifying with a Pacific ethnicity (13.8% of Auckland’s population).
A way to solve it

To remedy this situation, a group of six service providers wish to secure a facility, preferably situated near the western or southern rail corridor, that would provide a ‘one stop shop’ that improves the settlement outcomes of their clients, particularly those identified as at:

- facing severe risk of marginalisation
- isolation
- poverty
- deprivation
- unresolved trauma
- language challenges.
Item 8.2

The providers

- Belong Aotearoa
- RASNZ (Refugees as Survivors New Zealand)
- ARCC (Aotearoa Resettled Community Coalition)
- Planet FM
- New Zealand Red Cross
- Asylum Seekers Support Trust (ASST)
The benefits

Co-location would enable these service providers to:

- Collaborate to efficiently deliver their support and reduce duplication of services.
- It will host extended community programmes and activities with the shared space.
- The hub will be part of a wheel and spoke model where the co-located organisations also deliver programmes and activities in shared spaces across a range of suburbs, supported by technology.
- By developing a hub, the investment value for funders will increase through collaboration and resource sharing.
- For clients most importantly it will reduce time, travel, costs and effort.
Desired outcomes of a “one stop shop”

Former refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are:

• participating fully in society
• integrated socially and economically as soon as possible
• living independently
• undertaking the same responsibilities and exercising the same rights as other New Zealanders
• have a strong sense of belonging to their own community and to New Zealand.
Potential services delivered in one hub

- WINZ and Housing New Zealand
- An information or “CAB” type of service for former refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers
- Lawyer/legal services (e.g. a partnership with Community Law)
- Justice of the Peace
- Additional employment brokers
- Social work services
- Additional mental health services
- Age Concern
- Budgeting service providers
The support you can provide

Please support our proposal in every way you are able, this could be:

• Telling us about potential buildings that would work for us.
• Spreading the word to everyone you know that may be able to support us to achieve our goal.
• Be a champion for us so we are better able to deliver to our clients, who are our new, New Zealanders.

“With your food basket, and my food basket, the people will thrive.”