

New Arts & Heritage Public Workshop



Picton could come alive in the next off-season with a street festival of performing artists... musicians, dancers, poets, singers and street lighting adding appeal... that's one of the great specific ideas to emerge from the recent Arts & Heritage Workshop, thanks to your enthusiasm of people who attended the public meeting.

It could shape up into a festival bringing energy into winter for locals and tourists alike. After the excellent initial workshop Le Café, the Arts & Heritage Working Group of Picton Smart & Connected will now make further contact with key groups and community sectors to gather and expand ideas and ensure wide community input.

The aim is to strengthen and link up the arts and heritage sectors in the town, especially as the community has such a rich history and a wide range of people active in the arts – visual, literary and performing.

The outcomes of the workshop: Heritage is central to many ideas, with strong interest in establishing a heritage and eco centre, along with ideas around heritage walks and interactive panels to appeal to locals and visitors. On the arts side, public sculpture was the focus of several individual proposals – from a large scale dramatic sculpture to a heritage-linked sculpture walk or an iwi-led initiative. Ideas for a public performance venue were also well supported. A youth mural project for Picton is already underway, with members of the group inviting suggestions for where to locate the first mural.

The working group is going through the ideas for short, medium and long term and seeing what is feasible and how the community can make them happen, as well as what resources would be required. Ultimately, they must have the support of the community to succeed.

The Working Group includes representatives of the Edwin Fox, Marlborough Youth Council, Picton Museum, Marlborough Heritage Trust, Picton Maritime Festival, arts groups and members of the Picton Smart & Connected Steering Group. We anticipate input from local iwi

and are interested to hear from the Totaranui 250 Trust relating to Captain Cook commemorations in 2020, and will be reaching out to other organisations.

Once our working group has fleshed out the key projects these will be announced and we'll set up dedicated project groups to look at feasibility. Picton and Waikawa locals can contact info@pictonsmartandconnected.co.nz to register their interest or to be kept informed.