

WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE

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TOP: Artist impression of restored Victoria Square.

BOTTOM: Artist impression of the new 'Tauranga Waka' punt stop



AVON RIVER PRECINCT TE PAPA ŌTĀKARO

Central City
Anchor
Projects

Victoria
Square

VICTORIA SQUARE RESTORATION FACT SHEET

January 2017

WHAT

Many of the surfaces and structures in Victoria Square were damaged during the Canterbury earthquakes, and were already close to the end of their life.

This project will restore the square and make it safer and more accessible.

The restoration design creates new links with nearby features like the Promenade, and includes new elements that better reflect shared Māori and European heritage and the Treaty relationship.

WHY

Victoria Square has always been an important place for people. It has been used as a place to gather, exchange, have a voice, to rest and for events like the Buskers Festival and the Chinese Lantern Festival. This project will improve the square's usability for the public and restore the assets so they can last another generation.

WHEN

Work begins in summer 2016/2017 and finishes in late 2017.

WHERE

Victoria Square sits between the corner of Armagh and Colombo Streets and the Avon/Ōtākaro River.

WHO

The development of the restoration plan was overseen by a Community Reference Group following a public feedback process carried out in collaboration with project partners: Christchurch City Council, Matapopore Charitable Trust on behalf of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tūāhuriri and the Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Authority/Ōtākaro Limited.

BOWKER FOUNTAIN

The historic Bowker Fountain was bequeathed to the city but has not been working fully for many decades. The project will fully restore this magnificent water and light display alongside the historic features of the former Market Square.

ACCESSIBILITY

Christchurch is being redeveloped to have an accessible central city. This project will improve the way people of all ages and abilities move around and through Victoria square – an approach known as Universal Design.



Minor works will improve access for those with limited mobility.

These works include:

- + regrading of ramps up to the Hamish Hay Bridge (8)
- + reduced reliance on steps to access areas
- + alignment of paths with new pedestrian movement routes on surrounding streets
- + removal of 'pinch-points' on paths

PUNT STOP

A new punt stop (Tauranga Waka) (7) will be installed opposite the Town Hall. This will provide a place for small water craft to tie up and will allow public access to and from the water. This structure will be integrated with the surrounding landform, and will respect the square's character. The deck will also provide ecological benefit to the river, providing shade on its edge, helping to encourage aquatic species to live underneath.

TREE RELOCATION

A small number of young trees will be relocated within Victoria Square to a more appropriate growing environment. The 'signatory trees' currently located in the lawn opposite the Town Hall, which were planted by representatives of the Crown, Ngāi Tahu, the Council and community following the Canterbury earthquakes, are to be relocated with the native planting area just downstream. This is due to the damp location being unsuitable for some of the species and to place them in a more appropriate position. It allows re-establishment of the previously well-used green amphitheatre with views across the Avon/Otākaro to the Town Hall.



The 'signatory trees' are to be relocated with the native planting area just downstream.

THE ART TRAIL

Victoria Square will be home to several new pieces of landscape art as part of the new 'Art Trail' which is planned for the central city section of the Ōtākaro/Avon River.

Ngā Whāriki Manaaki – Woven mats of welcome (6)

Three of a total of thirteen whāriki manaaki, or 'welcome mats,' will be built from various coloured paving stones in the style of a woven mat and placed around the Square. These are integrated with the pathways and, as a whole, the series of whāriki tell the story of the powhiri process, welcoming visitors to Christchurch and supporting the guiding principle of the rebuild for Ngāi Tūāhuriri, "Kia Atawhai ki te Iwi," care for your people.

The Literary Trail (13)

The Literary Trail is a series of 'text sculptures' which will feature along the length of the Art Trail. The purpose of these works is to celebrate and explore Christchurch's rich heritage as a literary city, and to illuminate the histories of the river and the city. Each work will feature a selected quotation drawn from poetry, fiction, children's literature, pepeha, waiata, literary

nonfiction and reportage. There are two text sculptures to be included in the Square, one by well-known Christchurch author Fiona Farrell and the other by Ngāi Tahu tīpuna, Taiororua.

Victoria Square Narratives (18)

Victoria Square Narratives is a visual representation of the cultural concepts of Mahinga Kai (traditional food and other natural resources, the places where they are obtained and associated cultural practices). The work will feature depictions of native and exotic flora and mātauranga Ngāi Tūāhuriri. The narratives will be etched into the low stone wall that defines the northern boundary of the space around the Queen Victoria Statue.

Mana Motuhake (19)

Mana Motuhake is conceived as the city's principal tribute to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) signatories for Ngāi Tahu. This will be done in a way that establishes the mana of these signatories as well as the mana of the Treaty partnership itself and by extension will tautoko (support) the achievements and memory of Queen Victoria. Design concepts are being developed now by a panel of artists.



ABOVE: An example of a Whāriki mat or 'welcome mat.' Tai Waiora – Water resources, wai or water to drink, wai for good health.

VICTORIA SQUARE MAP

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|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Queen Victoria Statue | 8 Hamish Hay Bridge | 15 Connection to North Frame |
| 2 Bowker Fountain | 9 Horse watering ramp | 16 Connection to promenade |
| 3 Captain Cook Statue | 10 Mast | 17 Communal eating and seating |
| 4 Floral clock | 11 Heritage phone box | 18 Victoria Square narratives |
| 5 Victoria Street connection | 12 Tram stop | 19 Mana Motuhake |
| 6 Ngā Whāriki Manaaki
– Woven mats of welcome | 13 The Literary Trail | 20 Streetscape improvements |
| 7 Punt stop | 14 Flagpoles | 21 Pou |

