
To:	Council	
From:	Chief Executive	
Subject:	Submission Report on Founder Theatre “What should we do” engagement	
Committee	Founder Theatre Hearings	
Meeting Date:	7 th and 8 th July 2016	File Reference:

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1.0 Independent Phone Survey

Insert – 18 pages long

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL FOUNDERS THEATRE RESEARCH 2016

JUNE 2016

VERSUS RESEARCH

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hamilton City Council engaged Versus Research in May 2016 to gather options regarding the future of Founders Theatre, after it was temporarily closed due to health and safety risks identified in early 2016. A 5 minute, quantitative survey of n=1600 residents from Hamilton City, Waikato District, Waipā District and Matamata Piako District was conducted. A summary of the results are outlined below.

Just over a quarter of residents (27%) indicate they have used Founders Theatre in the past 12 months. Not surprisingly Hamilton City residents are more likely to have used Founders Theatre in the past 12 months (30% cf. total, 27%), while Matamata Piako residents are less likely (13% cf. total, 27%). The majority of residents are aware of the temporary closure of Founders Theatre (84%). Hamilton City residents are more likely to be aware of the closure (90% cf. total, 84%), while Waikato District residents (72% cf. total, 84%) and Waipā District residents (77% cf. total, 84%) are less likely to be aware of the closure.

In terms of the preferred option for the future of Founders Theatre, 55% of residents indicate they want to refurbish the current theatre at a cost of \$20 million. Reasons for choosing this option include it being the cheapest option (43%), the historical significance of Founders Theatre (31%) and that there needs to be a theatre in Hamilton (20%).

Residents who indicate they preferred to refurbish the current theatre were also asked if they would prefer to build a new theatre, and have Council funding capped at \$30 million with additional funding sourced from elsewhere. Of these residents, 54% indicate they would support building a new theatre if Council's contribution was capped at \$30 million.

Twenty five per cent of residents indicate they would prefer to build a new theatre of a similar size and scale for \$50 million. Reasons for choosing this option include the current theatre being too old (32%), the repairs required being too great to refurbish (21%) and that Hamilton will have a better quality theatre if it is rebuilt (21%).

Fourteen per cent of residents indicate they would prefer to close and demolish the theatre at a cost of \$300,000. Reasons for choosing this option include residents mentioning there is Claudelands and other facilities in Hamilton and the Waikato (56%), this is the cheapest option (23%) and it will minimise cost to ratepayers (13%).

The remaining 7% of residents don't know which option to choose, don't care what happens to the theatre, or don't want any of these options. Reasons for choosing these options include needing more information before making a decision (23%) and that they don't know which option to pick (22%).

Forty per cent of Hamilton City residents had read the insert on Founders Theatre in the City News publication.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In early 2016 Founders Theatre was closed due to health and safety risks identified by Hamilton City Council (Council). Council wanted to gather feedback from residents in Hamilton City, Waikato District, Waipā District and Matamata Piako District.

Council was specifically interested in residents preferred choice for the future of Founders Theatre with options including refurbishing, rebuilding or permanently closing the theatre. Residents were also asked the reason for their preferred option, this was asked verbatim and post-coded by theme.

In May 2016 Council engaged Versus Research to carry out a five minute quantitative survey of n=1600 residents within the specified areas. This was conducted using Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI). Telephone numbers for this project were supplied by Inivio, a privacy compliant telephone number supplier.

The final questionnaire was designed in conjunction with Council.

Sample Size and Margin of Error

Margin of error (MOE) is a statistic used to express the amount of random sampling error present in a survey’s results. The MOE is particularly relevant when analysing a subset of the data as smaller sample sizes incur a greater MOE. The final sample size for this study is n=1600, this gives a maximum margin of error of +/- 2.45% at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if the observed result on the total sample of n=1600 residents is 50% (point of maximum margin of error), then there is a 95% probability that the true answer falls between 47.55% and 52.45%. The table below outlines the MOE for each local council area.

	Number of interviews	MOE
Hamilton City	n=1000	+/- 3.1%
Waikato District, Waipā District and Matamata Piako District	n=600	+/- 4.0%

Statistical Testing

Results within this report are shown at the total level, as well as by the four local council areas and statistical testing has been applied to the results in this report. This analysis has been performed between the total sample and the four local council areas. This testing shows the differences between the proportions (also known as a Z test) and compares the results for the each area sub-group with all other residents who are not in that sub-group. Orange shading indicates the result for that area is significantly higher than the total result. Green shading indicates the result for that area is significantly lower than the total result.

SAMPLE PROFILE

The below table outlines the achieved sample for this project.

	Number of interviews	Percent of total sample
Hamilton City	n=1000	63%
Waikato District	n=265	17%
Waipā District	n=200	13%
Matamata Piako District	n=135	8%
18-39 years old	n=168	11%
40-55 years old	n=478	30%
65-64 years old	n=323	20%
65+ years old	n=631	39%
Male	587	37%
Female	1013	63%
Ratepayer	n=1348	84%
Non ratepayer	n=252	16%

Quotas on Area

Area quotas were applied to the sample to ensure that the number of interviews completed with non-Hamilton residents were proportionate to the districts that were included, i.e., the greatest number of interviews were achieved in the district with the largest population.

Demographic Composition

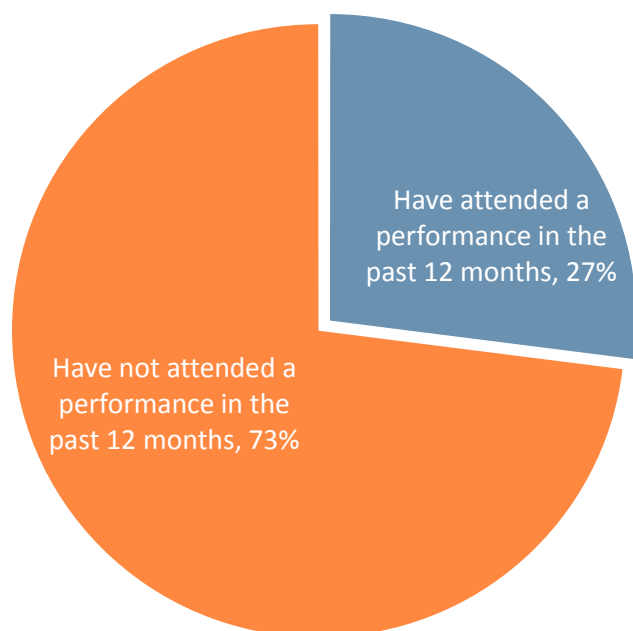
Quotas were not applied to the demographic variables in this survey. Instead, randomization of respondent selection was employed by asking to speak to the person in the household with the next birthday thus allowing the demographic profile of the sample to fall out naturally.

Traditionally, survey data is weighted to account for any skews in the final demographic profile; weights are statistical adjustments that ensure the demographic composition is represented in the sample as it would be in the population. However, weights have not been applied to this particular dataset as the weight factors (sample adjustments) are considered too high, meaning that respondents would be excessively over or under-representing their population's demographic.

DETAILED RESULTS

USE OF FOUNDERS THEATRE

TOTAL RESULT



Just over a quarter of residents (27%) have attended a performance at Founders Theatre in the past 12 months.

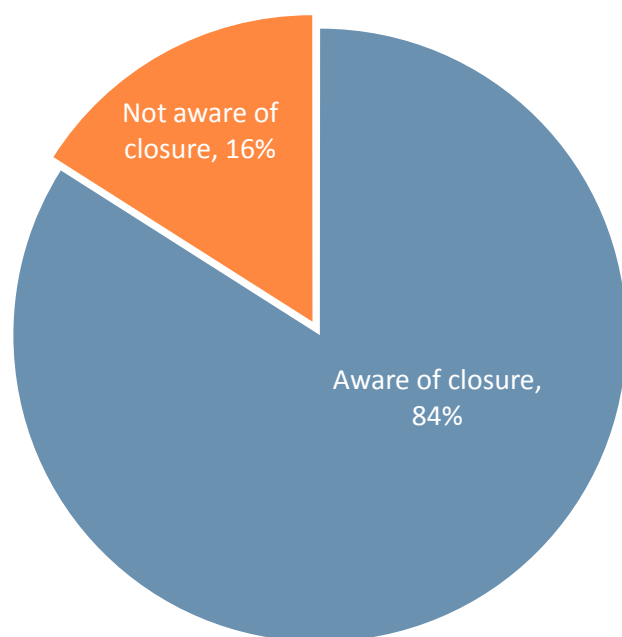
AREA DIFFERENCES

Hamilton City residents are more likely to have attended a performance at Founders Theatre in the past 12 months (30% cf. total, 27%), while Matamata Piako residents are less likely to have attended a performance (13% cf. total, 27%).

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	1000	265	200	135
Have attended a performance in past 12 months	30%	26%	23%	13%
Have not attended a performance in past 12 months	70%	74%	78%	87%

AWARENESS OF THEATRE TEMPORARY CLOSURE

TOTAL RESULT



When asked, the majority of residents (84%) were aware that Founders Theatre had been temporarily closed due to safety issues.

AREA DIFFERENCES

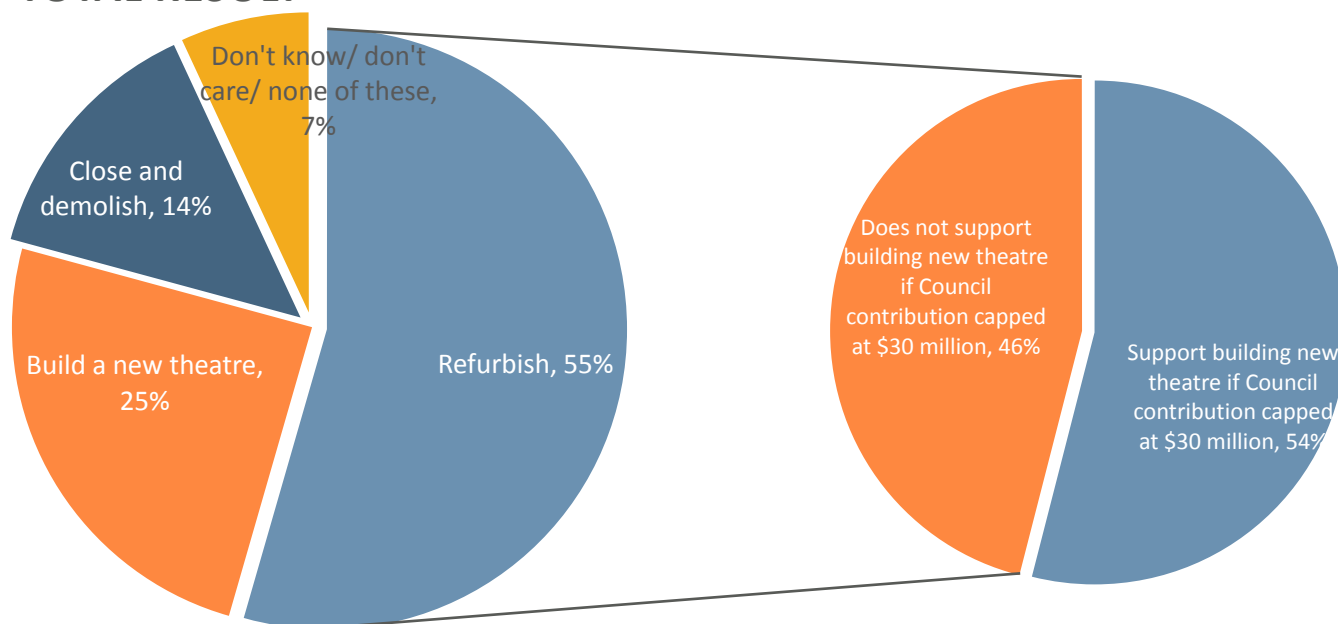
Hamilton City residents are more likely to be aware of the temporary closure (90% cf. total, 84%), while Waikato residents (72% cf. total, 84%) and Waipā residents (77% cf. total, 84%) are less likely to be aware of the temporary closure.

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	1000	265	200	135
Aware of closure	90%	72%	77%	79%
Not aware of closure	10%	28%	24%	21%

Q. Before this phone call were you aware that Founders Theatre had been temporarily closed due to safety issues? Base: n=1600

PREFERRED OPTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THEATRE

TOTAL RESULT



As shown in the first chart, just over half (55%) of residents indicate they would prefer Council to refurbish the current theatre and refurbish it at a cost of \$20 million. A further quarter (25%) of residents indicate they would prefer Council to build a new theatre of a similar size and scale for \$50 million, while 14% of residents indicate they would prefer close and demolish the theatre for a cost of \$300,000. Seven per cent of residents indicate they either don't know which option to select (4%), don't care what happens to the theatre (1%), or do not prefer any of these options (2%).

Residents who indicated they preferred to refurbish the current theatre were also asked if they would prefer to build a new theatre, if Council funding was capped at \$30 million and additional funding was sourced from elsewhere, these results are shown in the second chart. Fifty four per cent of these residents indicate they would support building a new theatre if Council contribution was capped at \$30 million.

Q. Thinking about the future of Founders Theatre, which of the following alternatives is your most preferred option...? Base: n=1600. Q. Would you prefer to build a new theatre if Hamilton City Council's contribution towards the cost of this build was capped at \$30 million dollars and any additional funding was provided from other sources such as central government or charitable donations? Base: n=885.

PREFERRED OPTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THEATRE

AREA DIFFERENCES

Minimal differences are observed across the local council areas. Although not statistically significant, a higher proportion of Matamata Piako residents indicate they want to retain the current theatre (64%), and a higher proportion of Waipā residents indicate they would prefer for the theatre to be permanently closed (17%).

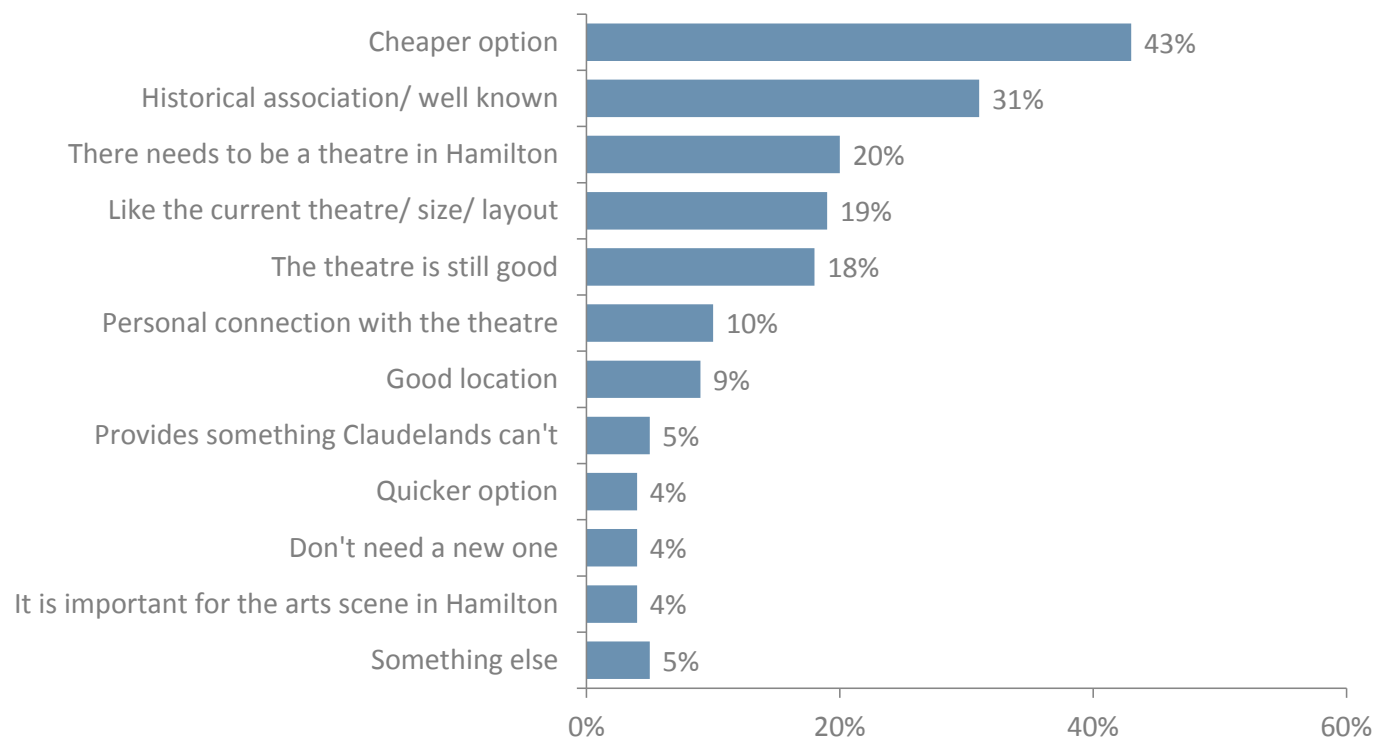
	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	1000	265	200	135
Refurbish	54%	58%	54%	64%
<i>Support building a new theatre, if Council contribution capped at \$30 million</i>	52%	63%	56%	50%
<i>Does not support building a new theatre, if Council contribution capped at \$30 million</i>	48%	37%	44%	50%
Build a new theatre	26%	23%	25%	23%
Close and demolish	14%	11%	17%	9%
Don't know/ don't care/ none of these	7%	9%	6%	5%

Q. Thinking about the future of Founders Theatre, which of the following alternatives is your most preferred option...? Base: n=1600. Q. Would you prefer to build a new theatre if Hamilton City Council's contribution towards the cost of this build was capped at \$30 million dollars and any additional funding was provided from other sources such as central government or charitable donations? Base: n=885.

PREFERRED OPTION: REFURBISH

TOTAL RESULT

When asked why residents wanted to refurbish the current theatre, 43% mention that it is the cheaper option. Following this, residents mention the historical association (31%), that there needs to be a theatre in Hamilton (20%), that they like the current theatre (19%) and that Founders is still a good theatre (18%). At a lower level, residents mention they have a personal connection with the theatre (10%) and that it's in a good location (9%).



PREFERRED OPTION: REFURBISH

AREA DIFFERENCES

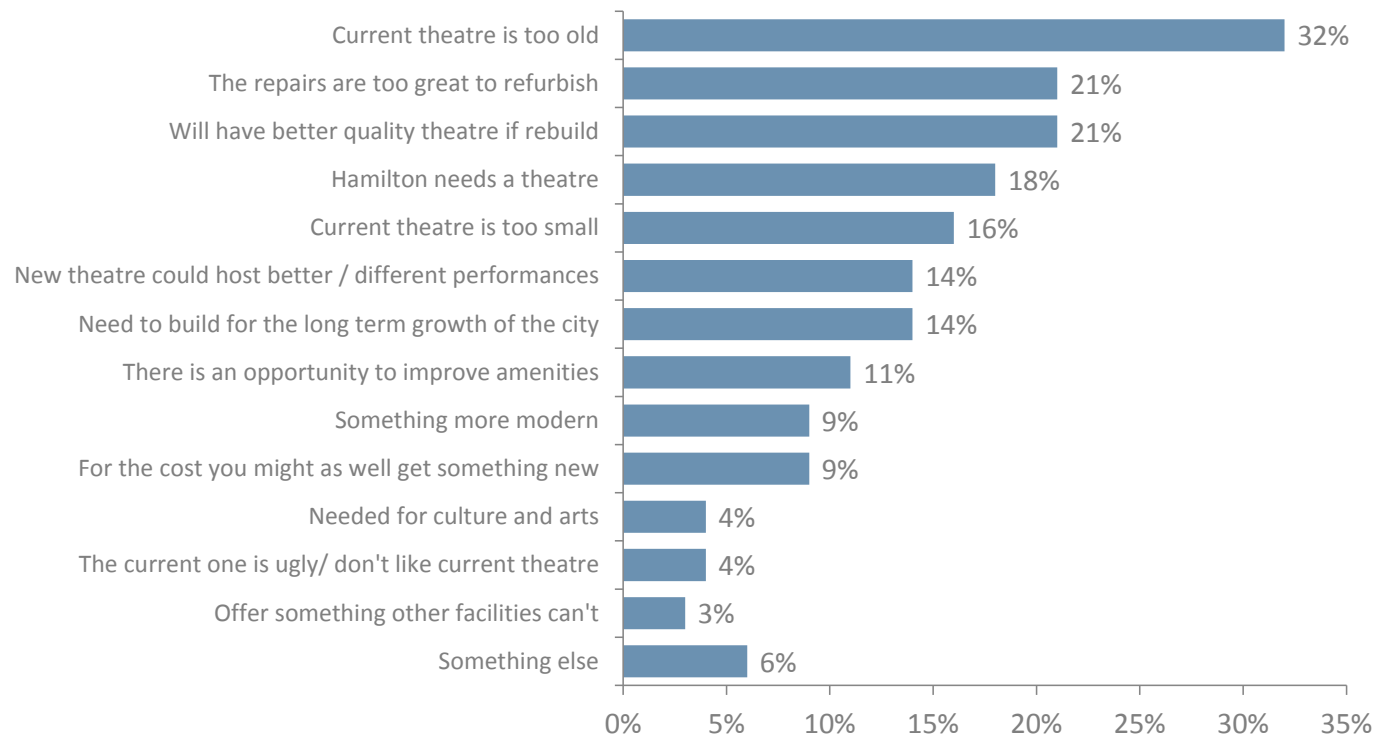
Area differences show that Hamilton City residents are more likely to state that Hamilton needs a theatre, that they like the current theatre layout or size, that they have a personal connection with the theatre and that the theatre is in a good location. Waikato residents are more likely to state that there is a historical association with the theatre and that it is well known.

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	537	155	107	86
Cheaper option	43%	42%	40%	51%
Historical association/ well known	31%	41%	22%	26%
There needs to be a theatre in Hamilton	24%	11%	17%	17%
Like the current theatre/ size/ layout	21%	15%	16%	14%
The theatre is still good	17%	18%	22%	21%
Personal connection with the theatre	12%	6%	6%	8%
Good location	11%	2%	9%	8%
Provides something Claudelands can't	5%	6%	6%	1%
It is important for the arts scene in Hamilton	4%	5%	1%	5%
Don't need a new one	4%	4%	3%	4%
Quicker option	4%	4%	4%	4%
Something else	5%	6%	4%	3%

PREFERRED OPTION: BUILD A NEW THEATRE

TOTAL RESULT

When asked why residents wanted to build a new theatre, 32% mention that the current theatre is too old. Following this residents mention the repairs required are too great to refurbish (21%), there will be a better quality theatre (21%), that Hamilton needs a theatre (18%) and that the current theatre is too small (16%). Following this, residents mention a new theatre could host different or better performances (14%), that a new theatre should be built for the long term growth of the city (14%) and that this is a good opportunity to improve amenities (11%).



PREFERRED OPTION: BUILD A NEW THEATRE

AREA DIFFERENCES

Area differences show that Hamilton residents are more likely to state that the current theatre is too small and that there is now an opportunity to improve the theatre's amenities.

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	257	61	49	31
Current theatre is too old	33%	33%	29%	32%
Will have better quality theatre if rebuild	19%	26%	24%	16%
The repairs are too great to refurbish	23%	18%	8%	23%
Hamilton needs a theatre	17%	20%	22%	10%
Current theatre is too small	19%	16%	2%	6%
Need to build for the long term growth of the city	17%	11%	6%	13%
New theatre could host better / different performances	14%	20%	10%	6%
There is an opportunity to improve amenities	13%	7%	6%	3%
For the cost you might as well get something new	8%	11%	12%	10%
Something more modern	7%	8%	14%	13%
The current one is ugly/ don't like current theatre	3%	7%	4%	3%
Needed for culture and arts	4%	3%	2%	3%
Offer something other facilities can't	4%	0%	2%	3%
Something else	4%	8%	12%	0%

PREFERRED OPTION: CLOSE AND DEMOLISH

AREA DIFFERENCES

Area differences show that Hamilton residents are more likely to state that they have Claudelands as an alternative venue and that permanently closing the theatre will minimise the cost to ratepayers. Waipā residents are more likely to state that they don't like the current theatre.

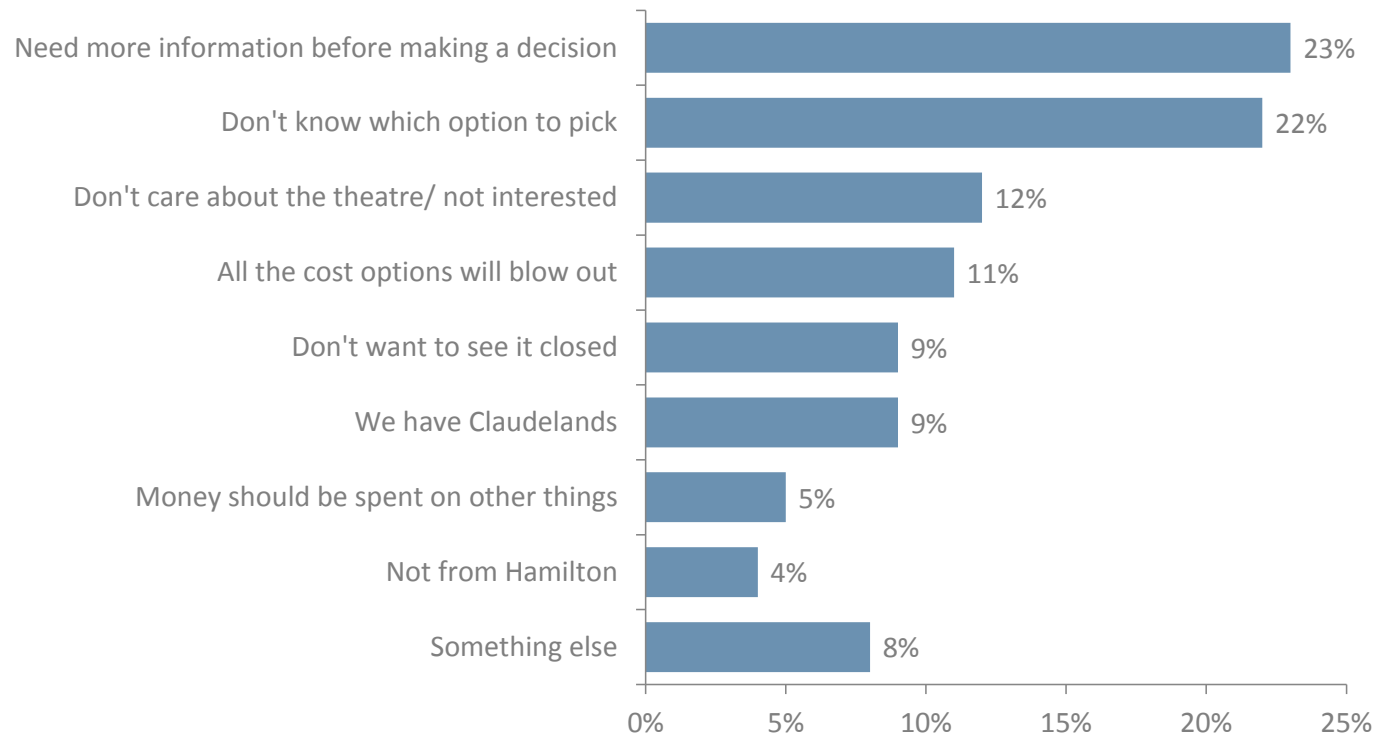
Please note that areas with less than 30 responses should be considered indicative only.

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	143	28	33	12
We have Claudelands or other facilities in Hamilton/ Waikato	63%	39%	45%	42%
Cheapest option	15%	39%	33%	50%
Minimise cost to ratepayers	16%	7%	6%	0%
Theatre is not needed/ gets limited us	11%	7%	9%	25%
Money should go to other things	9%	11%	9%	8%
Don't like the theatre	2%	0%	12%	0%
Site could be used for other things	2%	4%	3%	0%
Can travel to Auckland for similar events	2%	0%	0%	0%
Something else	4%	11%	12%	8%

PREFERRED OPTION: DON'T KNOW/ NONE OF THESE/ DON'T CARE

TOTAL RESULT

When asked why residents didn't choose one of the three options, 23% of residents indicate they need more information before making a decision and 22% mention they don't know which option to pick. Following this, residents mention they aren't interested (12%) and that all the cost options will blow out (11%).



PREFERRED OPTION: DON'T KNOW/ NONE OF THESE/ DON'T CARE

AREA DIFFERENCES

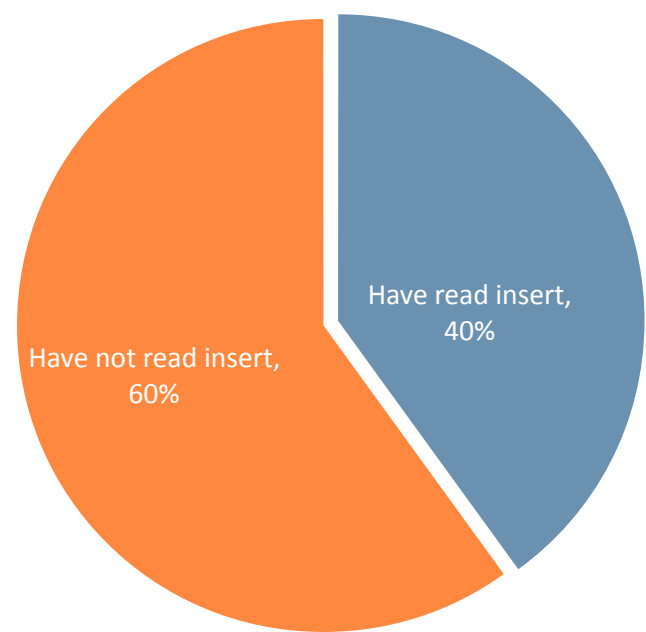
There are few area differences observed for this option although Hamilton residents are more likely to indicate that they are unsure which option to select, and are less likely to indicate that they do not care about the future of the theatre.

Please note that areas with less than 30 responses should be considered indicative only.

	Hamilton City	Waikato District	Waipā District	Matamata Piako District
Base	63	21	11	6
Need more information before making a decision	22%	24%	27%	17%
Don't know which option to pick	29%	5%	0%	50%
Don't care about the theatre/ not interested	6%	24%	18%	17%
All the cost options will blow out	13%	10%	9%	0%
We have Claudelands	10%	10%	9%	0%
Don't want to see it closed	8%	19%	0%	0%
Money should be spent on other things	5%	5%	9%	0%
Not from Hamilton	0%	5%	18%	0%
Something else	10%	5%	9%	0%

FOUNDERS THEATRE IN HAMILTON CITY NEWS

TOTAL RESULT



Forty per cent Hamilton City residents have read the insert on Founders Theatre in the City News publication.

2.0 Creative Waikato Focus Group

Focus Group report from Creative Waikato

Insert – 36 pages long



Founders Theatre Future Options Consultation

Performing Arts Focus Groups

Sarah Nathan, Creative Waikato

June 2016

Focus Groups**Table of Contents**

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Focus Groups

Executive Summary



Background

In February 2016, Hamilton City Council suddenly closed the 54-year-old Founders theatre due to health and safety concerns related to its flying system and seismic strength. Hamilton City Council called for general public feedback based on three options for the future of the theatre – refurbishment of the existing facility, construction of a new theatre for the city, or demolition of the existing theatre. An engagement document outlining the issues with the theatre and the three options was distributed to the community.

Hamilton City Council requested that Creative Waikato conduct a series of focus groups with users of the facility from the local creative sector. The objective of the focus groups was to better understand the challenges and aspirations of the sector that inform their preferences for future development. Creative Waikato was selected to undertake this piece of work in the context of its role as a regional arts capability-building organisation. Its staff has expertise in group facilitation, in-depth knowledge of the sector and extensive relationships and networks within it.

Methodology

1. Identified key groups:
Orchestras, Choral, Theatre, Musical Theatre, Music, Youth, Toi Māori, Kapa haka, Ethnic Groups, Dance Schools. Also Front of House Staff to supplement understanding of the audience perspective.
2. Invitation to targeted participants to attend either a lunchtime or evening 1.5-hour session, clustered by genre. Sessions involved between 3 to 12 participants.
3. Session format:
 - a) Welcome and explain purpose
 - b) Introductions
 - c) Overview
 - d) Rules
 - e) Outline the 3 Options proposed (reading from Council document)
 - f) Discuss REFURBISH option
 - How do people feel about this option?
 - Why would this be a good idea?
 - Why would it not be a preferred option?
 - What should Council be considering for your sector if they chose this path?
 - g) Repeat for DEMOLISH and REBUILD
 - h) Ask if there is anything else anyone wants to add
 - i) Remind how to make submissions
 - j) Thanks and goodbye
4. Recording
Multiple scribes were present at each group and combined notes were sent back to participants to check for accuracy.

Context

The closure of Founders Theatre significantly affected the performing arts community in the Waikato, along with its audiences. Groups felt immediate impact with bookings cancelled and venues changed. In some cases, no alternative venue was available or suitable. Now all groups are considering their medium to long-term activities without Founders. They are dealing with less than satisfactory (or no) alternative venues, impacting upon creative, audience, and financial development and social wellbeing.

Participant uptake for focus groups was high. Creative Waikato initially planned 5 focus groups, but eventually ran 12. This was due not only to strong interest but also the recognition of needing to drill down deeper by each genre.

A handy analogy to help consider the feedback

The performing arts sector is made up of genres. Just like ball-based games in the sports sector is made up of codes. Each genre, like each code, has particular equipment and environments it requires for practicing and performing. They also have different audiences who have different preferences as to how they wish to spectate.

Asking the all performing arts groups to agree on one solution for the Founders issue is a bit like asking rugby, cricket and netball all to agree on one field they can all play on, and for their supporters to like it. Fortunately, no one is asking them to agree. What we have asked is what they think of the options presented for Founders and what do they see as the solution for sector. The job is to then understand each specific genres needs so we can consider what the solutions could and shouldn't be.

Findings

What we discovered is that there is unlikely to be 'one solution' that will work for the whole performing arts sector. This is neither surprising nor unreasonable. These differing needs and wants of the performing arts sector reflect exactly what you might find in any other developed city with a thriving cultural scene. There are however common themes and groupings.

At the risk of over simplifying the sub-sector feedback, our take out from the whole process is:

1. There is a preference (but not unanimous) for a new theatre in central city location (river).

New build preference is driven by:

- a. The need for a more sophisticated and higher performance standard venue. Vastly improved acoustics and technical capabilities
- b. The need to diversify the venue from a 'one space does all' and accommodate the different requirements of classical performance (concert chamber acoustics) and theatre performance (proscenium arch and fly tower). Either as two separate buildings, two separate spaces within a new building, or the introduction of new technology that can effectively accommodate both acoustical treatments in the same space.
- c. For a new performance venue to become an iconic arts centre for the city and make a significant contribution to the cultural life and reputation of the city and region
- d. The belief that investment in the existing building is putting good money after bad
- e. The need to increase the size and scale of the venue (audience capacity), particularly noting rapidly growing participation in Kapa haka, large scale ethnic community events and musical theatre.

There is however a strong counter (but not mutually exclusive) view to this:

2. A preference for refurbishment particularly by community, youth and dance schools.

Refurbishment preference is driven by:

- a. The fact that the venue was suitable (more or less) as it was for these groups
- b. That the length of time it would take to construct a new facility is seen to be a fatal blow to youth arts development as it is equal to the career development lifespan of an emerging artist.
- c. That by the time a new facility is built, professional development, touring routes, and audience engagement will have declined so significantly that it will have a catastrophic impact of the city's cultural wellbeing.

Preference Overview

Below is a high level overview of key issues by sub-sector.

	Preferred Option	Key Themes				
Classical & Choral	Build new	Improve acoustic performance	Need for stand alone concert chamber	800 seats and stage for large collaborations	Build quality to last and grow regional culture	Accessibility for players and instruments
Dance Schools	Refurbish	Youth cannot wait for new. Too many will miss out	Poor alternatives mean the interim will be damaging	Refurbishment priorities focus on backstage facilities	Career starter – new industry techies often learn trade here	Community impact – close to 9,000 ppl affected
Ethnic groups	Build new	Urgency for interim. Large events have nowhere to go	Size and scale – need 1,500 to 1,800 seat auditorium	Parking facilities need significant improvements	Improve acoustic performance	
Front of House Staff	Build new	Toilet amenities need significant upgrade and expansion	Food and hospitality and woefully insufficient	Seat comfort improvement – width and length	Founders is in a great location	Parking facilities need significant improvements
Theatre & Musical Theatre	Build new	State of art technology throughout	Arts hub by the river to drive cultural heart of the city	Consultation with local user experts essential during design	A Create a top class total audience experience	Question if multipurpose is really achievable
Toi Maori – Kapa Haka	New OR affordable access to Claudelands	Sector growth. Kapa haka is growing rapidly	Big business. Teams and audiences are huge	Catering for Māori – space to meet and share kai important	Collaboration. Get Māori key stakeholders in on the conversation	Inclusive space – through design and language
Future Users - Youth	Split	Youth cannot wait for new. Too many will miss out	Skepticism that it will deliver in timeframe or budget	Aspiration, want a high quality venue in their city of choice	Loss of talent. Emerging youth wont stay in Hamilton without a venue	Improve acoustic performance

Key Themes

Some recurrent themes emerged across almost all genres:

- Aspirations for a burgeoning arts centre that everyone can be proud of
- Like for like? – don't just build a new version of the old theatre, that's not what is needed
- Improve customer experience - parking, toilets, catering, hospitality, sightlines
- Parking inadequacies at Funders and essential in planning for new facility
- Acoustic treatment of the auditorium needs to accommodate both amplified and classical or preferably provide separate venues for both
- Quality in everything, particularly technical capabilities
- Seating is increased and/or more comfortable
- Back of house facilities requirements (dressing rooms, toilets, access, technology etc.)
- Interim – regardless of build new or refurbish, a plan to support the sector in the interim must be put in place

Weighting

Given the range of preferences, it may prompt the question, 'how do we weight the feedback by sub-sector'? And the response is, you can't. All art forms, just like all sports codes, play different, important and specific roles. Each has their own specific community profile involved and produces different benefit, whether they are cultural, social, economic or educational. The sum of the parts makes up the rich diversity of a vibrant arts sector that can support and grow a healthy community.

KEY QUOTES

REFURBISH

"Refurbish NOW – add on if you want new, or plan for the future to rebuild, but we can't be left without a suitable facility now"

"With the growing population in Hamilton, the city deserves better, we have long outgrown the current building and its facilities. The acoustics are bad and wall shape in auditorium just doesn't work. We can't overcome the problem for major orchestral and choir works with just refurbishment; the sound goes straight into the fly tower"

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"

"We need to be heard, we are at the front line of customer experience"

"Refurbishment at \$20m is dressing up a sow's. If it includes all of our needs then a refurbishment may possibly be acceptable – but we know this building inside out and its hard to believe all the necessary changes can be accommodated"

"Do the bare minimum and allow the city to invest in a 'kick arse' event space for the future"

"None of the options really cater for Māori events we have on a huge scale"

"If it's funded by the community, it must be affordable for the community"

"We really need more information to make an informed decision. However refurbishment may be the most sensible option"

"This is a golden opportunity to have a new location and creating an arts culture/space vibe in the downtown area that would give the 'dying' city a heart again"

DEMOLISH

"We would like to think that when we've retired our creative community has something to aspire to performing in"

"There was a need for Founders 50 years ago, and there's a far greater need for a Founders now. We have so much talented youth in our region, this will be debilitating to our communities to not have somewhere local to perform and aspire to use."

"A large facility is essential for our ethnic communities to gather and celebrate"

"Losing Founders would be like a death in the city"

"Unthinkable"

"Economic and cultural loss would be significant"

"Do you want Hamilton to be a shit hole? We would leave"

"It's not about going to other centers to watch. It's about our own communities being able to watch our community"

BUILD NEW

"If we are not working to put on a performance in a theatre then what do our dancers have to aspire to?"

"Think beyond to the next generations. Think about the future of the city"

"If you build something build it with love"

"What does it say about our community? Maori is everywhere, open it up, make it for everyone"

"Key stakeholders and partnerships, give new meaning to feeling about Founders"

"The timeframe is too long. It's a long time for young people to be without a theatre."

"Founders needs to go and we need a fresh start so we can move forward and be strong for a very long future"

"Make the building itself a destination. Build an iconic arts venue, three venues in one; this will be the need in 15 years time. If you want a serious regional orchestra you need a serious decent venue. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity here. "

"Over 300 were turned away from the recent event at Clarence St – they came from all over the region. It was distressing"

"Our forefathers had the vision to place Founders where it is"

Summary and Recommendation

Given the complexity and diversity of the arts sector it is not possible to return with a unanimous response to Councils 1, 2 or 3 options question, and this is not unexpected. In other comparable cities, the needs of these arts groups are met by multiple facilities.

However, giving full consideration to the focus group findings, the majority of feedback could be responded to as follows:

1. Build new. Progress investigation and feasibility for an aspirational, fit for purpose, future proofed theatre
2. Consider general theatre and classical music needs independently
3. Identify and implement an interim solution (now to opening), particularly for community groups. Preferably - get existing Founders back to a minimum operating standard (town hall mode) without fly tower apparatus if necessary.
4. Note that with a new build recommendation, there is strong preference that Founders is not be demolished, but remain and be repurposed to support the community.

What Council Can Do Short Term

The sector recognises that getting Founders open again may take time and will be influenced by the results of final seismic testing. The following actions are suggested ways in which Council can alleviate the short-term problem:

1. Supply Clarence St Theatre (and Meteor if appropriate) with technical equipment removed from Founders (lighting, sound equipment, blacks etc.) that will be used by groups that have had to move from Founders to Clarence. Groups currently have to hire in additional equipment at significant cost.
2. Provide an interim affordable community rate for Claudelands for large community events such as Kapa haka, large ethnic events and other large creative events that outsize Clarence but have the ability to be accommodated by Claudelands.
3. Use opportunity to engage in active research. Evaluate the feasibility of an ongoing community based differential pricing model for Claudelands for large community events that would not be accommodated in a new 1200 -1500 seat auditorium.

Sarah Nathan
CEO Creative Waikato
June 2016

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Classical-Choral-Instrumental	

KEY THEMES

Acoustic Performance	The most significant and dominant issue for choral and orchestral sector is acoustic performance. Founders has not delivered and there is strong skepticism as to whether it can be refurbished to achieve the required acoustic product. The need for 'scalable' acoustics depending on the performance need was mentioned often.
Fly tower	The fundamental issue is that in a theatre with an arch and a fly tower, is that the sound goes up the tower, instead of out to the audience. Orchestral and choral performances require a specifically acoustically designed concert space.
Size (stage and seating)	Stage must be large enough to accommodate full orchestra and particularly choral and orchestral collaborations. Seating between 800-1000 seats.
Longevity and Quality	A new venue that will have leading edge design and content that will serve the community for a long time, rather than a shorter term fix up. A iconic, destination venue with national draw.
Internal Accessibility	Need for appropriate warm up spaces, increased number and size of dressing rooms, increased width of corridors (for people and instrument movement) and wing size.
Stand alone concert chamber	The issue is that that a multi-purpose venue will always compromise acoustic and performance values for classical performances. Strong desire for a stand-alone concert chamber either as part of new development or up at University with Council contribution.

Classical/Choral/Instrumental Preference (majority): REBUILD

PARTICIPANTS

Brooke Baker	Choral
Delwyn White	Cantando Choir
Jayne Tankersley	Singer, NZCF Waikato/BOP
John Wright	Hamilton Civic Choir
Kath Barnsley	Hamilton Civic Choir
Katie Mayes	Opus Orchestra
Robert Johnson	Orchestras Central
Russell Armitage	Classical Music, Theatre
Susan Trodden	Orchestras Central
Sally Rosenberg	Waikato University
Jill Rodgers	Mighty River Harmony
Harold Henderson	Young Singers in Harmony
Warwick McWha	Opus Orchestra and Mighty River Harmony
Bronwyn Albright	Waikato Rivertones Chorus
Tony Antoniadis	President of Mighty River Harmony
Brianna	Waikato Rivertones Chorus
Rupert D'Cruze	TWSO, Conductor, Musical Director
Andrew Buchanan-Smart	Reviewer, life member TWSO, OPUS
Bob Simcock	Orchestras Central

REFURBISH - Classical/Choral/Instrumental

Quotes/Comments

"With the growing population in Hamilton, the city deserves better, we have long outgrown the current building and its facilities. The acoustics are bad and wall shape in auditorium just doesn't work. We can't overcome the problem for major orchestral and choir works with just refurbishment; the sound goes straight into the fly tower"

Acoustics

- ⇒ Youth choir would not consider booking Founders because of acoustic. Pleased to see the poor acoustics will be worked on.
- ⇒ The acoustic need to be scalable. I.e. if the King Singers performed would be better with scalable acoustics. Big space - so ideal to have moveable acoustic panels.
- ⇒ NZSO and APO have always complained about the acoustics.
- ⇒ Acoustics are crucial, Council need a report from Marshall Day.
- ⇒ When you go to the Michael Fowler in Wellington you can experience beautiful sound.
- ⇒ Founder is a community hall essentially. Founders can never be acoustically good with a big arch, can't cater for certain performers.
- ⇒ Would like to see a concert hall facility, Founders refurbishment isn't going to do that.
- ⇒ Perfect acoustics would be standard shoebox shape common for most concert halls, and no fly tower
- ⇒ Problem for orchestras frequently perform with choir with orchestra in rear and choir in front, always have problems with perfect, clear, quality sound.
- ⇒ Ballet needs large stage, but not good if a combined venue as orchestras/choir don't like fly tower.
- ⇒ There are some innovative ideas to block off the fly tower and improve acoustic ability, take a look at other national venues
- ⇒ Don't like winged layout of the auditorium, the shape of the theatre doesn't help the acoustics. Move the risers forward?
- ⇒ Flooring can help with acoustics. Wooden flooring resonates.
- ⇒ If they refurbished and made the acoustics better but not perfect - still grassroots facility.
- ⇒ Audience wants best they can get, not cut down version and augmented sound
- ⇒ No quality resonance of sound, as a performer hard to hear
- ⇒ Dunedin Town Hall, Auckland Town Hall has excellent acoustic
- ⇒ \$20m wouldn't get better quality of sound - fear enhancement of acoustics would be minimal
- ⇒ Shape of fly tower doesn't help acoustics
- ⇒ Would not consider performing because of acoustics, get more choral ensembles going there.
- ⇒ What improved acoustics actually mean? Need more definition in detail please.
- ⇒ Need acceptable, defined scalable acoustics.
- ⇒ Would be good to have control of acoustics depending on the size of a group, something like moveable panels
- ⇒ Wellington Town Hall has a beautiful sound; Michael Fowler Centre caters for one type of concert.
- ⇒ Acoustics are bad – fly tower, wooden floor, wall shape in auditorium
- ⇒ Can't overcome problem of orchestra and choir putting on major works with refurbishment, the sound goes straight up from the choir.
- ⇒ Shortcoming of refurbishment is to large orchestra and chorale groups, a possible idea is to build a custom plywood shell that can be lowered over the fly tower.
- ⇒ Add hydraulic operated walls to the theatre.
- ⇒ Mighty River Harmony hosts the National Barbershop Harmony NZ Convention and Competition over 2 days every 5 or 6 years, and co-hosts the National Young Singers in Harmony competitions over 2 days every 3 or 4 years. We need a theatre like Founders Theatre for these events.

- ⇒ Mighty River Harmony has hosted the Barbershop Harmony NZ Convention and Competition over 2 days in 1995, 2003, 2010 and 2015 in the Founders Theatre.
- ⇒ In 2015 there were 350 participants with 9 choruses and 17 quartets, and a show of champions on the Saturday night.
- ⇒ Mighty River Harmony co-hosted with the Waikato Rivertones the National Young Singers in Harmony competitions at Founders Theatre in 2006, 2010, 2013 and 2015, with a parade of champions show on the final night.
- ⇒ In 2015, 800 high school pupils over the 2 days in 23 choruses and 36 quartets performed on stage.

Stage size

- ⇒ Opus & Choral are squashed on stage at present; stage is too small, RNZ Ballet brings small company. Can't have a full choral ensemble.
- ⇒ It's exciting to have two of the largest Choral/orchestra groups in Hamilton on stage together but the refurbishment won't meet the needs.
- ⇒ Founders is not big enough for large collaborations (choir and orchestra)
- ⇒ You cannot host a full Symphonic Orchestra and choir on that stage – too small
- ⇒ Larger stage and wings are crucial.

Design and atmosphere

- ⇒ The facility needs to be nice, attractive, have an inviting ambience offering the whole experience.
- ⇒ An extraordinary ugly building – a cowshed
- ⇒ It's an ugly building, but it's like the Narnia wardrobe the magic happens when you go inside.
- ⇒ Any symphony hall in the world doesn't have theatre style surroundings
- ⇒ Renovate changing rooms, larger green room where you can sing.
- ⇒ Prop storage, area when competing, easy access to back stage, easy access for large groups of people to move through 60 - 100 + larger/wider corridors.
- ⇒ Changing rooms need upgrading and more of them
- ⇒ A green room where you can sing
- ⇒ Better flow on and off of stage
- ⇒ Wider corridors - Unloading for singing groups arriving by bus, we have a constant stream of large numbers of people.
- ⇒ Better stage access, sightlines are poor
- ⇒ A report from Marshall Day (Auckland) to get authoritative report and look at Vienna shoebox shape, has a ceiling and no fly tower, Paris Concert Hall
- ⇒ People want a total experience;
- ⇒ Good parking, easy parking
- ⇒ Not a crammed ticket collection area
- ⇒ More toilets
- ⇒ L shape makes the bar area difficult to get a drink at
- ⇒ People are using their discretionary income to come to our shows – this project isn't just about our needs as performers, it's about our audience experience.
- ⇒ Want to be a grown-up city, and then need to have a more grown up venue
- ⇒ Would need to expand backspace to put bigger spaces behind
- ⇒ Soloist room an embarrassment for significant visitors
- ⇒ People are coming for a 'total experience' right from the start of the experience such factors like easy/lots of parking, purchasing/pick up of tickets, enjoying a hospitality area.

Seating

- ⇒ Seating size is about right for our audiences
- ⇒ Footprint of the theatre remains the same? Can we sacrifice rows of seats to make stage bigger?
- ⇒ 2 – Dedicated music venue – 800 seats, joining up with the HCC and Uni plans
- ⇒ 800-seater would suit NZ Youth Choir and Voices NZ
- ⇒ Legroom too limited – wider deeper seats needed

Funding

- ⇒ Could they add \$ to the planned University 800 seat hall facility.
- ⇒ There have been large government grants all around NZ except Hamilton.
- ⇒ HCC have a good case to take to central government for a substantial grant.
- ⇒ Maggie Barry just announced a 'pool' of money for arts facility outside Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch
- ⇒ Major facilities fund – Government, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 agreement.
- ⇒ Government has given large grants to national venues, Whangarei, Len Lye. Hamilton hasn't received one grant, Palmerton North does, and so does Dunedin.
- ⇒ Build new- what is the operating cost and access for community groups, cost is a barrier with current venues, then it gets on charged to audiences through increased ticket prices.

General

- ⇒ It's a waste of time and money and in the wrong location
- ⇒ Refurbishment is more of the same, nothing different.
- ⇒ If closed down for 2-3 years, concern about loss of users
- ⇒ What real value is a refurb going to add? What is the cost benefit ratio, to user/audience?
- ⇒ What are the other viable options for community groups?
- ⇒ Repurpose Founders as a rehearsal space, house all the orchestras and turn into office space
- ⇒ The city deserves better than a refurbishment with the growth of the region.
- ⇒ Fine to be refurbished - BUT will never be a good/perfect venue for choral/orchestras
- ⇒ Multi purpose at the time, but with a refurbishment it can't be a multipurpose venue.
- ⇒ It's clear Hamilton needs TWO venues; a) Presidium arch facility b) Acoustic hall
- ⇒ If the building was refurbished it is not going to be any good for the three groups;
Choral/Orchestra/Performing arts
- ⇒ Too expensive to use and too much paperwork when hiring.
- ⇒ It's unacceptable having the theatre closed too long.
- ⇒ We are the 4th largest city in NZ, it's pitiful we are in this situation.
- ⇒ Only venue for Hamilton Civic/Vox is St Paul's School or Southwell, but they have limited appeal being schools.
- ⇒ For the development of the choir, they need to have pride when performing in a place, need to have something to aspire to perform in.
- ⇒ Rivertones feel like the 'poor relation' as we can't offer a venue fit for purpose. Clarence is only ok when the group numbers are lower but still have the vital importance of involvement with the international 'Sweet Adeline's' competition in the USA. We were offered to host national comp in NZ, but unsure we can find a venue suitable in Hamilton.
- ⇒ What is the timing? Still in the 2012-23 budget? Finished in 2026-27 – is this okay? Not okay.
- ⇒ \$6 million to bring auditorium up to compliance – but not looking any different?
- ⇒ See small concert hall installed in Academy, 800 seat hall was always part of 'plan B'
- ⇒ With the growing population in Hamilton the city deserves better, outgrow the current building.
- ⇒ Multipurpose means it will never be perfect venue for orchestra and chorale; therefore the HCC put money into the Academy's 800-seat venue
- ⇒ What could be done to make a dual purpose venue?
- ⇒ \$20 million refurbish and a \$30 million contribution to a chamber hall?

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH - Classical/Choral/Instrumental

Quotes/Comments

"There was a need for Founders 50 years ago, and there's a far greater need for a Founders now. We have so much talented youth in our city and region, this will be debilitating to our communities to not have somewhere local to perform and aspire to use."

General

- ⇒ Cross it off the options
- ⇒ Gallagher too small for our audience size – need a 800+ seat venue
- ⇒ Orchestra and choir collaboration as a pianist can't fit on stage – Clarence St
- ⇒ Have to fit programme around Clarence if have to use it as a venue option
- ⇒ Choir members have equivalent performance experience as in Auckland. Developing members and audiences opportunities will be lost
- ⇒ Could not host national organisations or national competitions
- ⇒ Cost of going to Auckland and Wellington is out of reach
- ⇒ Without it there is no facility that can contain orchestra, choir ballet or operatic production
- ⇒ Clarence St is too small, small stage size for large scale productions, no accessibility
- ⇒ Clarence St was built for rehearsal space only.
- ⇒ Unacceptable option
- ⇒ Look at Bergen, Norway – 250,000 population
- ⇒ The choir would never be able to perform with an orchestra again
- ⇒ Founders gone altogether the social impact is immense, it will change how people see music as a profession.
- ⇒ There was a need for Founders 50 years ago, and there's an even greater need for Founders now, we are 3 x greater city size, a Founders is needed to be able to attract established professionals to the city.
- ⇒ We have so much talented youth in our city and region, this will be debilitating to our communities to not have somewhere local to perform/use aspire to use.

Economic

- ⇒ Can't miss out on money coming into our organizations from our annual popular concerts at Founders
- ⇒ Attracting CNZ funding needs quality overall product not just the reputation of the group

Reputation

- ⇒ Professional orchestra reputations suffer, and the reputation of the city suffers.
- ⇒ If you want to have serious regional orchestra need serious decent venue
- ⇒ Disgrace as a city to not have this venue; there would be no significant cultural Centre.
- ⇒ Would create a desert. Just look at the vibrant music department at the University.
- ⇒ Makes it elitist to travel to Auckland

BUILD NEW

Quotes/Comments

"Make Hamilton a destination; make the building itself a destination. Build an iconic arts venue, three venues in one; this will be the need in 15 years time. If you want to have a serious regional orchestra you need a serious decent venue. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity here. "

More than just a rebuild

- ⇒ If we build an 'Arts & Cultural Centre' and 'inclusive' space, IF it's placed in an ideal location i.e. the southern end of Victoria St, it could be an iconic centre for all.
- ⇒ Needs more parking – if located at the southern end, build four stories high in the Meteor car park, with a 'air walk/bridge' across the street from the car park into the 'Arts Centre'
- ⇒ Intergenerational building that needs to last for years into our future.
- ⇒ Commerce to subsidize the arts. For example; The Barbican, London. <http://www.barbican.org.uk/>
- ⇒ Esplanade, Theatres in the Bay – Singapore, <https://www.esplanade.com/>
- ⇒ We need a new building, BUT as long as the purpose is clear and the location is vital. Needs a vision.
- ⇒ Council asking the wrong question. What is the purpose, what are we trying to achieve?
- ⇒ Concert hall pro's arch in one. Concert hall could have steep rake, smaller footprint of auditorium.
- ⇒ Singapore example regarding the multifunctional facility can be achieved only if hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent on advanced technology.
- ⇒ Gallagher's is a good acoustic example, one of the best in NZ
- ⇒ Cambridge is growing – there are 80-carded athletes. Where there's a centre of excellence it encourages other centres of excellence. This is a critical time to change and become a city.
- ⇒ Until there is a CLEAR vision making the theatre smaller is a step backwards
- ⇒ The 'crew' entrance could be via Grantham St. The complex would have glass walls over looking the river – an iconic, fantastic, signature building that puts Hamilton/Waikato on the map
- ⇒ Birmingham Symphony Hall links to the central library canal. People want to be there, it's vibrant and full of life. It's a full aesthetic, artistic experience. <https://www.thsh.co.uk/>
- ⇒ It's a no brainer!
- ⇒ People will come from Auckland to the Chamber because of its excellent sound.
- ⇒ Aims of new build are too constraining. Want to consider the whole audience experience. The option hasn't thought through the entirety of the arts experience.
- ⇒ This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Hamilton through for the next 50 years of Hamilton growth. Don't muck around now
- ⇒ New venue experience down at the river, proper precinct at the southern end of the city. Look at the current HCC focus on the precinct.
- ⇒ Make Hamilton a destination; make the building itself a destination.
- ⇒ Build a decent venue and the people will come from the greater/wider area.
- ⇒ Not about revenue stream, what could it mean for the beneficiaries outside the region.
- ⇒ Make theatre as good as sports ground facilities the city have which are great.
- ⇒ HCC haven't offered any option 4 – The vision of the city.
- ⇒ Feels like a short term solution, needs to be better thought through
- ⇒ Location, Location, Location
- ⇒ Build an iconic building
- ⇒ Better off with short-term pain for long term gain. St Paul's, St Peter's, Claudelands
- ⇒ Heart is at Founders. But can see sense of going to something new.
- ⇒ New has to be 'Fit for Purpose'
- ⇒ Needs immediate commitment
- ⇒ We need 3 venues: Concert chamber; Small ensemble theatre - no presidium arch (like Uni's theatre); Presidium arch theatre - fly tower

- ⇒ A commitment is needed to build a concert hall
- ⇒ General public don't know the real difference between a concert chamber and fly tower.
- ⇒ The conversation needs to be informed by engineers, sound specialists etc.
- ⇒ Two parts a) Refurb fly tower b) Also add \$ to the Uni concert hall
- ⇒ Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain great example, the impact on the city is incredible as it's a destination.
- ⇒ General feeling would be to wait 5-10 years to really get it right. \$50 million seems like a quick fix.
- ⇒ Groups that would be attracted to come would be, NZ Opera, possibly Auckland Arts Festival.
- ⇒ Orchestras could commit to a short-term pain for long term gain. We would program accordingly with what venues we've got to use.
- ⇒ If you have a great facility, it will attract use and patronage

Keep Founders going in the meantime

- ⇒ 5 year trial period – fix Founders to safe level, use while new build is happening. Get it up and running and viable in 5 years, if not – then demolish.
- ⇒ There has to be something in the interim
- ⇒ Short term is the problem
- ⇒ Refurbish as a timely option with a view to build new in the future
- ⇒ 'Make do and Mend' will be ok IF there's a solid plan for an iconic facility.
- ⇒ AND - refurb in the meantime with at least some preferred facility to use whilst new venue is being built; new build can't just be a stopgap.

Benefits

- ⇒ Then NZ Opera might come, Auckland Arts festival might come, big chorus from USA might come
- ⇒ People come from all over NZ and internationally like the Chief games and Field Days
- ⇒ People will be drawn to visit and come to the centre as a destination venue.
- ⇒ The NZCF Big Sing Finale

Funding

- ⇒ Commercial funding model – i.e. like a major car-parking owner
- ⇒ In the UK businesses are located in 'Arts Centre' to assist with paying for the public/iconic building.
- ⇒ Government haven't offered Hamilton any funding – time to shoulder tap
- ⇒ Aspiration building vs affordability is a problem
- ⇒ Phased development option across x amount of years.
- ⇒ Fundamental conversation needs to happen about the affordability of hire age of a new facility.
- ⇒ \$50 million! Needs to more like \$100 million – contributions from central govt, business and districts.

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Dance Schools	

KEY THEMES

Time frame	This is the critical priority. The dance school community cannot wait for a new facility to be built. The timeframe is a lifetime for a child and represents a huge loss. IMPORTANT QUESTION for Hamilton City Council – Dance groups don't have access to the following in the alternate Clarence Street facilities. Can the Council assist them with the following until a solution is delivered? • Lighting • Clothing racks • Drops • Blacks • Risers • Port-a-loos
Existing alternatives	None are satisfactory. Clarence is too small and with poor sightlines. Claudelands is unaffordable and unsuitable.
Refurbishment priorities	Increase backstage toilets and change rooms. Improve backstage access and access to auditorium. Upgrade technical equipment for communications
Community Engagement	Dance school reach and support a large section of our community with around 1,500 students, 2,500 family members and over 5,000 audience members
Career Starter	Nearly all the current technical theatre professionals working privately in Hamilton learned their trade working on dance school productions.

Dance Schools Preference: REFURBISH or Refurbish and add on

PARTICIPANTS

Lynne Gabolinscy	Directions Dance School
Anastasia Ponomareva	Russian Dance
Valerie Lissette	Valerie Lissette Dance School
Kerry Mills	Limelight Dance Academy
Aileen Downey	Drury Lane Dance School
Kerry Davis	Drury Lane Dance School

REFURBISH – Dance Schools

Quotes/Comments

"Refurbish NOW – add on if you want new, or plan for the future to rebuild, but we can't be left without a suitable facility now"

Reflections

- Founders has been a second home for many and an important training ground and start in the industry like Aaron from ACLX. PK Sound. It's a training ground for technicians.
- It was community funded, remembered by community.
- Building has a lot of meaning, lots of feelings from community, lots of attachment
- As crew on shows we have listened to the risks of health & safety for years
- Hamilton operatic was the place for Musical theatre very innovative in regards to national view, reputation of Hamilton has decreased.
- Budding dance schools and dancers, audience goers are being introduces to a theatre for the first time, or it's an annual trip.
- If we're not putting on a show then what do our dancers have to aspire to?
- Budding dance and theatre scene mustn't be quashed.

Refurbishment considerations

- 'Rob Guest Room' is big enough for warm up. Mirrors, bars, wooden sprung floor. Wooden over the concrete is ok.
- More space in wings needed as can be quite dangerous. St James in Wellington is a good example.
- More toilets backstage, definitely need more
- Can only get set in from side of stage, going across stage lighting cords even taped down can be a hazard. Need to have 'channels' for the lighting/cables.
- Not sufficient number of dressing rooms, we have to 'hire' Rob Guest room to accommodate more students.
- We have up to 15 volunteers backstage as runners as there are no communications channels.
- Monitors often not working, all tech needs upgrading, including monitors.
- Students who have finished performing need to be able to enter balcony/second section without disturbing audience.
- It's exhausting for staff and volunteers just 'making do'
- Another audience entrance would be nice, entrance to upper level seating.
- Founders rake of seating is very good for viewing a dance performance
- A new flying system would be very important for dance.
- Safety concerns with a 'patch up', will there be other problems
- Needs to be community use, and also not out of town, acts like NZSO, RNZB etc
- Has not been well maintained.
- We have to rely on 'runners' as we have no comms system. Need monitors working properly
- Parking difficult. There's a parking fee on Saturdays
- Dressing rooms insufficient in size
- Some theatres have separate area for performers to watch without disturbing audience
- Safe flying system is important to dance

Cost

- Would cost of hire go up again? Paying for the extra components now makes it expensive.
- Worry about scope creep effecting affordability to complete plan.
- Can hire practice room separately at Clarence St – could be another income stream for Founders using the Rob Guest room.

Current Alternatives

- Clarence Street does not work, doesn't have what we need. Can't see dancers feet, except from the balcony.
- What we've been offered at Claudelands is ridiculous, offered the arena, but no flying system or elevated stage. There's flat seating, offered the same pricing this year only.
- At Claudelands; open ceiling exhibition hall has been offered, it's an open room with partitions and port-a-loos for changing, so will probably go to Clarence St and do more shows.
- Extra costs involved and more help is needed.
- It's a huge change and challenge for us to go into Clarence St. How do we deal with not knowing the extra costs involved. The shows are going to be 'dulled' down because of worry about costs.
- We will adapt a show to fit Clarence St. Toilets are a problem, only 2 with an increased number of performers.
- Exhausting for children and hard on volunteers.
- 200-400 children in these shows. Having access to the warm up, dance studio is fantastic, has same wooden floor while stage is being set up.
- Clarence St visibility is hopeless for dance, sightlines no good.
- Limited at Clarence to what kind of show we can do
- Dressing room space is very limited
- Clarence is good for cabaret
- Most dance schools will use Clarence St in the meantime will just make it work, they will have to hire more toilets though.
- Only going to Clarence St for the Christmas show because of the flying system, will have to put on extra shows to accommodate all of the audience
- At Clarence St, the shows will be simpler; Claudelands can't really work as it's not set up as a theatre.
- High School venues really are too small. No accessibility with schools.
- We have to do double the shows because the seating is halved but parents can't afford to attend 2 shows

Stage size

- Companies have to minimize touring sets to fit them on stage.
- NZ Ballet would visit 3 times per year with a refurbished theatre
- Embarrassing Hamilton is unable to host NZ Ballet.
- Choirs, chorale, orchestra and dance can't fit on stage.
- Embarrassment Hamilton isn't on the national touring route for big productions
- Our shows do fit in, Oliver just about squeezed in.
- Not just NZ Ballet, Russian Ballet can't fit on stage either.

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH – Dance Schools

Quotes/Comments

"We would like to think that when we've retired our creative community has something to aspire to working towards performing in"

"It's not about going to other centers to watch, we do that anyway. It's about our own communities being able to watch our community"

"If we are not working to put on a performance in a theatre then what do our dancers have to aspire to?"

- Permanent closure would affect our business hugely. Our schools are based on the opportunity to perform.
- Theatre experience is essential for children/students
- Not just for dance training, but also to offer training for other aspects like sound and lighting at the same time. This experience has given people training for their careers now, and now they have their own businesses in Hamilton connected to theatre.
- It's not about going to other centers to watch, we do that anyway. It's about our own communities being able to watch our community.
- We feel there is a view of we can just make do and go to other places – but that's a complete fallacy
- Founders is the best stage in town for dance, other venues not large enough.
- If there is a view that people have got to other venues to go to they are missing the point that we need somewhere for locals to perform
- Big shows bring in money – locals watching locals
- Any new option needs to be affordable
- The Arena is cost prohibitive for us.
- Ticket prices have had to rise because of increased theatre costs, which has reduced audiences

BUILD NEW – Dance Schools

Quotes/Comments

"The time it would take to build is concerning, we'd probably be dead by the time it's ready and opened"
"Don't need new, just need now"

- Not required in this current climate at \$50 million - too long to wait up to 5-6 years or even longer.
- Why build on the same site.
- Why build the same size; could build a new 800 seat but should keep Founders or 1600 + 800 can be reconfigured to different sizes.
- Seems to much \$, too long timeframe for build
- Like for like is a worry, but if rebuild then 'go for it'
- A lot of stress waiting for a new build and organising shows for the other venues in the meantime
- We would happily use as is without a fly-tower, even the floor in Founders.
- The kids look forward to the show we simply 'can't not have it'
- Kids must have a chance to dance on a big stage; they are missing the 'soloist' dressing room.
- The time it would take to build is concerning, we'd probably be dead by the time it's opened.
- Don't want the worry of an increase in hire costs.
- The project is time critical, timing is crucial, and the length of time without a facility isn't good. So much added stress to the dance community.
- If a build is like-for-like what about the orchestras, how will they cope?
- One participant said she would produce shows in Founders without a fly floor or even in the foyer rather than go anywhere else.
- The kids, the generations of children look forward to the shows. We can't just NOT DO THE SHOWS, the kids are gutted they won't have a chance to dance in the big theatre. It's a big deal for them, the prestige is what they look forward and aspire to.
- 5-6 years is a long time for kids

Or add onto the existing with additional improvements

- 1600 seat venue is perfect for touring productions and operatic shows
- 800 seater is great for local community shows.
- Have 2 venues; encourage more users with more choices for on venue size
- Extend current facility on same site. Add concert chamber next to Founders.
- Don't build in the CBD. People are happy to drive to town. Comparison to stadium and rugby watchers.
- Make bar/hospitality stand alone, a separate entity, independently run, don't include in hourly rate. Next-door to Founders site.
- At the moment we can't sell our raffles or programmes without on charge to Founders.
- A public square outside Founders where things can happen, a gathering point, and a place to meet, mingle, and enjoy the space.
- Be nice to have a smaller community space, a smaller room for small community works.
- Have the ability to curtain off the space.
- Build next to Founders. People drive from the theatre and go into town afterwards.
- Don't charge us to have the bar left open!
- Have a separate bar/hospitality area. An entertainment hub within the theatre. Add an 'hospitality experience'
- Founders needs a nice external space, a place for people to meet like European style theatre
- New build alongside old building. New and refurb – create a hub
- Foyer with bar and food refurb is good but shouldn't need to be hired by users. Run separately by a contract or council.

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Ethnic Groups	

KEY THEMES

New and Bigger	Looking for a larger, state of the art building that will accommodate future communities and diversity. 1,500 – 1,800 seats ideal for large gatherings. Support a vibrant, aspirational development.
Urgency for Interim Solution	There must be a facility of scale available in the interim otherwise there will be significant damage to cultural activity which is essential for community wellbeing. The recent Indian community event which had to shift for Clarence St turned over 300 away from the doors. People had come from Tauranga. It was dangerous and distressing.
Acoustics	Founders is not currently coping with the acoustic requirements of large ethnic dance events
Parking	Large audiences result in significant parking issues at Founders

Ethnic Groups: Rebuild

PARTICIPANTS

Jay Randhawa – Indian Cultural Society Waikato & Waikato Punjabi Cultural Club (25+ years)

Rupinder Virk - Indian Cultural Society Waikato & Waikato Punjabi Cultural Club (18 years)

REFURBISH – Ethnic Groups

Quotes/Comments

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"

General

- Can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.
- What value are you adding if refurbished?
- Very important what the audience view is
- If it's made larger – where will people park?

Acoustics

- Poor acoustics for Diwali performers/dancers who rely on the beat of the music for their dance, at the moment we struggle to hear the live beat.
- If changing the acoustics, they'll have to change everything

Location

- No benefit where it is at the moment
- Lacking location appeal
- Parking is an issue

Facilities

- At the moment hardly any legroom and width is poor, change the seats. The possible reduction of seating will lose approx. from 1200 to 900?
- As a club (Indian Club) we can't afford the rehearsal space; constantly let down by community centres
- The building needs a common boardroom and offices for multicultural space.
- 1500-1800 seat venue is ideal, can't break into multiple performance. Claudelands is big enough, but atmosphere isn't there.

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH - Ethnic Groups

Quotes/Comments

"A large facility is essential for our ethnic communities to gather and celebrate"

- Option 3, to close and demolish, is definitely not an option
- It is so important to the Indian and other ethnic communities to have large scale facilities in which to gather a celebrate cultural festival and events
- People choosing this option don't see the value and opportunity

BUILD NEW - Ethnic Groups

Quotes/Comments

"Over 300 were turned away from the recent event at Clarence St – they came from all over the region. It was distressing"

Think Bigger

- It is possible for an 'option 4' and make a strong decision - make an Arts Centre.
- We need a new building, BUT as long as the purpose is clear and the location is vital. Needs a vision.
- Start THINKING BIG – future proof it, do it right this time, and it's the right time to do it.
- For example – think of the Harbour Bridge – they lanes have to be changed all the time to allow for the large volumes of traffic now.
- Hamilton is rapidly changing only 1 hour from South Auckland. People will start to come to Hamilton for shows, as it will be easier to access.
- 300 people came to our Indian community shows; it would have been 700 only due to a clash of programmes.
- Over 300 were turned away from the recent event at Clarence St – they came from all over the region. It was distressing.
- International performers know Hamilton is a hub for Tauranga and Auckland.
- Cambridge is growing – there are 80-carded athletes. Where there's a centre of excellence it encourages other centres of excellence. This is a critical time to change and become a city.
- Multicultural events at the arena are not ideal, sightlines are not good.
- You can't build like-for-like. You have to look to the future to ensure it's future proofed.
- A new build will rejuvenate the city
- For the Indian creative community a 1249 seat theatre is limiting. For Diwali events they are 3-4 hours long. We hold them on Labour weekend so we can have a Sunday performance.
- Build new – be aspirational – BUT with a fit for purpose space in the interim.
- New build must have other revenue
- If you spend \$50 million, you might as well spend more and get something that really works.
- Rebuild AND repurpose Founders – use it as rehearsal / performance venue for orchestras, ethnic groups, dance schools etc
- Fly tower possibly not needed
- Trial it – Trial repurpose, see if it works, if not working then demolish it

Keep Founders going in the meantime

- There has to be something in the interim

General

- For local creative communities we need rehearsal space, office space, and enough parking. The trick with a new build is to gain a commercial return.
- It's not a 3-year election cycle response – it's a generational response.

A New and Growing Industry

- Bollywood moviemakers are now moving into NZ from Switzerland because of the natural light in NZ, the language and driving is easier here.
- NZ make the most Indian short movies in the world. Indian short movies are being made and are very popular – there will be films 'shooting' in the Waikato.
- So this is where will the premieres take place – there will be a need for a prestigious place.

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Front of House Staff	

KEY THEMES

Amenities	The toilets were the most significant problem for audiences at Founders. Both comfort and quantity. This cannot be under emphasized.
Food and hospitality	Lack of food options for audiences is a significant issue as the venue supplies neither sufficient options while open, and is closed as people leave. People who have travelled from around the region (and locally) find this vastly problematic.
Seat comfort	Seats are too small in legroom and width to be comfortable for the average sized audience member. Some rows in Founders (eg Row I) have poor sight lines.
Good location	Location was seen to be a benefit and a new facility in the same location would be ideal
Parking	A significant issue. From quantity to access. Must be addressed.

Front of House Staff Preference: New build, same location

PARTICIPANTS

Victoria Newton-Smith	15 years working at Founders
Colin Milmine	20+ years working at Founders
Joy Milmine	20+ years working at Founders
Christine Foster	20 years working at Founders

REFURBISH – Front of House Staff

Quotes/Comments

"We need to be heard, we are at the font line of customer experience"

Toilets

- ⇒ The current toilets are 'retro' and that's being nice
- ⇒ Hope it includes toilets. Its cold in the toilets, and cold water. Currently only 9 ladies toilets.
- ⇒ Ladies, who know the interval is coming up, get out of the theatre early to avoid the cueing.
- ⇒ Cues go past the auditorium doors, clash with the bar area ques.
- ⇒ Predominantly female audiences we open up the gent's toilets and direct gents to accessible toilet.
- ⇒ Some people miss out on start of act 2 because of toilet lines
- ⇒ Only one disabled toilet. Depends on type of show. 2 or 3 would be good.
- ⇒ Have to commandeer it back for person with disability, includes elderly, crutches, all disabilities.
- ⇒ Mothers with multiple children need a space to all go. Changing room space is in the disability toilet.
- ⇒ Need to consider the types of audience, number of children, age, gender etc.
- ⇒ 12-15 toilets plus a family room, depends on what happens with urinals, plus disability access toilets.
- ⇒ **Only one other thought about toilets, is perhaps consider two separate locations. Architects would have figures on X amount of patrons per toilet build etc.**
- ⇒

Making Do

- ⇒ We are constantly smoothing out 'rough edges' at Founders to make it work and ensure everything runs smoothly.
- ⇒ Works well with regular good staff, not so good with casual volunteers.
- ⇒ We are expected to be professional, Wardens for volunteers.
- ⇒ Paid staff crucial in use of emergencies, volunteers won't necessarily be able to handle it.
- ⇒ At Founders minimum of 5 staff, volunteers don't know and can't know all the 'nooks and crannies' to look for people in an evacuation.

Seats

- ⇒ Very uncomfortable. No legroom, big seats now at movie theatres to accommodate larger people and provide more comfort. People are paying for entertainment and don't want to be uncomfortable.
- ⇒ Also issues for larger people, need wider seats, width at the moment is uncomfortable. Also uncomfortable for people on either side of that person. Have used seating in the mobility area.
- ⇒ Have received feedback about uncomfortable seats.
- ⇒ Sightlines are dependent on how stage is set up. Can be clear all the way from the back.
- ⇒ Staff has donated cushions to prop up small children.
- ⇒ Row I has a 'kink' in the height, poor sightlines
- ⇒ Row P users are affected by latecomers, getting into the row across them.
- ⇒ One entrance point is not particularly challenging, keep flow going at top of stairs.

Parking

- ⇒ Brisbane has a purpose built building. All parking is under the building.
- ⇒ Parking is a big issue. Especially when the Rugby is on and the Cricket. Rainy weather creates issues.
- ⇒ Buses with patrons from regional cities have difficulty parking.
- ⇒ There is no bus parking. The buses have to go elsewhere to park.
- ⇒ Stadium accommodates buses very well.
- ⇒ Disability parking 2 out front and 2 by stage door.

- ⇒ Better accessibility needed into building. No covered walkway for people, especially for the elderly and vulnerable.
- ⇒ Refurb won't address the parking issues

Visitor Experience

- ⇒ Auditorium could have a new look. Some form of elegance, beauty, not white, carpeted, sterile look, and a theatre look.
- ⇒ People grizzle but no formal complaints.
- ⇒ We work hard to 'smooth' things over and make it a good experience.
- ⇒ Ambience and the whole experience are important to the ticket purchaser.
- ⇒ Fills up foyer, can get everyone in in 20 mins.
- ⇒ Good that bar is outside theatre itself unlike Clarence
- ⇒ Essential to get though refreshments and toilet area easily and efficiently, there are families that travel a long way for some events, especially Kapa Haka and need both of these amenities.
- ⇒ Water fountains please with filtered water.
- ⇒ We have a stack of paper cups, we go to the ushers room to get water for people
- ⇒ If client hasn't booked kiosk then there is no water available at all.
- ⇒ Hospitality in front of house, not enough area if there's a 'drinking' audience. Extension of food offering, look at more elegant food selection, gluten free etc.
- ⇒ Catering contract is important.
- ⇒ We get asked 'where can I go to get something to eat' so we have produced a food map to show people where to go.
- ⇒ Kiosk is dependent on how many Montana staff are on duty. Eftpos slows up the process. Bigger food and bar area needs more staff.
- ⇒ Front of House staff don't have contact with the stage manager. Duty Manager has contact with the stage manager, no real flexibility over interval times.
- ⇒ At Academy staff can control start times based on lines/drinks etc
- ⇒ The city needs a building like Founders.
- ⇒ Claudelands good for big concerts, Netball, Basketball and Clarence and Meteor serve community groups.
- ⇒ Nowhere for the NZ Ballet/Ballet, big Operas, orchestra to go.
- ⇒ Staff has to be very ware of audience members and vulnerable people. Volunteer staff doesn't necessarily have the skills to identify these people.
- ⇒ We are experts in assisting fragile, vulnerable people, the getting them out of the theatre quickly and efficiently.
- ⇒ Spotted a very sick elderly lady in a mid row once, got her out and to the disabled toilet in time
- ⇒ Need to have big operas, ballet, and orchestral. University growth has huge potential for audience. Visiting family, also regional people might have a whole weekend stay.

Hotere Mural

- ⇒ Hotere mural - not recognised, not appreciated, not presented well where it is.
- ⇒ Hotere probably the only thing you'd save.
- ⇒ Where did the Dame Malvina Major cameo plaque go?
- ⇒ I didn't know how important the 'Hotere's, it's never been properly acknowledged or respected, there's nothing saying this is one of NZ's iconic artists
- ⇒ Don't muck around with the Hotere, it can be presented better as a treasured NZ Iconic art work

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH – Front of House Staff

Quotes/Comments

"Losing Founders would be like a death in the city"

- ⇒ Would lose the shows/musicals that people like and want to see.
- ⇒ It will affect my work capabilities, this is my job.
- ⇒ Schools and communities would suffer.
- ⇒ Stage Challenge has grown and grown. Whole it would suffer financially.
- ⇒ People don't want to travel to Auckland.
- ⇒ We'd lose a big part of the city
- ⇒ It would be like a death.
- ⇒ Losing a Town Hall
- ⇒ What?!!
- ⇒ Hamilton would be called a 'cow-town' for sure. Even though it's a multicultural city, we need to grow up.
- ⇒ Building is not old enough to have an emotional attachment. Louis Armstrong performed there and people don't know or care.
- ⇒ City would suffer financially

BUILD NEW – Front of House Staff

Quotes/Comments

"Our forefathers had the vision to place Founders where it is"

General

- ⇒ Preferences new build in same place – a chance to get it right with good design.
- ⇒ Build a larger build but with other venues in the same complex
- ⇒ Bring in the 'out lying' communities in to pay
- ⇒ Feel that there would be a majority of people who would love to keep Founders where it is.
- ⇒ Our fore fathers had the vision to place Founders where it is.
- ⇒ River walkways are slipping – not stable ground
- ⇒ Accessibility in Founders from all directions is good.
- ⇒ Should be building bigger to accommodate everyone, stop missing out on productions.
- ⇒ Academy is an outer limit of city venue.
- ⇒ 5-6 years seems a ridiculous time – too long, why does it take that long?
- ⇒ River location - no way!
- ⇒ Why shift is offsite, lost all the elegance straight away. More parking issues. Bars and clubs, Nana's and elderly people won't like being down town having to negotiate 'town' patrons.
- ⇒ People like to go to venue as a destination

Parking

- ⇒ Theatre and black box, multi purpose spaces (3), put all the parking underground.
- ⇒ Put parking in green area. With some covered parking.
- ⇒ Build car parking underground
- ⇒ BUT the \$50 million doesn't cover parking

Technical

- ⇒ Have to increase stage area to get NZ Ballet in; audience wants them and the NZSO to come to the theatre
- ⇒ Curtain drop to partition off 1300 seater
- ⇒ 800 seater (acoustically treated)
- ⇒ Start with NZSO & ballet, and then anything else should be able to be accommodated.
- ⇒ In new build put in some kind of retractable sound sheet over fly tower.

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Theatre and Musical Theatre	

KEY THEMES

New new new	This sector advocates strongly for a new build. They have high technical demands on the facility and after decades of working in Founders do not believe it is worth salvaging. The intrinsic design flaws resulting from a 1960's plan are not fixable. Below, they have provided detailed account of the technical and design deficiencies of the building and contents. Does the refurbish plan address all these issues?
Art Hub	There is vision for a vibrant arts hub located centrally next to the river. An integrated facility that links with the city's other cultural and hospitality offerings, providing a total entertainment experience.
Consult	There is disappointment that Council staff has not consulted the technical users of the space as they have developed refurbishment plans
Audience experience	Significant interest in improving the audience experience including parking, hospitality, toilets, seating and access. As well as locating the venue in the centre of a vibrant part of the city.
Multipurpose	Concern expressed over the concept of 'multipurpose'. Founders was not a fit for purpose build and as a result was/is a compromise for all users – impacting on technical and acoustic performance. Be realistic about the different needs of users of a proscenium arch/fly-tower theatre, vs. those requiring a concert chamber. Conversely, a new build has the opportunity to integrate new neutral spaces that may have a variety of uses.

Theatre/Musical Theatre Preference (majority): REBUILD

PARTICIPANTS

Aaron Chesham	ACLX Lighting
David Sidwell	Theatre Director
Jason Wade	Clarence St Theatre
Jenni Murphy-Scanlon	<u>Current Committee member and past President of Musikmakers, past Chair of Riverlea Theatre.</u>
Cecilia Mooney	Children's theatre director and theatre practitioner
Russell Armitage	Arts advocate and Producer
Matt Walker	International actor and director
Jeremy Bell	Academy of Performing Arts
Chris Sidwell	Hamilton Operatic
Nicole Hardy	Hamilton Operatic
Michael Lamusse	ACLX Lighting
Yvonne Milroy	Performing arts advocate, producer, performer

Summary of Technical Issues Discussed for Founders

Loading docks	Need to accommodate 5+ containers
Seating	If you widen the stage, it will adversely affect the sightlines from the auditorium. Needs separate access for audience to upper seating tiers
Flying system	Must be fully automated (not counterweighted) and pre-programmable
360 degree stage access	Need to be able to access stage from side, behind and below. Need to be able to 'fly' under the stage as well as above (set and cloths getting sucked into floor). Improve access from stage to auditorium. Add catwalk.
Communications	Comms systems are antiquated. Require minimum 8 wireless comms headsets. Currently all tethered which is hopeless. TV monitors require upgrading.
Ceiling height back stage	Too low and needs to accommodate touring clothing racks. Doors need to be floor to ceiling
Internal lift	Is required to transport heavy costumes upstairs to dressing rooms
Showers	Need one shower per green room
Toilets backstage	Increase 2-3 times
Fire exits	Increase fire exit access
Dressing rooms	Increase size to accommodate 30-40 people. Improve private dressing rooms for guests and leads
Sound desk	Position of sound desk currently results in 'light spill' for audience members behind. Needs to be moved.
Follow spot	Needs to be more centre of auditorium (currently at back). Current position causes instability and lack of specific control
Dividing curtain	Has not worked for 10 years. Reinstate, but ensure lighting is moved
Lighting Box	Should be at centre of auditorium. Is currently 15m off centre. Stage manager cannot see full stage for cues.

REFURBISH – Theatre/Musical Theatre

Quotes/Comments

"Refurbishment at \$20m is dressing up a sow's ear and isn't palatable. IF it includes all of our needs then a refurbishment may possibly be acceptable – but we know this building inside out and its hard to believe all the necessary changes can be accommodated"

"This is a golden opportunity to have a new location and creating an 'arts culture/space vibe in the downtown area that would give the 'dying' city a heart again"

Don't Refurbish

- I don't think it's an option
- You'll leave yourself with a legacy of what doesn't work
- Deferring the problem. An expensive band aid, not a beautiful old building 'due for refurbishment'
- Concerned the project will run out of money, then not all the items needed will be included
- I've sat on groups for 25 years and still come to this position regarding Founders
- Location can't be fixed
- Refurbishment is a risky option, looks cheaper but could come up to the \$50 million to do it properly
- \$20 million not that far from \$50 million
- It is a good reminder about how much performance we miss out on in Hamilton because the current size theatre can't accommodate the set and team. This is also negative for audience development in Hamilton, and no development for up and coming users
- This seems to be an option not to move forward
- Why is there an option to even consider patching up again, and not putting a marker down as NZ's fourth largest city?
- Here is our fist big theatre? Compared to Auckland's 6th theatre!
- Great opportunity to find the right location and build new, South Theatre precinct. Not Claudelands. Too isolating again, Founders over again.
- What is the lifespan of a refurbished building?
- Consider the ongoing maintenance that may not be addressed in refurbishment budget and continues to breakdown. Will there be money for this? There will still be problems underneath, don't just put a Band-Aid on it.
- For \$20 million are you going end up with the antiquated things like communication systems?
- Not in a great area. The whole location and access issue is not going to be addressed under a refurbishment plan
- Frankly patching up is not a decent option.
- This is a golden opportunity to have a new location creating an 'arts culture/space vibe in the downtown area would give the 'dying' city a heart again, it's not about the \$ it's about the fit for purpose.
- Like for like doesn't cover this adequately.
- Does the city want to provide a first rate facility? The stadium is fantastic – the All Blacks play there!
- What else is not in the refurbishment plan that's not going to break down in the next 10 years?
- Just doing another expensive Band-Aid – feels like 'ambulance at the bottom of the cliff'
- Refurbishment at \$20 mill is dressed up as a sours ear isn't palatable. IF it includes all of our needs then a refurb would be acceptable.

Consultation

- What user input has been received about the needs of the refurbishment, who has been asked?
- Key experts in the creative community such as Aaron (ACLX), David, Aaron haven't been consulted.
- Feeling the \$20 million proposal of ideas has come from HCC staff and not from users/experts.

If Refurbish – Important facilities and technical requirements that must be considered

- Storage and loading docks. Pushed for space. Can't unload a fleet of trucks, has effect on touring companies too.
- Plan to rebuild the entire stage house is a massive undertaking
- Sightlines will get worse with a wider stage house and Presidium arch
- Get tech savvy – using automated flying system
- Side, behind and underneath the stage underneath is 'woeful' be great to have the ability to extract through the stage floor (dry ice etc.) like other premier theatres, Founders doesn't have this.
- Access from the stage down to the auditorium is very poor, catwalk around orchestra pit please.
- More dressing rooms, at least 2 more, and dressing rooms essential for paid professionals.
- Green room too small.
- Improve intercom system; Southwell has a great intercom system.
- Dividing curtain to block off audience size has not worked for some years.
- Stage manager calls place from lighting box; it's 15 metres off centre, not good, should be centered
- Calling the show right from the middle, stage manager needs to see when to call the cues.
- Seven packs of wired comms need to come with hire of theatre, need 8 as a minimum. And need wireless comms.
- Wireless comms needed, at the moment we are 'tethered' to mic comms. Much better to have a wireless comms as a capex in the theatre than the \$10k cost of hiring.
- Roof height backstage is too small for standard touring clothing racks
- Put lift in for heavy carting to 2nd floor, costumes can be stored in corridors sometimes
- More showers for performers, one per green room. More toilets for large performance groups, such as the dance school shows.
- More fire exits back stage. Fire exits to green room lacking
- Storage and loading docks very pushed for space in dock, big sets are a struggle, the consortium containers (Phantom), at the moment can only use 4/5 of these types of containers.
- There's no catwalk around the stage, we have to make our own. Val Lissette has built her own.
- Never enough dressing rooms, increase all the small dressing rooms – increase to at least 30-40 people plus.
- Dressing rooms all over the place, there are no private rooms.
- All of the back stage comms like TV, mic's intercoms need to be replaced and upgraded.
- Position of the 'follow spot' need to be improved, somewhere closer to the divider curtain would be good.
- Does refurb include new lights?
- Lighting needs to progress to dimmer switches. The fly floor is manual, should be programmable. Must have pre-programmed systems available. Use modern technology
- View is ok.
- There's a lighting 'spill' from sound desk in back seating area – not good.
- Four rows behind the sound desk were closed for big shows because of disruption from sound spill.
- Stored set pieces up the wall – no space, Napier theatre can hold a set ready to go for a scene change.
- Increased roof heights, space for costume racks, door heights need to be floor to ceiling.
- Costumes have to sit in corridors.
- If refurbished then you need a lift installed to take costumes upstairs, currently being walked upstairs.
- Number of showers for performers is 3. One shower per dressing room- 6 showers needed upstairs
- Not many green rooms at the moment. Not many green rooms, stage access is too far away. ie you need to get 200 kids on stage, need more wing space/hold space.
- Not enough fire exits, upstairs not enough for 100, exiting through stairwells at the moment not good.

Parking

- Parking for access for performers, business hours and when a game at stadium makes it very difficult to find a park and you have to pay for parking.
- Parking is a massive issue. Cast and crew take all the close parks.
- Concerns with safety too, not enough access to disabled parking.
- There's insufficient parking for all patrons, disabled, elderly, staff, cast and crew.
- Safety is an issue. Patron had handbag snatched.
- Need a 3 level car park. Half the problem is it's not a desirable place to go – ie no decent parking.

Seating configuration

- 2/3 audiences sit in top half. Look at easier access into theatre – 2nd level entry
- 4 rows behind sound desk has restricted viewing

Audience Experience

- Create the whole experience for the audience member, make it uplifting, great parking, restaurants, drinks etc
- Change the toilets in foyer? Would be serious mistake to not have refurbished toilets, more female toilets.
- Front of house - needs more accessible toilets for disability users
- Make it desirable for an audience member. No benchmark at the moment, to measure.
- Pre-event space inside foyer for groups would be nice.
- Other theatres have audience access from above, sides, front etc – consider audience access.
- Need modern, decent bathrooms, more female toilets.
- A nice venue next to the theatre as a functional area.

General

- It will just as convenient for the Pokeno community to travel to Hamilton rather than Auckland.
- 'Founders is my favourite theatre out of all', but still has many limitations.
- Hamilton does not get a lot of touring work it goes elsewhere, misses out especially with the NZ Ballet. It doesn't develop audiences.

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH – Theatre/Musical Theatre

Quotes/Comments

“Unthinkable”

- ‘Unthinkable’
- ‘Not an option’
- What then? Where after?
- Disloyalty to the Hamilton community
- People would leave Hamilton because they can’t do what they do or want to do.
- City owes it to the community
- Deserve a flagship building
- We’d lost a 1200 seat venue?
- So ignorant to take away the building
- People need an ‘arts space’
- Promoting Claudelands as an arts space is not an option
- ‘Feel so proud of all the arts genres’
- Mainstream theatre should just be a ‘given’ for the city. As to Garden’s, Stadium and Museum
- Limit opportunities for future generations – have to resort to occasional trips out of town?
- Don’t provide that facility to see the best and practice in it, then you just don’t have it all, people will be forced to go elsewhere.
- Families with talented children will move where their children can grow and flourish creatively.
- Economic impact must be taken into account
- From an education perspective. No performance space then why stay in Hamilton? Just leave Hamilton; there is a natural progress from Riverlea, Clarence St, and Academy to a Founders stage.
- Where is the economic information for the ‘Close and Demolish option’?
- Robbing the city, killing things that are making it buzz with excitement and life.
- City needs all aspects to be fulfilled.
- There are people who want it.
- Claudelands is a Barn’ not a theatre proposal
- It will leave a hole removing a theatre of this size.
- This will forget community, as it’s the right size for the dance school shows.
- Already impacting on the arts community. People are leaving!
- Impact will be in the city community as a whole
- People spoke 50 years ago about the need for this theatre.
- To contemplate not having a large theatre is not an option
- What will our children do they need it.
- There are industries that aren’t in the city, so we don’t have the expertise. E.g. Avanti Cycle Dome has attracted world-class opportunities. No large professional theatre = lost opportunities.
- School productions are so important, the they don’t continue, no theatre, then families and people involved will disappear. There is no incentive for families to stay, they’ll go and study and Vic Uni etc.
- The two-week opera schedule held in Wanganui has massive impact on city, so imagine similar here
- Huge hole with out Founders for grassroots level – ie schools, The Founders is very good size to accommodate parents and children.
- It will impact the whole city, people are already looking to leave.
- Important to note the past heritage to the community. The community spoke 50 years ago to pay for the theatre.
- Lost deficit to the city will go on and on.
- If you remove the hub of performing arts from the economy – there is economic loss.
- How much effect on community – not just \$300,00 – cumulative

BUILD NEW – Theatre/Musical Theatre

Quotes/Comments

"Think beyond to the next generations. Think about the future of the city"

Think big and future focused

- After living overseas for a few years, bringing friends to Hamilton to show them the city – it's a great city and this is a golden opportunity.
- Founders is not a destination or hub – you just go for the show – it doesn't help build an arts culture
- Use NZ architect, someone who understands our environment
- 'An events curator' for the city!!!! START NOW – build the vibe, the atmosphere, and the excitement in arts culture, for the new facility.
- Define what is the main purpose of the venue!
- What are our city's ambitions? The stadium build is a good example - it attracts the All Blacks, lots of local teams and support for these games.
- Exciting place to come to an excellent venue. Some good examples in Hamilton are the Hamilton Gardens, the Stadium, cycle ways.
- The money has come from more than one source.
- Huge civic contribution, people see the opportunity for a change in the city.
- If end game is a much better outcome, then we wait the six years.
- Re establish direction of the city
- Why is it going to take 5-6 years anyway?
- "The most amazing opportunity for the city"
- "This is the chance"
- "Becomes its own thing"
- Part of the heart of the city, and the region.
- Is \$50 million realistic? What is that figure based on? Is it enough?
- Still got to be affordable to community. Don't recoup costs by raising price to hire. It will be out of reach for the community.
- Think tank about how we could afford it.
- This will future proof the theatre. The 2 venues under 1 roof. I.e. make a destination, need Marshall Day expertise.
- Destination example – Karapiro Rowing Club, The Stadium
- A business plan needs to be drawn – money doesn't come from one source. If you create a vision for community buy-in then people start seeing how their lives will change and benefit and will become 'motivated' to look at philanthropic options and trusts etc.
- In terms of build time, definitely short term pain for long term gain - IF we have an iconic building.
- Why does it have to take so long to build?

Location

- Southern end of the city is on the bus loop, Founders is a two-bus ride trip away from Ham east.
- It needs to be a destination that provides an experience; the southern end of town has more appeal.
- Do not build at Claudelands – 'not a destination'
- Build beside the river; show off Hamilton's prime asset to visitors, Knox Street parking is there.
- Experience is town centered, not building centered.
- Already raked ground in the south end of the city.
- It has to be riverside.
- Community arts and hospitality precinct

Multi Purpose?

- Cannot be something to everyone. As Founders was originally built, and didn't work.
- Most attracted events at Founder are musical theatre.
- Founders was built as a concert hall (somewhere for concerts) like Split Enz etc.
- Not built for orchestra or musical theatre small sides, we know better now.
- Musical theatre, NZSO, NZ Ballet end-users that have most influence on what they need – consult all the way.
- Both venues (theatre and orchestra chamber) as part of one, fit for purpose, shared bar & foyer
- Look at audience numbers and usage - orchestral numbers will be lower than musical theatre use.
- Can't put musical theatre into orchestral venue.
- Musical theatre draws most users – most demanding, good benchmark
- Opportunity to create new spaces and be more creative with spaces. Hire opportunities to a variety of users if the spaces were creatively versatile.
- Art Gallery combo
- Rebuild plans need to be discussed with users.
- Doesn't matter how flash building is, if it doesn't work for users.
- Building new is creating opportunity for new build will have more functionality and versatility.
- It's more versatile good hire to out for events, more people will be interested. A room for musical theatre that can be changed into a small concert thus attracting more revenue.
- The first problem with Founders was it was built as a building for everything. Should have 2 spaces;
- 200 seat concert hall and a musical theatre.
- Wasn't built to hold large-scale props, not built for musical theatre, not built for orchestra. Today you'd never build a 'Founders' but now we know better and have the expertise.
- The end users have to be part of the design and overall purpose of a new facility.
- Lots of input from all three main players like;
- NZ Ballet
- Opera
- Musical theatre has to be fully consulted in the New Build process.
- Approx. 1200 seats for musical theatre and approx. 500 for dramatic theatre.
- Look at theatres around the world, look at their designs and then build, don't want to rush the planning for later operational 'niggles'.
- It's not sensible to build like for like when the city's growing so rapidly.
- Like for like is ok if it's well designed. But if it's just another new theatre then we haven't advanced as a city.
- Build for future proof.

Design Considerations

- Loading dock needs to be part of the design. Loading bay in Founders is not good at the moment.
- End users must be involved in design of space, built for purpose, top rate.
- Built on 'St James box' (stage house) model, get advice/consultation from Royal NZ Ballet regarding sizing etc.
- Venue still at 1200 seats or up to 1500 seats with 800 seats plus 400 seats on balcony.
- Side of stage dressing rooms. Easy access to stage.
- Rehearsal space is not needed, this is offsite.
- Decent green room and warm up area big enough for a cast of 50 plus people.
- Adequate orchestra pit and access. Hydraulic orchestra room with access to pit
- Look to Wellington -St James Theatre has Opera, Musical theatre, Ballets; Michael Fowler has the orchestral performances.
- Need an automated flying system built now, a counter weight system will become outdated quickly (20 years) – Hamilton after all is meant to be a 'high tech' city

- If build new then it has to have to have the right facilities, identify users? Who are the future users? If we have to wait 6 years for a new facility then it can't be outdated.
- Include adaptability for orchestral set up.
- Seats up to 1500-2000 – Dress Circle is desirable.
- A revolving stage would be nice.
- Overseas a lot of cloths fly down through the floor – suck down dry ice through floor, bring people down through the floor.
- Needs modern lighting
- It would need excellent access for 'pack in' access for trucks with 5 containers.
- Users need a car park close by, staff/crew need parking onsite.
- 800-1,000 seats good for larger major productions.
- 800 + balcony, tiered seating
- 1800-2000 people, steeper rake with dress circle
- Hire costs shouldn't go up to recoup costs
- Easy access to stage, not walking upstairs or downstairs for onstage.
- Stage house needs;
 - Decent green room that can house 50+ people
 - Mirrors
 - Warm up area for dancers
 - Need 'pit access'
 - Need orchestra and musician room
- It's absolutely imperative it has to be future proofed regarding technology systems. For example the Academy have seating that can be transformed from a classroom facility to a theatre in 30 minutes, less staff costs involved.
- Sound needs to be considered if it's a like for like, look at sound shell type solutions.

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Toi Māori - Kapa haka	

KEY THEMES

Sector growth	Kapa haka appears to be our fastest growing arts sector. Uptake and participation in youth continues to grow rapidly due to school programmes and whanau participation. Match that with projected growth in Māori population (particularly in youth) in the Waikato and you are looking at the most popular art form in the Waikato.
Big Business	The scale of the requirements for kapa haka is massive. The stage must be 20m x 20m. There are 40 performers per team. At competition level it is not unusual to have over 20 teams competing. There are many levels of comp – junior, secondary, senior, regional, national. Every competition attracts a massive audience. The ideal seated audience is 3,000 – 4,000 for regionals. Current activity in Waikato is limited by affordability of sufficiently scaled venues.
Catering for Maori Performing arts	Beyond scale there are critical considerations. Kapa haka is not an 'art form' to Māori. It is intrinsic to being Māori. Therefore having places in which to come together around Kapa haka is critical to community wellbeing. This cannot be underestimated. These considerations include affordable accessibility, places indoor and out to congregate, places to share and prepare kai, places to play.
Collaboration	There is a strong sense that a new development, which was inclusive and culturally appropriate for Māori, would gather significant interest from major Māori stakeholders. Such an envisioned partnership is seen to be a massive opportunity for our region.

Kapa Haka – Te Wananga Session: REBUILD or Increase affordable access to Claudelands
Toi Māori – Kapa Haka – Creative Waikato Session: Refurbish

PARTICIPANTS

Te Wananga – Te Awamutu Campus Session

Reo & Tikanga

Paraone Gloyne Tikanga to CEO, Chair of Tainui Waka Cultural Trust

Te Atawhara Collette

Brooke Snowden Home based workers delivering the home-based courses
Kaihaka

Bachelor in Maori Performing Arts

Natasha Henare BM in Maori Performing Arts, High School Performing Arts
Involved in High School performing; Kapa Haka, Theatre, Music

Awhimai Huka Look after Directors at Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Tainui Waka Cultural Trust
Event management side when Wananga graduations moved suddenly

Waimihi Hotere TWoA Student
Kiley Diamond Marketing, Digital, Kapa Haka
BA Maori Performing Arts

Creative Waikato Session

Ata Papa Waikato Matariki
Craig Muntz Tainui Waka Tourism Inc.
Aotearoa Experience Ltd

REFURBISH - Toi Māori - Kapa haka

Quotes/Comments

"Do the bare minimum and allow the city to invest in a 'kick arse' event space for the future"

"None of the options really cater for Māori events we have on a huge scale"

"If it's funded by the community, it must be affordable for the community"

General

- There's a real need for a large theatre in Hamilton
- \$13.8 million for a fly system seems expensive
- The refurb is just not ideal for us to look at
- First option should be to replace fly tower system at \$4 million then confirm if seismic strengthening is needed.
- If you change the fly may as well to the other upgrades.
- Prefer \$ investment in community events, maybe x number of events per year.
- Do the bare minimum and use best resource that will allow the city to invest in a 'kick arse' event space for the future
- Maori performing arts students in the Waikato is strong, support our performers and the arts
- A phased costing model. Look at other ways to bring cost down, don't hit artists and audience.
- Community needs to be able to access and use the facility.
- Founders 'Our kids find it a big deal' somewhere special, intimate, to be proud of.
- More than monetary issues here. More than making a profit, health and wealth of arts
- Claudelands stays as it is but has a community rate (makes adjustments for community to use) 'We don't want to be spending all this money, just be together' – re cost of Claudelands hire
- We want to be able to save money to give back into Maori arts development and invest/give to the performers
- But still need Founders for smaller size events.
- Working together, not in competition. But Claudelands needs to be accessible, synergize the two operations
- Think Founders has had its time. Was the place when young but done its time now.
- Culture and heritage input could revitalise with refurbish or rebuild.

Māori Performing Arts Considerations

- None of these options really cater for the events we have every second year on a huge scale
- Stats show we can pull 500-5000 a day. Capacity needed is big
- Larger stage is needed and refurbish back of house.
- If you are putting in \$20 million then may as well have more seating.
- Integrate outside green space e.g. marquee for back of house capacity e.g. tent for food for performers or changing rooms.
- Currently we can't provide own catering and bar, yet this is where our profit is made.
- Claudelands is sterile and doesn't support community development.
- Give greater flexibility for production costs (catering, bar, ushers) allow the use of bringing people in
- Give ticketing flexibility options for community based groups to keep down the overheads
- There needs to be more provision to support community to use it (affordability of hire)
- Support refurb if it is structurally sound and includes larger back of house production area
- Marley dance floor needed for dancers
- Self-catering facilities for back of house
- Audience needs to be comfy to get them back to facility, small blocks more aisle room to not have to squeeze past, good view from every seat
- Cultural Trust, Te Wananga Waikato Tainui - None of these options cater for 2nd yearly event.

- Capacity and parking no good, 1200 seats not good enough, need bigger
- 4,500 – 5k throughout the day – audience pull for regional Kapa Haka
- Kapa Haka have 17 teams x 40 pax = performers only. Then the teams pull in their audiences.
- What will suit us? It is inevitable that Maori performing arts is going to grow
- 2-3 days of graduation per year (Te Wananga)
- Social behaviours are important (how friends and whanau want to socialize and interact when at the venue)
- Nationals; 42 – 45 team (50 in a team) plus supporters specific stage is shifted around to venues
- Support local schools by providing kai fundraising opportunities.
- Youth in Kapa Haka definitely growing
- 17 teams this year
- 6 x 40+ yr teams, really huge demographic representative
- Primary School, Secondary / and Senior there is huge participation
- Body Building competitions are becoming really big
- TWoA use for graduation

Design considerations

- Changing rooms are in the dark ages – showers would be awesome.
- Wider stair and corridors needed
- Disabled access needs to be better
- Kitchen areas in back of house – Kai is a big one, caring for performers and audience, be more culturally flexible.
- Floor and hanging amplification does have to be adjusted a lot
- Lighting and seating is important
- Breakout rooms for King and VIP's
- Packing in and out of Founder is very easy/ Good size for graduations
- Wheelchair access is a problem
- Can't just be a Band-Aid on top - won't work.
- Build small with plans to go bigger. Next phase to extend.
- Structure needs to understand cultural needs

Alternatives in the meantime

- Waikato - Hopu Hopu is an option
- Te Awamutu Events Centre used for local event but too echoey
- Claudelands good but massive monopoly on the whole pay for every single item.
- Wananga Auckland uses Telstra building in Manukau
- Performances below regionals go to halls, schools, Marae and Hamilton Boys High School
- Secondary school nationals at Mystery Creek
- Founders has an existing shape. In Claudelands have to set stage up and pay for each additional increase in size, 20.4 x 16.2 stage size
- We will find somewhere in the meantime. 'Prepared to wait for the right time'
- Claudelands – we pay over \$100k for one day, \$50-\$60k for the venue.
- Event Centre in TA is not as good for sound, kids are at the back
- We never fit anyone in at one time for regionals at Founders (Kapa haka)
- They have a massive monopoly at Claudelands

Parking

- Usually not enough carparking, limited parking, dark crossing the road, parking down side streets
- Refurb would have to consider parking
- Car parking - not enough – ever
- Feels a bit dangerous for young and old
- Have to consider extending parking - go down? Or where?
- Big parking spaces for buses

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH - Toi Māori - Kapa haka

"Economic and cultural loss would be significant"

Quotes/Comments

- People would move or go to wherever people are going
- Means a lot of people wouldn't come into the city anymore or Hamilton
- People have to change structure to accommodate venue
- Economic loss would be significant
- Want events to be able to grow into those spaces, progression and development of events
- A space that can cater for all different kinds of stuff feeds into audience development

BUILD NEW - Toi Māori - Kapa haka

Quotes/Comments

"If you build something build it with love"

"What does it say about our community? Maori is everywhere, open it up, make it for everyone"

"Key stakeholders and partnerships, give new meaning to feeling about Founders"

General

- I want a venue where I can enjoy the arts
- Use a new build to rebrand Hamilton
- Encourage new Maori Theatre. 'Grandeur of a theatre. A Magic space.
- 'Like the idea of it being down by the river'
- Parking concerns, Knox St would be okay.
- Need good dock. Accommodate out the back for larger show load ins
- What does it mean? What does it say about the community? Maori is everywhere, open it up.
- An audience participation experience.
- Claudelands feels cold, clinical venue, it does have space, but its hard to create atmosphere there
- 5-6 years of building will probably be 10
- People will go wherever it is; it's about the right services being available.
- New build next to Claudelands. All that space is there already. Become a multi-use build and space
- One big hub. Package. Come with the venue hire.
- Current buildings are boring, uninviting.
- New build needs to be visually strong; design of building needs to be exciting.
- Founders should be indoor/outdoor. Awesome productions come to Hamilton but have some innovative outdoor space. Amphitheatre type space. Cool to go somewhere to facilitate or perform. All arrive there as a hub.
- Not everything has to be inside under lights, outdoor platforms for communities to engage with.
- Something permanent outdoors.
- Get a decent sized billboard up, sense of place and pride when an event is coming.
- In town is ideal to bring people into the city, anyway they need to have better parking, and lots of it
- Have option for community groups to tender for catering providers
- Maori performing arts has a strong following
- Have all services but give options - don't clip the ticket on everything
- Social behaviours centre around kai – so accommodate that in the design
- Phased 10 yr costing for groups who use it continually, allowance for large, continuing bookings, flexibility around infrastructure ie bring in own caterers, ushers etc. Let the school come to do a fundraiser.
- Look at other ways to bring costs down, not hitting their performing artists or audiences.
- Ensure Ralph Hotere's mahi has a safe place
- We don't want to spend all this money just to be together, not just spending all the money on the facility, we could use the money saved in a discount to invest back into the kapa haka groups
- Christmas in the Park could be there
- Location to allow for traditions
- Needs to be accessible to all parts of society – comfort for the community, ie a playground is to far from Claudelands
- Tainui Kapa Haka will eventually host Te Matatini nationals so they will start thinking where it could be held – huge audeinces
- River - worried about our CBD directing energy away from it instead of attracting it
- If you build something build it with love
- Our kids are kinetic. Textures in the building. What happened to 'City of Fountains'?

Collaboration with Māori Organisations

- Māori Performing Arts will grow and can bring on other partners to come up with really good arrangements for a new one if we collaborate with; Council - Cultural Trust - Waikato Tainui - TWoA
- Collaborate on funding and reduce wait time, please start conversations with Te Wananga
- Rebuild and extend to what we need
- Rebuild with good partnerships. Some MOU before building in place.
- Key stakeholders and partnerships, give new meaning to Founders.
- Takes time, new connections, relationships, could change the face of the Waikato
- Maniapoto would want to be involved in discussion for regional facility.
- It will be a good conversation started to Tainui Waka Cultural Trust is to grow the arts, which could be a good opportunity too

Needs of the Sector

- Min 2,000 seat auditorium between 3k-5k capacity
- Bilingual signage please in venue
- Really good opportunity. Have a place where community feels comfortable, families bring their children. Room for runaround.
- Access and affordability important.
- Needs a flagpole, for hosting Kingitangi and notifying King is present.
- Something in the middle of 500 of Clarence St and 5000 of Claudelands, 3000 seats for build new.
- 20m x 20m minimum for Kapa Haka stage.
- 2,000 will be minimum

Founders Consultation	Group	May 2016
Focus Groups	Youth – Future Users	

KEY THEMES

Timeframe	The timeframe estimated for a new build is a long time for youth. A generation of youth who will be without a facility of its kind for their school years. Not acceptable.
Skepticism	High level of skepticism that timeframes and budgets would be met. Youth are concerned about how costs will be transferred to them in future and how affordable the venue will be to use
Aspiration	Young people want to be proud of Hamilton and have a venue that draws people in, not repels them away. They want to see a solid commitment to the cultural development of their city.
Loss of talent	Talented youth will leave the city and find opportunities where there is decent infrastructure. Other youth would be embarrassed to live in a city that gives low priority to arts
Acoustics	High emphasis on the poor acoustics in Founders and the requirement to fix these for a variety of sound situations

Youth – Future Users Preference: REFURBISH/REBUILD - [mixed](#)

PARTICIPANTS

Jonathon Wilce	Theatre technician
Hannah Grant	Dancer
Daphne Araipu	Kapa haka
Ross McLeod	Independent theatre
Michael Moore	Kapa haka and Slam Poetry
Conor Gyde	Hamilton Operatic
Ruby Lyon	Singer and professional actor
Gwen Lyon	Classical singer and vocal tutor
Jeremy Mayall	Conductor and composer
Theadora Allison	Theatre practitioner
Dave Taylor	Theatre practitioner
Yoshi Tatsumi	Music Director, United Youth Orchestra

REFURBISH – Youth – Future Users

Quotes/Comments

"We really need more information to make an informed decision. However refurbishment may be the most sensible option"

General

- ⇒ Preference is to upgrade if it can be all thing as stated.
- ⇒ Limitations on physical space can expand into. Location works fine now, building is good.
- ⇒ Not spend on something shiny and new, just to have a new shiny and new building.
- ⇒ As a performer the venue needs to be adequate, but with all the bells and whistles.
- ⇒ Don't want a budget blow out on new build
- ⇒ What does changes to dressing rooms actually mean?
- ⇒ What will be the effect on cost of use to the community?
- ⇒ Venues are of huge importance to music managers in the music scene. Hamilton is not attractive to tour through, audience numbers aren't good.
- ⇒ The idea of 'we build it and they will come' is not a good idea.
- ⇒ The theatre provides a platform for local artists, which will lead to holding shows with well-known artists with the support from local artists.
- ⇒ How it's branded is important. Venue can be place that caters for all things, needs to reflect this.
- ⇒ Founders has a 'snobby' reputation, dress up only type vibe.
- ⇒ Dance school held its fundraiser at Founders as it is the best venue, but becoming too expensive
- ⇒ Founders fits the larger show niche. Good spread of seats/audience size for the city is important.
- ⇒ Claudelands is not serving local performing communities.
- ⇒ Think current location is perfect
- ⇒ Good locations for family affair events
- ⇒ Location is a 'prime spot'
- ⇒ Communications and planning between venues, so users can select what is best for them.
- ⇒ A place to go to find comparison data on size, price, cost, all detailed info of all venues on one site.
- ⇒ Refurbish is the most sensible option - need the size, Clarence too small and retains a tie to the original footprint and history.
- ⇒ Is it throwing more money after bad? Will we get another 50 years projected life?
- ⇒ Look at the length of time between New Build vs Refurb.
- ⇒ The 'stuff' that doesn't get fixed- what happens to the rest of the building.
- ⇒ What does \$20 million include – too vague?
- ⇒ Musical theatre are prime users
- ⇒ Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, North Shore, Auckland is a good example of a multi purpose venue with great sound.
- ⇒ Refurb is not good strategically for future generations
- ⇒ Other cities have older theatres, so why has the building only lasted 50 years?
- ⇒ Founders is a bit 'Frankenstein' with its add-ons etc.
- ⇒ Election year is a concern; they will make it someone else's problem.
- ⇒ Needs to specify a decision date.
- ⇒ We need more information – i.e. finished plans to seriously look at what refurb means. Before we can make a decision.
- ⇒ Need to 'experience the whole package', dining, drinks, good parking, central parking
- ⇒ Do we want to continue the history of the building?
- ⇒ Not a great location
- ⇒ This is a great opportunity to really look at the benefits of refurb versus new build
- ⇒ My concern would be we have a new build just for the sake of the new build.

Upgrade requirements

- ⇒ Downstairs - more lights in rooms, bigger mirrors, decent size bench space, better TV communications, need sound and better cameras.
- ⇒ Quick-change rooms near stage are really good and essential.
- ⇒ Stairways and hallways larger - enough to move through.
- ⇒ Plenty of space backstage to allow large groups to come in and work.
- ⇒ No reduction to current number of dressing rooms.
- ⇒ Founders backstage space makes it best theatre we have to accommodate large groups
- ⇒ Can space be made to become more adaptable, be able to close in/ transform space?
- ⇒ Usability and versatile spaces in the dressing rooms, stage and audience areas.
- ⇒ Flexibility and affordability, be great to aspire to use it for shows like the 'Laughing Samoans' who sold out Clarence St. Shows like single comedian shows.
- ⇒ For contemporary music, be good to be able to reduce the seat numbers if needed.
- ⇒ Keep listening to arts practitioners during design process, essential to keep conversation open.
- ⇒ Please more than the fly tower it leaks, have seen rain dripping on very expensive NZSO instruments
- ⇒ The stage bounces – hence the ballet won't dance on the stage
- ⇒ Problem is it's a multi purpose venue; so it's a 'Jack of all trades – master of none' type scenario.

Acoustics

- ⇒ Event managers really look at acoustics of the theatre, vocal quality has to be good,
- ⇒ People pay to see gig, then they want good quality sound. (Spoken word, contemporary music)
- ⇒ Very poor acoustics for orchestra; past 25 years nothing improved, worst in NZ
- ⇒ Each genre has it's own specific acoustic requirements
Certainly options like; moveable wall sections, ie fake walls behind the orchestra to help push sound out and a fake roof to stop sound disappearing into the fly tower, large costs involved.
- ⇒ How do you make it work for better acoustics? Sound shell, harder
- ⇒ When there's heavy rain – lots of noise of roof, hard to hear your instrument as a player. So exterior noise needs to be addressed. Architectural problem. Can hear fireworks at the rugby!
- ⇒ Other theatres like the Gallagher Academy has the correct sound proofing. The acoustics budget was blown out – however it's the BEST and people come from all over nationally and internationally.

Parking

- ⇒ What about parking issues?
- ⇒ If moved into town, even greater car parking problems
- ⇒ Current car parking is insufficient
- ⇒ Parking is crap, especially when rugby is on
- ⇒ Improve parking – not a nice area to walk to and from theatre at night.

CLOSE AND DEMOLISH – Youth – Future Users

Quotes/Comments

"Do you want Hamilton to be a shit hole? We would leave"

Why you must not demolish

- ⇒ A venue of that capacity is currently needed
- ⇒ Benefits the arts community as a whole
- ⇒ We cannot travel to other cities
- ⇒ Development opportunities for young local practitioners are crucial
- ⇒ More young people will leave town, particularly in the arts.
- ⇒ You want to retain young people in the city, talented people would not move to Hamilton
- ⇒ Removing inspiration for local artists. No Ballet, No large scale shows to inspire. Not a \$ cost to this but a real benefit.
- ⇒ Opportunities for local artists to work in with national companies touring, e.g. the Ballet workshops from NZ Ballet for dance schools.
- ⇒ Founders closed, the shows will not move to Claudelands? No way. Claudelands not set up for theatrical performance.
- ⇒ Will leave us a gap
- ⇒ Dance school will cope for a few years but not a long-term consideration.
- ⇒ Clarence St not a suitable venue for moving 5-7 year olds about.
- ⇒ A city without any Council run theatre? What would our national reputation be? Council would need to be seen to be putting that money into other theatre venues.
- ⇒ Hamilton is a 'shit hole'
- ⇒ 'No go'
- ⇒ Need a theatre this size
- ⇒ Need a town hall anyway for this city
- ⇒ Hamilton Op would not have any consortiums shows
- ⇒ Will lost immense talent like David Sidwell, where would he work?
- ⇒ We would leave Hamilton
- ⇒ Passion of people like David that bring together a top class local and international creative community
- ⇒ Will lose Am-Pro creative
- ⇒ To get rid of the theatre – the reputation of Hamilton will be gone.
- ⇒ Way too many people involved with Founders

BUILD NEW

Quotes/Comments

"The timeframe is too long. It's a long time for young people to be without a theatre."

"Founders needs to go and we need a fresh start so we can move forward and be strong for a very long future"

General thoughts

- ⇒ 5-6 years for something the same? Don't trust this option. This would be a risk
- ⇒ Snowball into something that isn't useful.
- ⇒ Costing lots for something we're not going to use
- ⇒ Why demolish what is there to rebuild on same site?
- ⇒ Would the benefits compared to refurbish be much different?
- ⇒ What's on the inside of the venue is much more important than what the outside looks like.
- ⇒ All the current flaws can be fixed by refurbishment don't see the need for a rebuild.
- ⇒ Spending \$50 million to get new, may out hold on any further spending in 5-10 years to upgrade for any technical upgrades/changes, then not looked at for at least another 10 yrs. for any more money.
- ⇒ 5-6 years as a dance company we'd be struggling, it's not appealing.
- ⇒ Get money - a little now, and a bit more spread out over the years for later upgrades.
- ⇒ Community backlash possible on a \$50 million spend on a building that may not be used.
- ⇒ Don't want this situation happening again. Have some money for ongoing R & M.
- ⇒ Run a proper, robust maintenance schedule. No more Band-Aid fixes. Not another Municipal pools.
- ⇒ The building new or refurb has to be 'sexy', good sound, good looking
- ⇒ Ham Op have sold shows at the 900 seater mark
- ⇒ If new build, with new seats etc. and new stage, will we have more seats?
- ⇒ The timeframe is too long - it's a long time for young people
- ⇒ Can older seating be gifted to the Meteor?
- ⇒ Bit gutted with the option of like-for-like, build a multipurpose arts centre
- ⇒ Students at University have no real idea that Founders is there.
- ⇒ Southern end of city is away from rugby
- ⇒ A good theatre here so people don't have to travel
- ⇒ 'Copy and paste' a successful theatre/multi functional model, then rebuild quickly
- ⇒ Close safe parking, parking even built in – 100+ parking
- ⇒ If build new - then lots of education around using the new space
- ⇒ Get a champion for the theatre and in the 5 years start educating the community at large about the 'theatre complex project'
- ⇒ Barbican programming is awesome look at their model.
- ⇒ Have a 'Sheila Winn' type event/prestigious event to aspire to
- ⇒ The set up/marketing needs to be built up over the years
- ⇒ Regardless of refurb or build new what is going to be the affordability if using it? It has to be viable.
- ⇒ The Meteor pricing structure or similar/a community sliding scale of use, like Gallaghers offer school/community rate.
- ⇒ The new of refurb building has to have a development of audiences.
- ⇒ If there are any gaps in the programme, then offer groups access to come in and use it, It's imperative it's a busy and buzzing hub/venue as this attracts activity and vibrancy.
- ⇒ A theatre hub would offer different shows; lots of variety; therefore building a culture
- ⇒ Maori culture in the design needs to be respected and involved, ensure total Maori involvement.
- ⇒ That is what we need for this new building. People wanting to come and perform - to build a reputation for the venue and for the city.

Technical

- ⇒ Some backstage/rehearsal areas a front of stage footprint.
- ⇒ Green room facility that is sound proofed, so people can rehearse, not concrete.
- ⇒ Floating or wooden floor.
- ⇒ The rehearsal space needs to have good height for dancer lifts and needs mirrors.
- ⇒ Internet/technology needs up to date comms for a theatre.
- ⇒ Big large screens outside advertising shows
- ⇒ Use knowledge of users, the local expertise
- ⇒ Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna, North Shore, their facilities are excellent, check their facilities.
- ⇒ Look at 'Home' in Manchester UK. <http://homemcr.org/>
- ⇒ It's a destination, it has a vibe, and it has a beautiful acoustic set up

"Every time my sister and I walk into Founders for the first rehearsal for a show or performance, we turn to each other, take a deep breath in and say wow, it's so good to be back home. That building stores so many of my memories growing up, following my dreams, and helping shape me to be the person that I am today. But even with all of those emotions attached, I still strongly believe that this building needs to go and we need a fresh start so that we can move forward and be strong for a very long future. A new location is what I feel most strongly about as where it is now is hurting it as a theatre due to all the reasons that were brought up in the meeting - sports areas all around, no culture, no food, transport issues, hard to get in to, terrible parking, and it looks ugly. That sounds so superficial, but it is meant to be a building of the arts and culture! It needs to be presented as one.

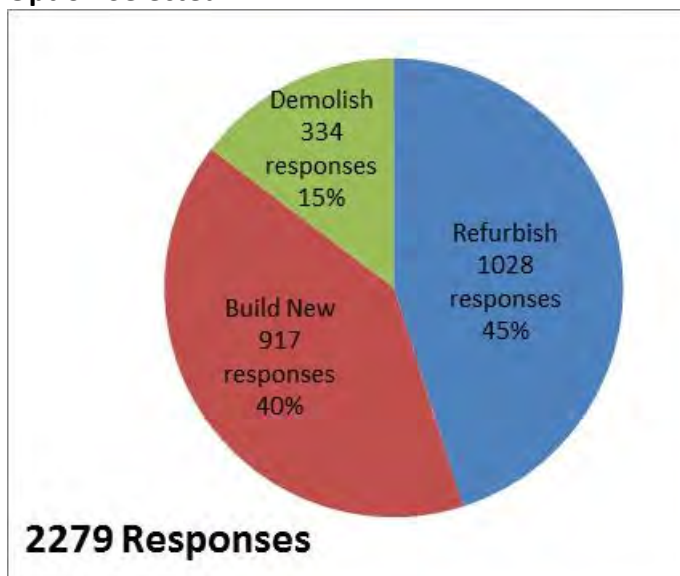
It's not often that we get the chance to start anew and create something amazing, so now that we have the chance, we should embrace it and use it while we can to make something that is the best"

3.0 Have your say submissions

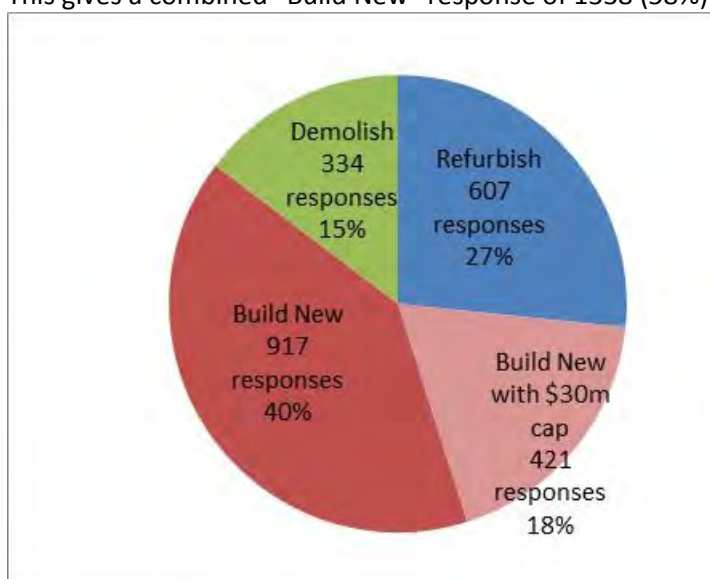
3.1 Submissions Received

2267 responses were made through the “Have Your Say” website during the consultation period of the 6 May 2016 to 30 June 2016.

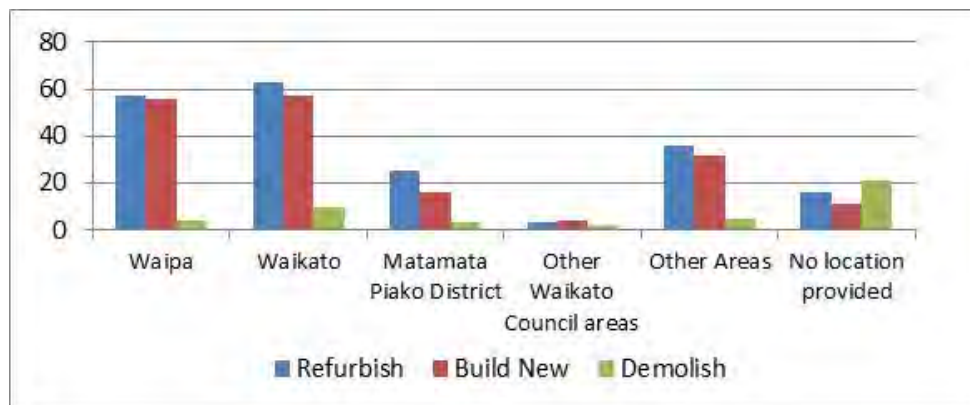
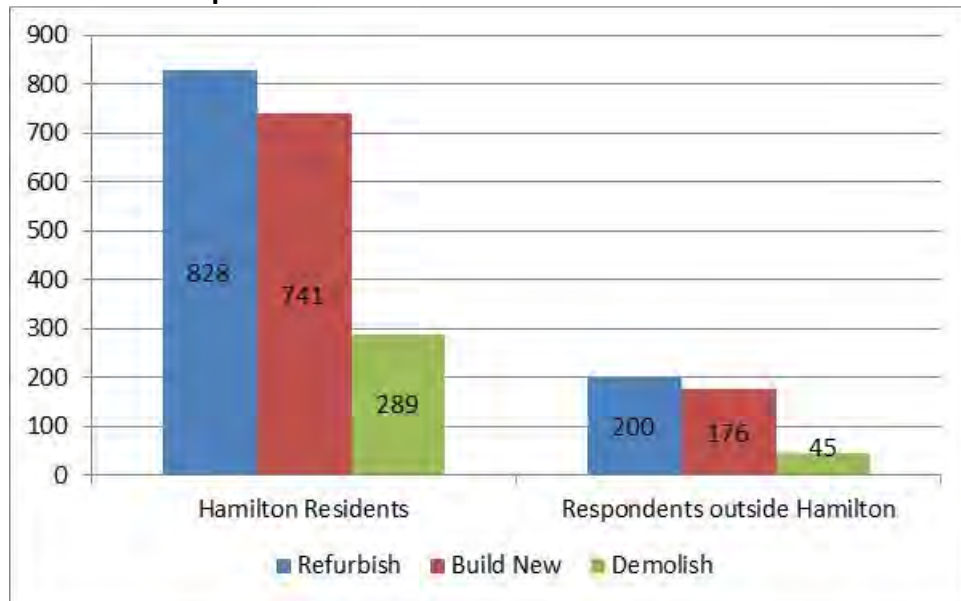
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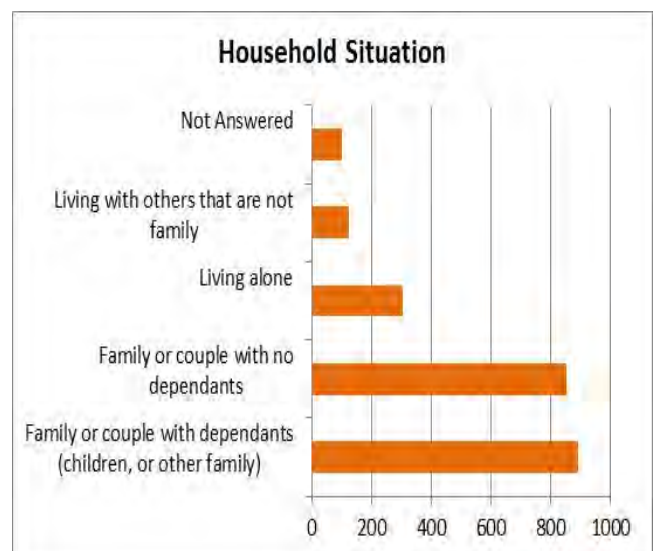
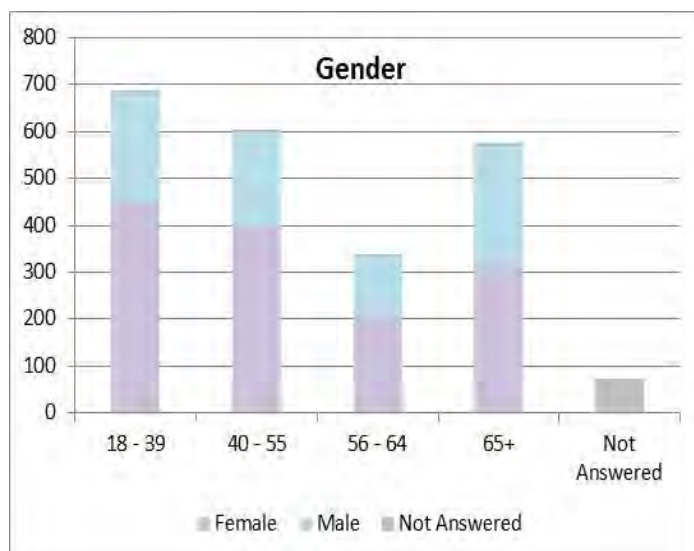
Of the 1028 respondents that selected the option to refurbish, 421 selected that they would be willing to build new if there was a \$30 million Council contribution cap. This gives a combined “Build New” response of 1338 (58%).



Location of Respondents



Profile of the respondents:



The respondents reasons (using key phases) for their choice are:

(the size of the text indicates how many times this phase was indicated)

Option 1: Refurbish



Option 2: Build New



Option 3: Demolish



3.2 Details of each Submission

The detail of each submission is provided in the following table.

If the submitter has attached additional information, it is inserted behind the appropriate page in the table.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0001	Refurbish	No	I think it's the most cost effective option that meets the needs of our community. A new theatre of a similar size and scale will only serve the same purpose as Founders Theatre. We should look after what we've got and consider the fact that Founders Theatre has played a large part in many people's lives. Consideration should be given in about 20 years time as part of the Council's 30 year infrastructure plan to a new performing arts centre (knowing it will probably take ten years to build).	No	No	
0002	Refurbish	No	Great venue and has historic links with the city.	No	No	
0003	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0004	Build New		Due to the building being so old and having to replace things inside it i feel it would be best to build a new one as we can rebuild with, like mentioned, materials to with stand earthquakes and create a new, stronger flying system. As a keen proformer as a child I really enjoyed my time on and off stage and would be disappointed for future generations to miss out on the opportunities that I had. As a spectator in the theatre new seats would be wonderful :)	No	No	
0005	Build New		I think it would be best to demolish the current theatre and build a new purpose built theatre at Claudelands, alongside the other events facilities. It would then share the parking and other services with Claudelands, and would be a central hub for events, run by the H3 group. There is a lot of land at the Claudelands site, so it makes sense to build there, and demolish the current Founders and sell the land to developers for residential developments near the city centre.	No	No	
0006	Refurbish	Yes	Still a great building and location! Hamilton needs arts/culture centre and Founders is fantastic, just needs a good refurbishment. Hamilton needs this!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0007	Refurbish	No	Important to the community to have a suitable location for performances that occur at Founders - ballet, orchestral, theatre, etc. Founders has a long history with Hamilton, and holds a lot of sentimental value to a lot of Hamiltonians - this heritage and value would be preserved with a refurbishment.	No	No	
0008	Build New		Could be a major drawcard for the city	No	No	
0009	Demolish		Claudlands event center is being under utilised and is running at a loss - the community implications in the engagement document imply that there is no other venue in Hamilton. Why not upgrade Claudlands event centre so that it is suitable/comparable to Founders?	No	No	
0010	Build New		While the Founders building is nostalgic for many people in the Waikato, it is aged and has some limitations. A new build is an opportunity to build a fit for purpose building that complements the other theatre and performance spaces in the City. An iconic building in a great location - high visibility; unique and attractive - draws people to attend performances, (perhaps the South end of the City centre with links to the river) could be a game changer for Hamilton - think the Christchurch Art Gallery and the Govett-Brewster - put Hamilton on the map. Potential for a shared art gallery/performance space.	No	No	
0011	Build New		-	No	No	
0012	Demolish		lets face it- the building its not a architectural master piece to be keep alive. i hope we could come up with something a lot better and BUILD THE THING BESIDE THE RIVER!! thats a thought Chris K	No	No	
0013	Build New		Future proofing.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0014	Build New		The theatre isn't in an ideal location and is too one-dimensional - it would be great to take this opportunity to re-site Founders near the arts precinct and build it as an arts venue that incorporates other uses of space such as a public art gallery. A refurbishment will mean in 20-30 years we are back in the same place, which would be a waste of money. We need to think about what we want for Hamilton as a growing community and also the Council's own approved arts agenda as well. One of the strategic themes is Spaces and Places which, as an outcome, requires the city to have premier art venues.	No	No	
0015	Refurbish	No	Founders is a valuable venue and should be kept. Cost aside, the waste generated from demolishing and rebuilding is ridiculous. Restoring and reusing is always preferable to starting from scratch.	No	No	
0016	Refurbish	No	Its a Hamilton Icon and should remain	No	No	
0017	Build New		We need a proper theatre in hamilton, one that can contend with theatres in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. Hamilton is a major city in New Zealand and we need to start acting like it. Having no theatre in Hamilton would be a major loss for the region and community. If we simply refurbish the old theatre, old problems are likely to just resurface instead of being eliminated, whereas if we rebuild an entirely new theatre and it is designed and checked properly there is a higher chance of having no further problems, almost zero unless a flaw is made. Claudelands is a good venue for expos like Armageddeon and the Home Show, and arena shows, but it is not a theatre.	No	No	
0018	Build New		If you're going to spend 20M refurbishing something which may not be a completely ideal solution and still need updating in 10 or so years, you might as well spend double that and make something which is going to last another 50 years.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0019	Build New		We need a fit for purpose facility to get the quality performances to the Waikato. By taking the opportunity to build new that you can take advantages of new technologies and able to build it to be fit for purpose. I think serious consideration should be made to moving it closer to the entertainment hub. With the river plan developments, ideally it could be built down the end of Victoria Street on Council land. That way there would be linkages to the restaurants and parking. Also improve the connectivity to the river, almost a mini version of the Sydney Opera house.	No	No	
0020	Refurbish	No	Hamilton already struggles with a dearth of culturally significant buildings, particularly from the modernist era. It is backwards thinking to simply demolish a civic building in a city that is struggling to remain relevant and interesting, particularly in the CBD. The theatre is culturally and historically significant to Hamilton and surrounding districts due to the alignment with the modernisation/globalisation of New Zealand, as well as being emblematic of the arts in a city focussed on the more traditional "rugby, racing and beer" viewing of culture.	No	No	
0021	Refurbish	No	Because Founder's theatre is one of the few architectural statements this city has from this period. Investing in this venue is investing in a venue that symbolises the growing arts culture in Hamilton as well as saving a piece of city history. It is also the only venue sizeable enough to have larger events before it ends up at Claudlands.	No	No	
0022	Build New		We hve the opportunity to build a world class multipurpose venue. If it only delays getting to the 200% target by 4 years why the heck are we wasting time consulting the public about it, the councillors should have some guts and commit to what will be a great addition to our city. Building new also lets us reconsider the location. Even if it stays where it is there should be a multi level car park build in the vecinity to service the north end of town and the stadium/cricket ground.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0023	Build New		Hamilton's population is growing. It will become easier to pay off a new building. We are already missing out on great cultural events which smaller towns like Dunedin are getting, because we do not have the theatre to play them in. Now is the time to take the bull by the horns and do a stylish, modern new build to take us into the future. The existing Founders is not very inspiring on the outside or inside. We need to improve our credibility as more than a utility city for dairy farming and "more than you'd expect" The Hamilton Gardens have started that and the new Hamilton Theatre can extend it.	No	No	
0024	Refurbish	Yes	As it's crucial we keep the theatre, but there is no need to spend \$50m on a new one. The claudelands events centre is also available to take some productions. I'm not keen on another new build.	No	No	
0025	Build New		-	No	No	
0026	Build New		I feel it is better to build a new purpose built venue as Hamilton is growing so fast and there needs to be a Theatre to be proud off, and refurb will just be a hash job and waste of time.	No	No	
0027	Build New		Hamilton needs a modern cultural theatre that is able to host all sorts of productions. A new theatre purpose built is my preference.	No	No	
0028	Refurbish	No	Have attended numerous events here and I feel it is one of the best Theatres in NZ	No	No	
0029	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0030	Build New		It has to be a rebuild. The current theatre building was considered too small and inadequate years ago. Refurbishment will not resolve this fact. And any new theatre has to still be named "Founder's Theatre". The idea to have it at the south end of Victoria Street is good. The Municipal Pool's space is wasting away (Sadly. Yet another iconic Hamilton site apparently lost. It too is/was a much loved part of my youth and Hamilton's founding) And there has been much talk about the Celebrating Age Centre needing to move. What a perfect location down there – facing the river or even facing Victoria Street. The Meteor across the street, the museum and art gallery just up the road. I see red carpet rolled out to celebs &/or us regular 'Joes' arriving by limo, cab or friend, to the theatre via Victoria St or Grantham. Cocktail lounge up high with big windows overlooking the river for pre-show drinks, nibbles etc. The historic bandstand being used for outdoor performances. Hospitality hub a few metres up the road. Car parking building a few metres up the road. Museum, art – culture abound – Put the rates up – that's life if you want to own property and/or live in a prospering grown-up (growing up) city. Did I hear someone say Melbourne-like? That site is already the perfect aspect to build a fabulous new Founder's Theatre for Hamilton. We, Hamilton - the fastest grown city in NZ - the fourth largest in NZ has to have a theatre. If little wee Blenheim can build a fabulous new theatre, there is something terribly wrong and rotten in Hamilton if we can't. Celebrating Age Centre can go where the old theatre is. Give it to them. Swap. That would be perfect for them too. It's ridiculous where it is. Hard to access. Dumb parking. Put the oldies on the nice flat ground in the middle of the city a matter of metres from the bus station (and I'm not being anti-age, I'm 60 and my mum is 84).	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			Please! New! Go into debt – it will be worth it. Put the rates up – that’s life if you want to own property and/or live in a prospering grown-up (growing up) city. No theatre is not acceptable for Hamilton, for me. I remember the Founder’s Theatre being built and opened and the amazing buzz it created. Hamilton’s very own Founder’s Theatre. Hamilton had matured. I felt so proud, even as a young girl. So, did it mature? Or is it still a cow-town, city wannabe, surrendering to the demands of the lowest ‘common’ denominator? If little wee Blenheim can build a fabulous new theatre, there is something terribly wrong and rotten in Hamilton if we can't. Celebrating Age Centre can go where the old theatre is. Give it to them. Swap. That would be perfect for them too. It's ridiculous where it is. Hard to access. Dumb parking. Put the oldies on the nice flat ground in the middle of the city a matter of metres from the bus station (and I'm not being anti-age, I'm 60 and my mum is 84). Please! New! Go into debt – it will be worth it. No theatre is not acceptable for Hamilton, for me. I remember the Founder’s Theatre being built and opened and the amazing buzz it created. Hamilton’s very own Founder’s Theatre. Hamilton had matured. I felt so proud, even as a young girl. So, did it mature? Or is it still a cow-town, city wannabe, surrendering to the demands of the lowest ‘common’ denominator?			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0031	Build New		A new build gives you more options to make the Theatre as flexible as possible. The more flexible it is the greater variety of performances you can stage which hopefully means better utilisation of the asset. There are lots of examples around the country where councils, government and sports bodies have tried to do half measures when replacing key venues and it ends up not achieving any improvement. As Aucklanders move further south to be able to afford housing the customer base for a good theatre grows.	No	No	
0032	Demolish		Claudlands Event Center would be a good place to host major events	No	No	
0033	Demolish		The costs associated with constructing a new venue or refurbishment is too large. A commute to Auckland or Rotorua is around an hour, so this is short enough to commute for the event. There is also plenty of buses so everyone will be able to make these events.	No	No	
0034	Refurbish	No	I think it makes sense to keep the original theatre and refurbish it as it would be more cost effective and more in keeping with the surrounding buildings.	No	No	
0035	Build New		I'm not a Hamilton City ratepayer so I know I don't have to carry the financial burden that Hamilton City ratepayers will need to, to fund this project. However, the Founders Theatre is an asset for the Waikato region, not just Hamilton. We regularly travel to events at the Founders Theatre to see shows that we would have otherwise missed if they didn't come to Hamilton (we don't travel to Auckland for shows). For many years, we've missed Royal NZ Ballet productions because the stage its too small. If Hamilton wants to be a world class city, it needs a world class theatre, one that the whole community and region can use.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0036	Build New		1)Sell Founders and land together or, if that's not possible, tear down Founders and sell the land. (Parking at Founders sucks and the building feels old and shabby.) Use the sales proceeds exclusively to help pay for the new theatre. 2)Build a new theatre possibly at Claudlands, creating an arts district. There's more space for parking there than at the current location. (Ferrybank would be ok but only if the parking problem can be solved because parking in that area is a nightmare.)	No	No	
0037	Build New		Hamilton needs a theater. I've crewed multiple shows at Founders and the facilities could be improved majorly. There are also a few things that wernt done right when it was first built that can be a bit inconvenient when working there. The theater needs a better layout and this can't be done by just refurbishing it. From experience with working with H3 I know that a new theater would be better situated next to Claudlands. The new theater would need a bigger stage, loading dock and back stage as well as more seating to be able to hold larger events as there are a lot of touring productions like ballet companies that struggle to fit all their set in.	No	No	
0038	Refurbish	No	It's silly to spend an extra 30 m on something that will be he same Want to be able to regain use of founders as soon as possible	No	No	
0039	Refurbish	No	Shorter time and then show can return	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0040	Demolish		It is time the city of Hamilton had Arts facilities that were befitting of a city this size. It is a shocking shame the current theatre has been run down to such an extent. Haw can Gore and Hastings have beautiful and well kept theatres and a city the size of Hamilton does not. Incompetent City Council, appalling financial management and invested interests. I suggest the council stop wasting vast amounts of money on unnecessary 'concrete road furniture' all over the city which does not support safety only damages vehicles and obscures normal road markings(what a multi million dollar scam); and puts money into the Arts and making Hamilton a Liveable and Family Friendly City as promised by endless long term plans but never delivered. The current theatre is in a horrible place where people have to walk past the ugly tacky Firecats and other brothels and dives to go to the theatre. HCC planners need to wake up to what safe and pleasant cities look and feel like and do some serious and evidence and rate payer based consultations..	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0041	Demolish		Claudlands Event Centre can be the alternative It is under utalized Lots of parking at Claudlands Dont spend millions of dollars on referbishing or a new building, we need that money spent on the lake. Our greatest asset in Hamilton, with hundreds of people visiting the lake and it is still polluted .(No swimming and don't let the dog get in the water) If you have got millions of dollars looking for somewhere to go, spend it on purifying the lake.	No	No	
0042	Build New		The current one is quite run down and old fashioned. Would be good to have a new floor plan that is more flexible to attract different shows.	No	No	
0043	Build New		Hamilton needs a decent theatre so that local theatre groups can put on shows. Also if we had a great theatre we can attract great acts for Hamilton and the Waikato region	No	No	
0044	Build New		Having been part of a management team on the refurbishment of a large Shopping Mall I can safely say that there is always too much of the 'unknown' in that approach. All the investigating prior to work being started never reveals the full extent of the total work to be done. Thus the costs nearly always exceeds the original budget. Hamilton and its environs needs a theatre similar in style to the Founders and speaking from experience it will be more cost effective to carry to build new. I and My wife have attended productions in the Founders on several occasions and found it to be so user friendly especially when compared to the Bruce Mason centre in Takapuna. It would be tragic to oblige folk from around the area to have to go to Auckland or even Rotorua	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0045	Demolish		Why not just for giggles actually stop spending money we dont have and opt for free parking and some pretty fountains. Why not think of the possibilities of somehow turning the thertre into a train hub with direct trains to auckland so you go to the ballet and get home safe. Actually have a wonderful evening out, making an effort. Just a thought....	No	No	
0046	Refurbish	No	It would be wrong to demolish it, as it is still a good building. Yes it needs work but so did Claudelands! It is in a great location in the center of the city, and it very well used.	No	No	
0047	Refurbish	Yes	Love the cosy feeling in founders. Always a good seat. Don't like the large unfriendly feeling of Claudelands. Founders could do with a larger stage but really love the atmosphere in founders. The ease of getting to a drink or toilet. Please don't make it to large and feel like a sporting arena.	No	No	
0048	Refurbish	No	1: We still need a theatre in Hamilton central. 2: It is the cheaper option out of building a new one and fixing the existing one.	No	No	
0049	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre capable of hosting touring and local productions. I support building in a new location. Near the river, and closer to the nightlife so you can make a night (or day) of watching your chosen production.	No	No	
0050	Demolish		Hamilton already has many under-utilised theatre resources, plus you have another council asset in the Claudelands Events Centre, which has great acoustics, but is also under-utilised and a major drain on your rate payers. For way less than the cost of the \$20m refurbishment, surely accommodation within the Claudelands Events Centre could made so theatre groups can utilise if for their productions too?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0051	Refurbish	No	Ample parking. Central city location. In green belt. With refurbishment objectives, will offer suitable multi-use venue for next forty years of city growth.	No	No	
0052	Refurbish	Not Answered	It would not serve the community well to close the facility and for us to miss out of travelling productions and shows; Founders has a particular size and facilities that are unmatched by the Region's other spaces. Of the refurbish vs new it then comes down to money; ideally HCC should take a long term view and build new....but as per Claudelands, these sorts of facilities struggle to generate the revenues hoped for -so better to go for the cheaper Refurb option. It's a compromise -but at under half the cost probably still gives us 80% of the functionality of a new build.	No	No	
0053	Build New		Hamilton is a major city in New Zealand, and it is imperative that there is a really good theatre for the city. A city without a major theatre can almost be called 'not a major city'! The city has a large population and for a significant number of those people, access to a good theatre complex is important. Before its forced closure, there were events that couldn't be held in the theatre because of the state of the equipment. That is ridiculous for a major city. The arts are an important part of our cultural life and a theatre to enable this is imperative. If the amount available from Council is capped, other methods of raising funds should be explored, and perhaps Councils in the area that would benefit from the new theatre could be approached for contributions.	No	No	
0054	Refurbish	No	Cost but still maintaining the facility. The time frame for building a new theatre is too long compared to refurbishment.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0055	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is as iconic to Hamilton as the foundation that is located at the end of it's car park. Hamilton needs to keep it's old buildings that have many memories for people. Refurbishment is the most sensible option. Demolishing it will just mean there is more wasted space - because we all know that the council won't let it be used for parking. Hamilton needs a smaller more intimate theatre - something Claudelands can't deliver. Keep Founders Theatre!!	No	No	
0056	Refurbish	No	Although ideally I like the idea of a completely new theatre that can be built from a new (creative and future proofing) set of plans I think the rate payers would prefer a cheaper option hence my vote for refurbishment. I believe we MUST repair or replace the Founders Theatre and get it open again for the musicals, orchestra, events, dramas that it has hosted and that cannot be easily hosted in other venues.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0057	Refurbish	Yes	"FOUNDERS THEATRE IS ICONIC AND OCCUPIES A UNIQUE SPACE IN HAMILTON AND THERE IS ROOM ON THE SITE TO COMPLETELY REBUILD A LARGER AND MORE SIGNIFICANT BUILDING IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE CITY RECOVERS FROM THE V8 DEBT FIASCO. I HAVE ATTENDED REGULARLY, CONCERTS AT THE FOUNDERS THEATRE FOR OVER 45 YEARS AND LIKE MANY PEOPLE IT IS A PART OF WHAT DEFINES LIFE AS A HAMILTONIAN. I WAS BORN IN HAMILTON LESS THAN HALF A MILE FROM FOUNDERS THEATRE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY BEFORE IT WAS CONSTRUCTED. I SIMPLY THINK THAT PEOPLE WHO WANT IT TORN DOWN AND ANOTHER BUILDING SOMEWHERE ELSE ARE DREAMERS, BECAUSE IN THAT PROCESS A PIECE, AN ANCHOR IF YOU LIKE FOR LIFE IN THIS MARVELLOUS CITY WILL BE LOST. ALSO, I DO NOT ACCEPT THAT TO RENOVATE AND STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE FOUNDERS THEATRE WILL COST ANYWHERE NEAR WHAT THE REAL COST OF A NEW BUILDING WILL INEVITABLY END UP COSTING AS COSTS BLOW OUT BEYOND ORIGINAL ESTIMATES. I AM SUSPICIOUS OF ALL THE COSTS BECAUSE I WORRY THAT BUILDING BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE LOBBYING FOR A CHANGE BECAUSE IN THE END THE CITY WILL END UP PAYING \$80 TO \$100 MILLION AS THE CITY RATES POT IS MILKED BY COST OVER RUNS. SO THE SMALLER THE INITIAL AMOUNT THE LESS MILKING THAT WILL OCCUR!!!! I AM TIRED OF THE SELFISH WAY PEOPLE VIEW THE MAINTAINANCE OF PUBLIC AMENITIES IN THIS CITY AS AN EXPENSE THAT THEY DO NOT WANTB TO PAY FOR BUT STILL WANT THE AMENITIES OF A BIG CITY! AND THEN WE ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE ELECTED WHO THEN BUILD A RUGBY STADIUM THAT THEY GUARANTEE BUT WILL NOT PAY FOR AND BY GETTING RE-ELCTED AS MAYOR THEY THEN GET THE CITY TO QUIETLY FINISH THE FUNDING.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			OR IN THE CASE OF MR V8 REDMAN THE MAN IS ALLOWED TO RUN WILD AND DO THINGS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT IN A COURT OF LAW. A CITY HAS A LIFE THAT IS LONGER THAN US ALL AND WE NEED TO ENHANCE OUR AMENITIES AND IMPROVE THEM AND THE AMOUNTS HERE ARE NOT ACTUALLY THAT LARGE WHEN CONSIDERED AGAINST \$28 MILLION WASTED ON THE V8. WHICH I ALSO ATTENDED EVERYONE OF BECAUSE I LIKE MOTOR RACING BUT KNEW THAT THERE WAS A MASSIVE CON GOING DOWN. AT THE TIME OF VOTE ON THE V8 THE PAPERS WERE SENT THE EVERY ADDRESS IN TOWN NOT TO OWNER RATEPAYER. AT THE TIME OF THE VOTE MY WIFE AND I OWNED 7 PROPERTIES IN HAMILTON BUT OUR 6 TENNANTS ALL VOTED FOR THE V8'S AND YET TO MY KNOWLEDGE NONE OF OUR TENANTS COULD EVER AFFORD TO ACTUALLY ATTEND THE RACE OR PRACTICE DAYS. WE AS THE LANDLORD RATEPAYERS WERE LEFT PAYING THE RATES FOR SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY WE VOTED AGAINST. 7 PROPERTIES, 1 AGAINST AND 6 FOR THE V8'S. SO I THINK FOUNDERS IS WAY UP THERE AS A CULTURAL CENTRE, MY DAUGHTER DANCED THERE AT THE END OF EACH OF 12 YEARS IN THE ANNUAL DANCE SCHOOL PRODUCTION. SHE IS NOW A TEACHER AND SHE HAS COACHED HER SCHOOL TO TWO WINS IN STAGE CHALLENGE THERE. MY WIFE HAS ATTENDED END OF YEAR HGHS PRIZE GIVING FOR MANY YEARS THERE. WE RECENTLY ATTENDED THE POLISH JAZZ PIANIST CONCERT IN THE FOYER AND ENJOYED A FABULOUS EVENING OF EXQUISITE MUSIC! MY WIFE AND I HAVE ATTENDED MANY CONCERTS IN THE FOUNDERS THEATRE OVER 45 OD YEARS AND I HOPE THATWE GET ANOTHER 40 YEARS OR SO. FOUNDERS THEATRE IS SIMPLY TOO IMPORTANT A PART OF THE FABRIC OF LIFE IN HAMILTON "			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0058	Demolish		Because Hamilton Debt is \$500.000.000 at present paying \$75.000 a day in interest we can not get into more debt at any cost ,Pay off the debt before you spend any more money ,Sell the Founders Theater to pay off the city DEBT.	No	No	
0059	Refurbish	No	We should restore this Hamilton icon.	No	No	
0060	Refurbish	Yes	It would be good to keep an old building like it around, I have been there multiple times to see live performances and always love going there. I think loosing it would be a huge mistake and massive loss to Hamilton.	No	No	
0061	Build New		Better location to have it in the cbd area, probably in the south end of Victoria st. New design will allow for better theatre, event experience. The museum could also benefit from a like-minded facility in the area. Having a new theatre in that area would help to drive other developers to investigate and consider other large scale developments in the area. For example, it would be great to have a good sized hotel in the same area.	No	No	
0062	Build New		The theatre is currently too far from other parts of the central city to make it a destination. For example a theatre located in the central city would make better use of existing car parking facilities (e.g Knox St) and allow people to dine/drink before and after events. A new theatre would provide the city with a long lasting asset that is not susceptible to earthquake damage. A new theatre is more likely to attract new, interesting and larger shows that we do not currently get in Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0063	Build New		Founders Theatre is at the end of it's design life, even though it is an iconic building, and a 21st century building is needed. Placing a new structure closer to the food and restaurant district and river would be win win for the entire economy of the city.	No	No	
0064	Build New		Having a theatre is key to the cultural identity of our city. But we need to have a theatre large enough to hold large scale productions. Building new gives a clean slate on which to do so. Also the auditorium at Founders was awful, the seating needed to be steeper in order to have better views of the stage from almost everywhere. I have been attending performances at Founders for 25 years and this has been an ongoing gripe.	No	No	
0065	Build New		Building a new performing arts facility would be a better option than refurbishing Founders Theatre to ensure the long-term future of the arts for our younger generations. We have an opportunity to create a state of the art complex which would become an iconic part of our city, attracting an array of performing arts related events and fixtures to Hamilton. Not only would the facility be of value to residents in our city, but to the wider Waikato, which is one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand. It is vitally important we are able to maintain this proposed facility and factor this in to our decision-making.	No	No	
0066	Refurbish	Yes	The only option I don't agree with is closing it down completely	No	No	
0067	Build New		0	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0068	Build New		Because there could be greater flexibility with the design and the architectural design of the building itself could be a feature and drawcard. It would also be a chance to create a new and innovative theatre which could be used as a fleck space for different types of productions and events	No	No	
0069	Demolish		There are better options for a theatre in Hamilton.	No	No	
0070	Build New		While i am not discounting the refurbishment idea, it is a good opportunity to start from scratch with freedom of design. I am thankful that the plans acknowledge the lack of space onstage and in the wings and it is good to see that this would be addressed. More parking also needs to be on the list of improvements. I have no issues with the current site and quite like its central location. I see this as a chance to start over and have a Premium Performing Arts Centre.	No	No	
0071	Refurbish	No	Its an icon of Hamilton and parking isn't as restricted there on that site.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0072	Build New		As a building professional, it is my opinion that, at 54 years of age, the current building has served its purpose, made its money and reached it's full life cycle. I feel that spending \$20m on an upgrade is money wasted, when you could have a new, state of the art facility that would be a drawing point and asset to the city for just over double that. And, when considered on a full life cycle approach as opposed to a quick fix, it will work out more economical. This could be an opportunity to be innovative and put systems in place that will serve to enhance the facility and make the experience for the public a breath of fresh air. For example, the use of alternative energy sources could play a huge part in the whole life cost and be a selling feature as well as a benchmark for any future council rebuilds. This could be an opportunity for council to display their World Class philisophy; showing that they are willing to step out in front and seek new and innovative ideas to create an amazing facility for the city and the wider community.	No	No	
0073	Refurbish	Yes	At the moment The Arts are struggling for places to hold their shows-esp with The Meteor's future being questioned. It should be common practise to do seismic strengthening on public buildings anyway and this alternative is cheaper than building a new one from scratch.	No	No	
0074	Refurbish	No	I think we're too close to Auckland to be able to attract the large touring performances that are already going to Auckland. The cost for them to transfer to new venues is significant and I'd think alternative venues would need to be further away. With better communication about the pros and cons of alternative venues and more thought about how to make Claudelands easily adaptable for some performances, this option seems perfectly viable.	No	No	
0075	Build New		I support the building of a new teatre, however only if it is relocated ton the CBD to be nearer the dining and entertainment precinct.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0076	Refurbish	Yes	I believe that the financial position of the city as a whole is too tenuous to build another facility at this time. We need to pay down more debt before proceeding.	No	No	
0077	Demolish		Waste of money for something that is hardly used especially by the next generation.	No	No	
0078	Build New		Better to invest slightly more now to have a theatre that will last longer	No	No	
0079	Build New		I would like to see some exciting new architecture in Hamilton. This is a great opportunity for some thoughtful design. Double the budget!	No	No	
0080	Build New		The theatre space needs to be better designed to cater for small and large theatre productions. It should also be closer to the city centre... maybe in Garden Place.	No	No	
0081	Demolish		-	No	No	
0082	Build New		I would like to see a space that can accommodate a wider range of groups and activity. I would like to see the theatre used a lot more. The 50 million seems like better future proofing.	No	No	
0083	Build New		Hamilton is a great place for arts and theatre. We could make this city even greater with a better and more updated theatre.	No	No	
0084	Build New		I think the refurbish option is going to cost more than \$20 million, and if we are going to spend that much why not have a new theatre. The refurbished option needs to be capped to \$20 million. I think paying for the new theatre over 20 years is a good thing. If the new theatre is 'future proofed' it will last a lot longer than 20 years probably closer to 50 years. A new theatre with an automated flying system is in my opinion the safest and most future proofed option. Fitting out a new theatre with LED lighting will save on the running costs, by thousands of dollars a year.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0085	Build New		I want Hamilton to be a vibrant city that values all types of cultural experiences. We need a theatre that can attract a variety of performers and while Founders was good, it has become outdated and we need to look to the future.	No	No	
0086	Demolish		We need more green space in the city. The city & ratepayers don't need any more debt.	No	No	
0087	Build New		If Hamilton wants to be considered as a major city in NZ, it needs to invest in purpose built performing arts facilities.	No	No	
0088	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton NZ should have a theatre. However, I think that Founders theatre as it stands has too many limitations. Hamilton needs this new theatre to be a versatile space that can handle the demands of the future while also being able to host other functions such as corporate dinners and Black Box productions. The other concern with the current location of Founders is the parking availability, if you have a theatre that can house 1000 people you need to have adequate parking for them. The most important thing to remember in this decision is that if this new building is the premier theatre in this part of NZ, Hamilton will absolutely start getting much bigger acts from overseas. This will drive not only help sustain the arts in the Waikato, but it will also boost Hamiltons tourism and international image. So please don't vote to close and demolish. Money might be the way people live in a city, but the arts and the community is the reason why people live come to live in a city. Thank you.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0089	Refurbish	Yes	Modernisation of the current building at under half the cost to build new seems the sound economic option, though I'd give preference to the building of a new iconic theatre overlooking the river if Council's contribution is capped at \$30M as per question 6 below	No	No	
0090	Refurbish	Not Answered	See attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 90 Insert – 2 pages long

April 28, '16

Mayor - Talie
Council re Founders

Decision Time - copy to be sent to Times

Dear Mayor + Councilors

It was only This February I
enjoyed a stunning night out at
Our Founders - large audience
- top selast (cello) with the N.Z.S.O.
Sound perfect - and at interval
friendly places inside + out to
see the warm evening trees fountain
what a heavenly venue - Orchestra
enjoyed the fresh vista as well as
half-time

This is a great position
safe footpaths - wheel chair
friendly - no fast noisy traffic
We come to the Theatre for
entertainment and get good safe
parking so we can go in and home
easily. If they want down town
baps offer it is only a short ride
and remember they can get a bar
at the Theatre and this could
be utilized more.

It's a safe spot for large
groups of children who may be
involved in other events too

Anatas Procuta is a brilliant
architect He has got it right
- Rejit Theatre for 25 million

I would remind you

this is indeed a Founders

Theatre paid for by our
ancestors some alive today
with generous donations

Many people do not know
their families paid for it The
book of donors was an
display recently - some paid
personally - workplace -
clubs - Masonic Lodges

Theatres - School In fact
The whole city of Hamilton
got what they wanted a
lovely venue - which
should have been
honoured and kept up to
date.

It must never be
Knocked down

How could you
all Those memories
Count for something

I'm sure Malvina would
be the first to back my
words.

Sincerely. Moore
(Mrs) Julie
who is looking after
the Steinway?

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0091	Build New		0	No	No	
0092	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city which needs to have a venue capable of hosting major productions and being used as a community facility as the current theatre used to be.	No	No	
0093	Refurbish	Yes	Site is good - keep it. Excellent opportunity to address some of the acoustics issues as well as deal with the structure.	No	No	
0094	Demolish		It would be great for Hamilton to be able to host major touring productions.	No	No	
0095	Demolish		-	Yes	No	

Submitter 95 Insert – 1 page long

----- Origin:
 From: Barry E
 Date: 05/08/2016
 To: Jeff Neem
 Cc: Maureen I
 Subject: RE: Information they say is like gold

The public e-mail that Council have sent me asking for feed-back for Founders Theatre. caused a think about the whole problem.

I understand the three alternatives the Council have published. But we are between a rock and a hard place it seems in deciding on what should be done with the Theatre.

For me none of those alternatives make much sense. However there appears to be a forth possibility that just may work. As it will not cost much, \$100 dollars maybe will do the job to get started.

Why not make public Council's intention to call for Expressions of Interest from the public particularly Builders, Developers, Companies and the general public. Offer a full description of the Building's physical condition, suggest finance maybe available to a successful tenderer, and call for Submissions. You may well be surprised about what will turn up.

An added incentive to attract the right deal, could well be a preferred tenderer to tender for a new Theatre to be built elsewhere.

Of all the published suggestions made by the public the one I liked best was to build a new one. Perhaps by the river bank. The present theatre is blessed with plenty of parking nearby, and maybe hard to duplicate.

There are a couple of alternatives to the above I can think of, if the above does not appeal. But the suggestion has the right framework to succeed.

Barry Brunton
JEAN STUART LIMITED

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0096	Demolish		We have lots of other event venues that can accommodate as an alternative such as H3 (Claudelands Event Centre).	No	No	
0097	Refurbish	No	A city the size of Hamilton should have a theatre with the at least the facilities Founders Theatre provides. Therefore closing and demolishing the theatre (without building a replacement) does not seem like a reasonable option. That leaves a choice between refurbishing the theatre or building a new one. Building a new theatre is obviously significantly more costly - not just from a financial perspective, but also from the perspectives of sustainability and the environment (replacing a building necessitates both the manufacturing of new materials and the disposal of used materials in much larger quantities than refurbishment does). According to council estimates, building a new theatre would cost 2.5 times as much financially as refurbishing it (and this excludes costs beyond the building itself). The additional \$30 million does not include the unquantifiable, yet existent, environmental and sustainability costs. There seems to be little to no benefit in rebuilding over refurbishing the building to justify these additional resources. Not to mention rebuilding involves the destruction of a building that "is significant to many Hamiltonians", and while not yet a listed heritage building, undoubtedly forms a part of Hamilton's heritage. The heritage value of this building may not be fully realised in the present, and will surely be more significant to future generations. For all of the reasons above, I believe refurbishment is the best option. My opinion would not change if part of the financial cost of rebuilding was borne by the NZ taxpayer or other charitable donations - there would be much better ways to spend this money, if available, to serve the Hamilton performing arts community than using it to rebuild a theatre that is simply in need of repair.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0098	Refurbish	No	Growing up in Hamilton I have a lot of fond memories of the current theater, would be a shame if it were lost / changed completely.	No	No	
0099	Refurbish	No	It will still make use of the current theatre without costing too much especially ratepayers who may never had a chance to use it or will never have a chance to use it.	No	No	
0100	Build New		In regards to the proposal for Founders Theatre. Thinking of the future of Hamilton I think it would be advantageous to demolish the theatre and create a large underground carpark before then rebuilding the theatre on top. The carpark would then be able to service the theatre, the cricket grounds and the stadium, making access to these venues easier and more attractive. General Feedback Ref: HCC-GF-160507-7UJAM-19UX	No	No	
0101	Build New		Badly designed with lack of wing and rehearsal space. Also too far from town....build near restaurant hub by the river.	No	No	
0102	Build New		In my opinion: the current theatre has outlived its usefulness, looks dated and is no longer functional. It would be better to replace it with a modern, purpose-built theatre, that could also be making an up-to-date, positive statement about our city and our region and be a source of pride for decades to come. This is a great opportunity to think positively, to think big and to invest in our future. The alternatives are to horrible to even contemplate.	No	No	
0103	Build New		This is a chance to build a world class facility in the heart of Hamilton. A place for the culture of the city and the community to grow. Hamilton has always been a cultural centre, be it music, drama or theatre. Revitalise, modernise and out Hamilton on the map for its arts facilities	No	No	
0104	Demolish		Cost is too great for any other option. If there is such a great demand private sector can fund it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0105	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a venue, so the options are either refurbish or build a new one. There is not a significant advantage to the considerable extra cost of building a new building, especially with all the extra consultation required, it is likely to cost more than \$50	No	No	
0106	Build New		When I attended my graduation I had to sit in front of the stage and not join my fellow students because I am a wheelchair user and there was no access behind the stage or in front of it..a new building would allow for ramps or a wheelchair lift to be integrated so ALL people can participate in events whether it is graduation or a theatre production	No	Yes	
0107	Refurbish	Yes	We need the theatre. Claudlands isnt the perfect replacement for these shows. I'd love you to fix the seating in Founders as well as refurb the theatre overall. But the place has history and is a great spot, and excellent theatre., so I don't want to see it go. We go to shows there all the time. Several shows I have tickets to this year have had to move. I'm invested in the future of our theatres.	No	No	
0108	Refurbish	Yes	it is the easiest and will get the building up and running again faster. Many dance studios do a end-of-year dance performance, and founders is one of the only places in Hamilton that is a place that can cater towards dance studios.	No	No	
0109	Refurbish	No	An iconic building where I have attended several great shows over the years (and we are an hour from Hamilton). I feel it should be upgraded as it is the cheapest option and I don't like things being destroyed. It is part of Hamilton's history and I would love it to stay	No	No	
0110	Demolish		With the funds spent on Claudelands anything spent on the Founders Theatre would be unwarranted.	No	No	
0111	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0112	Refurbish	No	The theatre would remain in tge same place and we wouldn't have to search for a site that would be appropriate to build a new theatre. Refurbishment could begin immediately	No	No	
0113	Build New		Having performed in founders theater I have seen first hand how terrible the backstage facilities are and how they pale compared to other venues around the country. While audience members may be happy with what they see, performers most certainly are not. If we're going to spend \$20 mil to make it an adequate venue why not spend \$50 mil to create a state of the art theater which people will want to travel to and will enjoy performing in. With the current floor plan I think that starting from scratch is definently the best option.	No	No	
0114	Demolish		a new theatre built on a new site and the old founders to be demolished	No	No	
0115	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0116	Refurbish	No	it has been there for years I remember it when I was I child it's well known to people as the land was gifted the building should stay as I see n need to build a new building and loctation	No	No	
0117	Build New		Keep up to date. Cater for the growing and aging population	No	No	
0118	Refurbish	No	There are a number of issues fa our ing this options 1 the theater is serving the community quite well and it would be good to know the occupancy rates 2. What is the current cost of running the this facility 3 refurbished it wil, serve the city for another 15 years 4 we can afford another white elephant called NEW theater. 5 there is a significant risk that the cost will be more than 50 million and that is simply not acceptable 6 ratepayers are sick and tired of hearing how facilities are great for parts of the community and funded by rate payers. This has to stop. Our rates are increasing at unacceptable Le levels	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0119	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment is most cost effective. As a city we spent way too much on developing the under utilised Claudelands Event Centre and building a totally new Founders would produce another white elephant. Let's face it, major international acts will only ever want to be promoted in NZ's largest cities - Hamilton will never be large enough to attract these acts. My alternative to refurbishment would be to knock it down and either rejig Claudelands allowing it to be used as a theatre, which is probably impractical and again way too expensive, or throw some funds at Riverlea and Clarence St improving them for community groups, but without making them "RollsRoyce" venues. Utilisation of the theatre is not high - 4 million uses over 54 years equates to about 74,000 a year. However, having a reasonable theatre is a matter of civic pride and an expected amenity in any decent city. At the end of the day we should be able to get a satisfactory venue via refurbishment. Nevertheless, costs will be such that I expect ratepayers will continue to support, effectively subsidise, theatre goers. If the decision is to demolish and construct a totally new facility, I would like to see this done a public/private partnership with the private sector providing some disciplined oversight of both the construction and ongoing operation. The operation of present facilities appear to lack lack any sense of discipline as to maximising utilisation, income generation and cost management.	No	No	
0120	Demolish		There are many other options for Events and Arts,	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0121	Build New		Although on the face of it this appears the most expensive option, I believe it is the cheapest. This is because the refurbishment cost of \$20m will largely be wasted when the current building inevitably reaches the end of its useful life in the future. The cost of a rebuild in, say 15 years' time will likely be far higher than £50m. It's also true, I think, that many great concerts and big names miss out Hamilton because the facilities for them to stage their shows are woefully inadequate now. There is also a large health & safety issue here - all public buildings should be earthquake-resistant to a very high standard and all backstage equipment should be strong and safe for the staff and performers to use.	No	No	
0122	Refurbish	No	What other realistic choice is there? You have to fix it, or are we to be the only large city in NZ without a proper performing arts theater? It's there now, so let's take this opportunity to save it. A refurbishment will enable what's wrong to be fixed and allow for improvements to be made, and hopefully attract a greater variety of artists so increasing audience attendance. I think to refurbish would be a good middle-ground approach too, as a complete rebuild would be too expensive, more likely \$60 million plus, and if it's just demolished then it would be another 'fail' in a fading, empty city centre.	No	No	
0123	Build New		Because it would give a new lease of life to Hamilton without having to go to Auckland better for people living in the Waikato area	No	No	
0124	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0125	Build New		Arts infrastructure has been poorly neglected and not prioritised in Hamilton for too long. This is an opportunity to build something that will last for many more generations and have a big impact on the liveability of the region. If we have to spend \$20m to restore an old building, then that is a tipping point. I would prefer to see \$50m+ spent on a new building in a better position - on the river - and make it a genuine destination building.	No	No	
0126	Refurbish	No	Where Foudners currently stands is a perfect, central place for most Hamiltonians. The theatre holds so much history for Hamilton and is iconic in every right. By refurbishing it, Hamilton is able to retain one of its dwindling number of theatres and I know that a Founders refurbishment had already been discussed in the past. It is also the cheaper option (as we know that the council doesn't like to put all that much money towards Hamilton art culture), without it being lost. Should we lose it, we lose the largest theatre we have available, therefore also losing our touring groups.	No	No	
0127	Build New		We need to look to the future and ensure that this new facility is able to host and develop the growth of arts in Hamilton and the Waikato. But this will only work if the theatre is maintained properly and regularly. We don't want the theatre to come to the same conclusion in 50 years time.	No	No	
0128	Build New		Future proofing, no constraints on trying to make something work within the existing footprint of Founders Theatre. The ability to build in a location that could have better flow on effects for the local economy ie south end of victoria street, dinner and a show and then further consumption in town after the show.	No	No	
0129	Build New		There is the need for a purpose built , modern facility that can ensure national and international performances can be enjoyed by audiences .	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0130	Build New		The cost of refurbishment will be more than \$20 million so it makes more sense to start from scratch and build something that is state of the art and helps us make a statement about our creative sector. The CBD is in great need of further development and the river plan has a lot of potential so a new theatre near the river will help both these elements thrive.	No	No	
0131	Refurbish	Yes	I have performed at founders many times. Great theatre just needs upgrading	No	No	
0132	Refurbish	Yes	It is most important that the arts continue to flourish and be encouraged in Hamilton with a theatre capable of hosting theatre, ballet, opera and those concerts or entertainments that require a venue of this type. Refurbishment would mean that these types of events will come to Hamilton and not pass the city by, due to the fact that there is no suitable venue. Refurbishment is the quickest and least expensive option in the long run, allowing the Founders Theatre to continue in an upgraded and modern form functioning well into the future.	No	No	
0133	Build New		Mistakes made in the initial build of Founders can be fixed from the ground up.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0134	Demolish		Over \$60m has been spent on Claudlands in recent years at a time that investment on our infrastructure (especially water) was neglected and now we are playing catchup. This city should not fund another large project only to see Claudlands being underutilised and a massive liability for the city's ratepayers. Claudlands situation would become worse if Founders is kept open or rebuilt because events will be diverted there instead. It's just plain common sense. Emphasis should be to make sure Claudlands is better utilised even if that means spending some money in order for it to accommodate a wider range of shows/events. Chris Precious Rototuna	No	No	
0135	Build New		I've worked backstage at Founder's and I believe that the backstage area is not only inadequate but dangerous. I'm also a regular attendee at concerts and performances, and the acoustics are not great compared with other theatres in New Zealand. I think that if Hamilton wants to see itself as the fourth largest city in New Zealand, it needs to pay attention to the cultural life of the citizens.	No	No	
0136	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs a proper functioning theatre that can house touring acts and has adequate seating. Claudlands is not a theatre and can't be repurposed as one. While I would like to see a complete purpose built facility I don't believe its financial feasible in the councils current situation.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0137	Demolish		The theatre will be closed for several years any way. If a new one is to be built, the existing one will need to be demolished. This absence will give us the opportunity to see how necessary a theatre of this type is to Hamilton. If there is a burning demand for one then funds will be raised and a future Council will decide to build one that is fit for purpose. As a pensioner who can rarely afford this type of entertainment I'm keen to see that our Rates aren't wasted on a rushed decision.	No	No	
0138	Build New		We have an opportunity as a city to be brave and forward thinking in planning for the future of the creative sector. Founders Theatre in its current location and configuration does not service either the arts or wider community. We need a purpose built theatre closer to the CBD which allows the performing arts and hospitality sectors to work more closely together.	No	No	
0139	Build New		We feel that at 54 years old it would be better to demolish and rebuild otherwise there would be upgrades required to be done probably every year.	No	No	
0140	Refurbish	No	Less expense and takes less time to complete.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0141	Build New		I think Hamilton definitely needs a performing arts theatre as Claudelands is too big and is more on the scale to cater for large shows and sports events etc. Obviously with Founders Theatre temporarily closed it leaves a gap in the market to ensure that Hamilton can provide a suitable venue. Even though Founders Theatre is very much part of the Hamilton scene and many memories made within the theatre stage, the digital age is evident in other venues therefore Hamilton does need to take this into consideration. I think to get the right fit for the performing arts is to make sure that we spend the money now to build a state of the art performing theatre rather than fix the problems on the current theatre... will avoid having other issues arise in years to come and the cost exceeds or doubles what we have already spent to repair. Overall the spend of a new theatre would make more sense, ensuring that all facilities are at a top end scale which will help to entice more productions, shows and entertainers to want to come to Hamilton to perform.	No	No	
0142	Refurbish	No	The refurbishment plan is the best option to give our city the performance venue we need. The Founders only needs to be repaired and upgraded., not demolished!!! The refurbishment plan will achieve all that is necessary.	No	No	
0143	Build New		To close down the theatre and leave hamilton with no real theatre apart from claudelands would have a big impact on hamiltons arts side, most of Hamiltons dance studios are too big to preform in any of the others and claudelands is not equipped for dance studios. I think because of this the best option would be to rebuild or re furbish founders, rebuilding would be better but either would be the best options.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0144	Refurbish	No	I think the Founders theatre is a good building that has not had any money spent on it for such a long time. If it had been maintained over the years it would not have got into the state it is in now. What is 20 Million compared with demolishing and building another theatre. It is part of our history and I remember it being built. It should have had an over hall Years ago Just like the bypass was supposed to have been built 30 years ago. Instead of building things to keep up with Auckland maintain what we have and improve on it.	No	No	
0145	Build New		I have performed at the theater every year since I was 2, I am now 15 !! Its so strange to think it isn't open anymore it hasn't sunk in.	No	Yes	
0146	Build New		Founders holds a special place in my heart and it would be lovely even if it was refurbished but i think that a new build is a fantastic idea.. Our Beautiful Claudelands Arena was awarded the Supreme venue of year and it has a great reputation for being a fantastic commercial venue - it would be great to make a mark with a fantastic community venue as well and really be known as a city that can offer it all!. Within the theatre it would be fabulous to have a couple of big rehearsal studios that can be used by touring productions or be hired out to community groups. Building from scratch gives us a chance to make something special, a well thought out space that everyone can really benefit from. Invest in the arts, Hamilton will be better for it	No	No	
0147	Refurbish	Yes	Retaining Founders Theatre as a performance space vital to ensuring arts and events tour to Hamilton on a regular basis	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0148	Build New		The Founders is an integral part of Hamilton. I have danced there for all my life, and is so extremely important not just to me, but many other people in Hamilton. It needs to be safe, but also retained. It also provides an integral service in allowing visiting companies to perform there eg. Royal NZ Ballet, NZSO.	No	No	
0149	Refurbish	No	Time frame and cost	No	No	
0150	Build New		Get on with the job and create a new better theatre so that bigger and better shows can be housed. Founders should never have got to the stage it is at now. The council have been burying their heads in the sand and not keeping up with building code and maintenance requirements. Julie Hardaker has done nothing but run the city into the ground. Spend money on the theatre not the river.	No	No	
0151	Build New		Founders theatre would be able to be used for alot longer if it gets completely rebuilt other than if they just fixed it. Also closing the theater would cause performances such as the ones im in will have to find a venue as big as founders theatre to perform in every year.	No	No	
0152	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0153	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs a theatre to cater or the event mentioned in the consultation document. The building is in a good location, close enough to the CBD for 'lunch/dinner' before or after events, but you are still able to find a decent car park. My second prefered option would be to build new.	No	No	
0154	Demolish		I don't believe the budgeted figures for any of the options are accurate.	No	No	
0155	Build New		Why wouldn't we take this opportunity to future proof our City's premiere venue. Spending only \$20-\$30 million on a refurbishment seems a waste of money and we should be looking to spending twice that on new venue in the City centre not the outskirts.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0156	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city and I'd prefer that the council spend more money now on a new facility, doing the job once and doing it properly. It would be easier to future-proof a new facility than doing a patch-up job on the current theatre. It's also an opportunity to find a way to incorporate a new theatre with the river and the development plans around that. As a choir singer who has performed at Founders, the acoustics are hopeless and I am not confident that a refurbishment would improve the acoustics to a professional standard. There was also no mention with the refurbishment that the seating would be upgraded, which I think is a necessity. Therefore my preferred option is a new build.	No	No	
0157	Build New		A city that is the size and importance of Hamilton must be able to provide state of the art cultural facilities for the use and enjoyment of its citizens now and into the future.it is also vital to bring in people from other areas to enjoy and spend money in our city. I see no point in papering over the cracks of this theatre unless we can guarantee a theatre that will function like new and be adequate in size and standard to ensure that we are able to host international acts and important NZ touring companies. A built from scratch well planned new facility seems to me to be a better option long term than working within the constraints of the old one to only get a compliant version of what we already have. Having it built in the central city would be a much better location overall also as patrons would have much easier access to the restaurants, bars etc= more money spent in Hamilton.	No	No	
0158	Build New		we must have a premiere venue that can attract performances to Hamilton. The Founders as it is will quickly be too small or inadequate to meet the demands of growth in the city. Building new gives the opportunity to consider location, proximity and what else may be well co located	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0159	Demolish		I believe the Hamilton city council should stick to core services. Any arts programs should be funded directly by user and patrons of the event or by private donation and fundraising. Hamilton ratepayers should not be subsidising those that want to view theater performances. The land, which is in a prime location, should be sold and the proceeds used to pay down debt.	No	No	
0160	Build New		I was supposed to be in Mary Poppins, that got cancelled, and I believe that Hamilton cannot go without a theatre like Founders. The entire theatre needs a really good overhaul so it makes sense to demolish the old one and build a bigger and better one that can last for another 70+ years.	No	No	
0161	Build New		I think it is important for Hamilton to maintain a high profile and modern facility to cater to the requirements of performing arts within Hamilton and to allow an increase in touring productions to add Hamilton to their destination. Many shows would love to come to Hamilton but the current founders theatre was unsuitable for them due to size and functionality of the current facility. Myself and my family would attend more shows if they were held in hamilton as currently we have to factor travel to auckland into the cost of attending shows. It is important for hamilton to be progressive and not do a 'half-arsed' job. It needs to be done right and will benefit the whole community by increasing performing arts in the waikato.	No	No	
0162	Build New		It would seem a waste just to refurbish when a new build can push the theatre into the future as it can contain better facilities for larger shows etc	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0163	Demolish		I think we could use the space to make a family fun and enjoyment park, which includes all sorts of points of interests. It has to be amazing enough to entice a whole lot of Aucklanders to Hamilton for a family day out. To this end we could get them down by train. A lot more businesses would profit that way then having a new theatre. We have enough brilliant venues for productions and shows, eg Claudelands Showgrounds, University Arts and Performance Centre, The Meteor, Clarence St, Riverlea and probably others. I think it's also sad that Rotorua has an Agrodome. That sort of thing really has to be in New Zealand's ultimate farming capital, called Hamilton. Apart from a statue we have nothing that denotes Hamilton being a farming town. Hell, there are more horse drawn carriages in Vienna. And while I am at it, Hamilton is the birthplace of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. There needs to be an annual event. Now you have ideas to work with. Post Scriptum: The Rolling Stones would probably never come to Hamilton anyway, so scrap the idea of a big new theatre	No	No	
0164	Demolish		The Claudelands Event Centre can manage the theatre events & maybe do a little better as a result. This is easy to get to and has lots of parking.	No	No	
0165	Refurbish	No	It will produce an adequate facility at a reasonable cost and without burdening the H.C.C. ratepayers. Consideration should be given to contributions from Waipa and Waikato ratepayers	No	No	
0166	Build New		So we can go to the Ballet here instead of having to go to Auckland!!	No	No	
0167	Refurbish	Yes	I don't mind what is done, so long as we retain a theatre for the ballets.	No	No	
0168	Refurbish	No	I think it's a part of Hamiltons culture and identity and it is a great theatre as it is. I don't think there is need for a new theatre	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0169	Build New		Hamilton is growing larger every year and will need bigger, brighter, better facilities as it moves forward. Unfortunately it already has a reputation overseas of being a boring city, and it is possibly a little justified...to not take this opportunity of bringing something like a brand new Theatre into the city would be a huge mistake. The concerts and Shows would be a fabulous addition to Hamiltons night life.	No	No	
0170	Build New		Let's have a world-class venue, and have it built right first time.	No	No	
0171	Demolish		We have large centers such as Claudelands that are underutilized. Save some money and consolidatate.	No	No	
0172	Refurbish	Yes	I like going to the events Founders can host, but would like to balance that with paying off our debt	No	No	
0173	Demolish		-	No	No	
0174	Demolish		The venue is an eyesore from the outside. The is no comparable venue because the venue is a dinosaur with little, or no, heritage value. The interior, including stage, lighting, rigging, etc. is clearly out-of-date; many touring shows are likely to already be bypassing Hamilton for alternative centres. The Claudelands Events Centre, clearly a more modern facility, may be better-utilised without the Founders Theatre (the two venues appear to be cannabalising one another's opportunity to hold events). This public space would be much better utilised as an inner-city green space or park. Can you quantify the statement 'significant to many Hamiltonians' with fact-based, scientific market research? What does 'many' mean? 50 people; 10,000 people; 1%; 35%; 80%?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0175	Build New		As a major city in New Zealand Hamilton needs a dedicated facility that is capable of staging a wide range of shows etc. It is also Hamilton's Town Hall and as such needs to be able to be used for all the official ceremonies the City and its organisations hold. The City appears to have no issue with having 2 dedicated sports facilities within sight of each other, it needs to cater for the cultural needs of its residents and those from surrounding areas.	No	No	
0176	Build New		An magnificent asset for Hamilton	No	No	
0177	Refurbish	No	- Reasonable cost compared to new - better option for taxpayers (not all of whom use the theatre) - Quicker time frame for resuming performances - Will retain existing theatre's history - Theatre already in good location and all buildings need refurb	No	No	
0178	Build New		Hamilton needs an iconic new theater. The new theater should be a public private partnership to cover the costs. It should also be developed to allow for multiple uses so it will give maximum bang for our buck.	No	No	
0179	Build New		-	No	No	
0180	Build New		For a long time Founders has been an embarrassment, so this is the perfect opportunity to build an iconic performance space that Hamilton and the Waikato can be proud of. There is a risk with refurbishment that it'll be 'half-assed' and there is nothing special about the current building to warrant keeping it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0181	Build New		For a start you can sell the land that the existing theatre is on and make a few million. Add an appropriate building to Claudelands as there is already the site, parking space and some buildings which may be able to be adapted or another built attached. This is utilising your assets and not building extra ones. We must consider multi use facilities that can be used for theatres, and exhibition halls, and possibly more, rather than having several buildings all consuming rates, wages and sitting idle too often. Better utilisation is the key	No	No	
0182	Refurbish	Yes	I believe either option of new or refurbished makes sense. Hamilton needs this theatre. Please do not take this away from us. I have chosen refurbishment as my first option because of the significant price difference. I believe most people would agree, Hamilton does need a state of the art theatre we just want a theatre.	No	No	
0183	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city - the fastest growing in NZ. It is our 4th largest city. We need to embrace this fact and cater for the growing population. Hamilton is also the heart of the Waikato so already an audience from outside its boundary. Arts and culture is vital to the well being of the city and its citizen. We currently have 3 smaller theatres pulling their weight and proving that there is a demand for cultural entertainment of all diversities. We have already lost the APO and the RNZ ballet. We could lose the NZSO. Tragic! it means more of us will continue to travel to Auckland for these and other visiting tours, helping their economy instead of ours. The current facility if refurbished will still not fulfil these needs. It has done its time.	No	No	
0184	Build New		Build for the future don't refurbish the past.	No	No	
0185	Build New		I like the idea of a new theatre being capable of hosting major touring productions.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0186	Refurbish	No	Hamilton just won't be the same without the Founders Theatre. It is part of Hamilton's identity. I agree that there is no comparable venue. Where are all the dance schools going to hold their annual shows?	No	No	
0187	Refurbish	Yes	Keeping all the good bits!	No	No	
0188	Demolish		-	No	No	
0189	Build New		Forget the river bank - tipu whenua are correct. If you have to do the theatre go the whole hog and make sure it has everything you need - especially parking, without destroying the fountains. And don't allow a seating fiasco like the structure next door.	No	No	
0190	Build New		It seems short sighted to sink \$20m into a building that is already dated, and will only need further improvements in the future, and which is no where close to 'state of the art' any more. It should be rebuilt, and more thought put into how it can be utilised more, ie. not putting it out of the price range of community groups.	No	No	
0191	Demolish		The cost to refurbish or rebuild is too high. Rates have increased way too much over the last decade to the point where they cause me and my family great angst when they are due to be paid. I cannot think of what major "events" Founders Theatre has hosted over the last decade. Hamilton does not attract major acts mainly because of its size and not because of the venues. If an act is to come to Hamilton there is the Claudlands venue and the University on a smaller scale. The cost to each rate payer is way too high for what use the city gets out of it. The Council spends too much money on big ticket items that should be funded by those persons who use them. If the arts community want a theatre they can build one and fund it. Ditch Founders Theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0192	Build New		A large civic theatre is a key piece of city infrastructure, so demolishing and not replacing is not a viable option. Building new gives us the opportunity to develop something that can accommodate the requirements of local and touring performance groups now and into the future, and if sited appropriately would make a significant contribution to the revitalisation of the central city.	No	No	
0193	Demolish		We can utilise the space that the Claudelands arena currently provides. Parking at the Founders always was a mission. Roll it and either build something else there or make it a space for the public.	No	No	
0194	Refurbish	No	It seems the most logical option to retain and upgrade a much loved and necessary part of Hamilton city and the Waikato region at large. The replace option is too over the top and to demolish would be unthinkable.	No	No	
0195	Build New		We need a decent venue	No	No	
0196	Build New		Better opportunities to build state of the art. If we really can't afford this, renovate the existing building.	No	No	
0197	Build New		Hamilton is landlocked and needs an arts centre for the city to attract visitors and care for its residents. Claudelands Events Centre has shocking acoustics	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0198	Build New		Hamilton is a vibrant city and needs a theatre of quality and practicality such as being able to accommodate large productions. The Founders Theatre has served the city well but it is now limited in size and facilities and if the right theatre is provided it will attract overseas, and local, productions and this in turn will inspire people to get out and attend functions. This also includes people from outlying towns, even Aucklanders, to travel to Hamilton for a memorable quality entertaining visit. Hamilton's accommodation facilities would benefit, people would stay over and businesses would benefit, and a complex that will attract visitors, and locals, to the city and put Hamilton on the map as a great entertainment and shopping place to visit. It would also benefit Hamilton's other attractions as people stay over. The new theatre needs to be built to the appropriate proportions and ample parking facilities and this problem at many venues can spoil a most enjoyable social experience.	No	No	
0199	Build New		While the theatre is nice inside, the outside is less than inspiring and does not reflect an "arty" image.	No	No	
0200	Refurbish	No	Seems the most cost and time effective for the most benefit.	No	No	
0201	Refurbish	No	This is my preferred option. When the theatre was first opened my recollection is that it was completed debt free. It would be a great shame to demolish it and have to start again from scratch and burden the ratepayers again, even though your literature states that there would no extra rates increase to cover it. I have yet to be convinced that an increase would not be inevitable.	No	No	
0202	Build New		because the current floor plan is already limiting, so any refurbishment is just a plaster and will not adequately address it. We might as well build something beautiful that we can all be proud of. Would we even have this discussion if our rugby stadium was closed down? Lets give Hamilton and the arts something to be proud of.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0203	Refurbish	Yes	Historically part of Hamilton. I like Ralph Hotere's art piece and the building. We already have a modern representation with Claudeland centre.	No	No	
0204	Refurbish	Yes	Community groups and Council events does not take place in founders Theatre because the hire charges are high. Even the Mayor had told me it is very expensive that is why citizenship ceremonies were shifted to Council reception lounge. Reason one of the previous Mayor signed contract with Montana catering for unknown reason and their catering is very very expensive. Refurbishment: larger stage required, back-of-house facilities required. Existing seats are good not necessary to replace them. Improved acoustics is required, Better entrance larger foyer and toilets required. Who on earth wants to have a bar to have drinks, council keeps giving permits to open liquor shops at each and every street corner, why we need another bar for alcoholics to cause damages to the building. \$20 million cost for refurbishment can be brought down a lot by calling for tender and including communities in the tender selection board. Do not give to contractors who bring in secondhand stage from Singapore.	No	No	
0205	Demolish		The claudelands event centre is costing taxpayers already. the events centre is already out dated as far the sound system goes due to cost cutting. the same will happen with any solution other than demolition of the founders theatre. it was obsolete 20 years ago.	No	No	
0206	Refurbish	No	Reasonable cost to ratepayers and shorter time frame to reinstate an arts venue in the city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0207	Build New		This theatre is an important part of our city. Particular groups need a venue like this, eg musical theatre groups, dance groups orchestras etc. they will not perform at another venue, they will just not come to Hamilton.	No	No	
0208	Refurbish	Yes	On cost only. If more money is to be spent then something would have to be added (such as more seating) that the refurbished building cant give.	No	No	
0209	Build New		Because, by building new you get greater flexibility and a totally new structure, which overall should last a lot longer than a refurbished one with reduced maintenance costs. Hence its a better option to look at the bigger picture i.e. an immediate higher cost for a longer term gain. This city also needs to increase its offering of the arts to a growing population.	No	No	
0210	Build New		-	No	No	
0211	Build New		This is an opportunity to expand hamiltons cultural scene to new heights, and we should make the most of it. We need a performance venue, so why not build one that caters to all our best interests?	No	No	
0212	Refurbish	Yes	Because it would be the option that would take the least time it is an achievable budget the position is great	No	No	
0213	Refurbish	No	A new theatre would be fantastic as it would give most opportunities for performances. Refurbishment would be good too as it would be faster than a new theatre. I think it would be mad to close and demolish. Hamilton is hard-pressed when it comes to its support for the Arts. Do something. It is pathetic what monies were wasted on the V8..	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0214	Demolish		-	No	No	
0215	Refurbish	Yes	While a totally new theatre is ideal for creative flexibility and production scale, Hamilton City's finances and debt level are not yet at a level that justifies or permits this scale of expenditure. Have you adequately considered the remnant life of the existing building elements and systems that haven't been included in the refurbishment scope? Regardless of the option you choose, are you going to commit to PROPER lifecycle management of the refurbished assets? or are you going to continue to let politics and penny-pinching destroy the value of Hamilton's infrastructure assets? As a side-issue, the proposal to build a new theatre in the centre of the CBD makes little sense when parking in the CBD is already a premium and already inhibits greater up-take of CBD opportunities. The existing site could be adequately served by Hamilton's excellent bus network, augmented by rerouting of the central city shuttle bus past the theatre (either permanently, or only in afternoons/evenings of public productions), to get people t/from bars and other entertainment options. The only justification for a brand new theatre of the \$50m envisaged would be if it had a substantially larger seating capacity than the existing theatre. If you do end up with a new theatre build, have you thought about a new theatre location closer to (ideally right next to or across the road from) the Claudelands Events Centre? That would make hugely more sense than in the CBD, and could significantly leverage the usefulness of both facilities for national and international-scale conferences.	No	No	

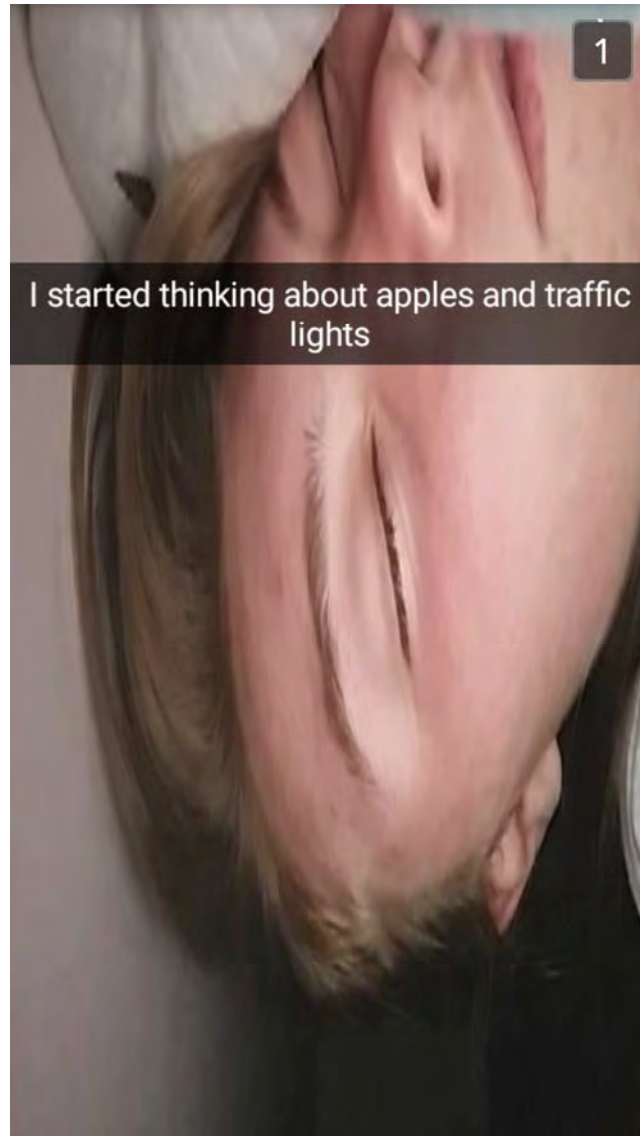
Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0216	Demolish		As it currently stands, the theatre has been losing its visitor numbers year upon year. By clearing the site, and reinvesting in our current assets (Such as Clearance St theatre and Claudelands Events Center) there will still be funds in the budget to look at investing in a rail network to run between Auckland/Hamilton. If a train ran from Auckland to Hamilton, there will be much more Aucklanders who could jump on the train and come into Hamilton for events bringing more \$\$ into our city. Linking the likes of Claudelands, Waikato stadium, the CBD and the Base with a rail network would be extremely beneficial to punters attending the events, commuters to/from Auckland and will help the general movement of people in and out of the city when a large scale event is taking place. Claudelands is a fantastic venue, link it with the CBD via rail and link the CBD with Auckland via rail. It just makes sense.	No	No	
0217	Refurbish	Yes	We need a Theater to cater for local and international acts. We have never had the full Royal New Zealand Ballet come to Hamilton due to stage and back stage size. It's about time that changed. We miss out on so many amazing arts due to the facilities not been up to scratch. It's sad that the younger generation don't get to see and experience these things in there back yard.	No	No	
0218	Build New		Hamilton is NZ's 4th largest city and we must have a venue for full-scale productions, the NZ Ballet and so forth. By building new we can consider alternative locations, and building to suit future needs makes more sense, than investing a lot of money to still end up with a building that doesn't do all we will need in the next few years.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0219	Build New		It needs updating anyway, starting to look old. At only just over twice the cost of refurbishing might as well build a new one. I do think that it needs to be at the current site - the location of the Founders Theatre is great.	No	No	
0220	Refurbish	Yes	The cost is far more reasonable. The loss of an events venue such as this would negatively impact the region both economically, socially and culturally.	No	No	
0221	Build New		I think a new build would be the best as u can start a fresh and build everything in it that would take the founders into the future for Hamilton for years to come.	No	No	
0222	Build New		-	No	No	
0223	Build New		Need a modern theatre in a city the size of Hamilton. Will future proof the arts in Hamilton.	No	No	
0224	Demolish		Cost To Rebuild. To Much Debt	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0225	Build New		We have international guests performing in Hamilton and I think that providing a world class venue is imperative if want to attract more performers to the area. We have the opportunity to really make a world class statement that could even draw in tourists if there were the right aesthetics taken into account. "dancing fountains", etc. Why settle for just refurbishment if you can do something the city and it's people can be proud of. We NEED a world class venue! How cool would it be for performers to leave and when rebooking their next trip, say "yes Hamilton, NZ, great venue, happy to return there", make an impact! I also think car parking should be taken into consideration when building the theatre as at the moment it's pathetic. I take my mother-in-law to (80's) the theatre quite often so if we have gone to the Founders theatre we have to get there very early so she doesn't have too far to walk at her age. It's embarrassing really. Car parking could also be used throughout the year for other nearby sporting events (or even daily workers) to maximise return for the theatre.	No	No	
0226	Demolish		Looking at the business model that requires spending vast amounts of money to cater for a declining market (4% year on year decline), seems preposterous.	No	No	
0227	Demolish		the city has enough venues and should utilise them.....more travelling shows only means the entertainment dollar isnt doing anything to help local artists and for those who carp...the let them adapt their entertainments to the venues that currently exist	No	No	
0228	Build New		Hamilton has an opportunity available to obtain a "state of the art" theatre to replace Founders, given that the cost of refurbishment would be high. Comparably, the difference in the cost between a new build and refurbishments is little compared to the major advantages involved in a new build theatre, and the flexibility in options afforded.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0229	Build New		Because it'll be worth it	Yes	No	

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Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0230	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0231	Build New		A growing city the size of Hamilton should not be without such a key facility	No	No	
0232	Refurbish	Yes	I have moved back to Hamilton after many years away. Was queuing for the 10 tenors concert later in the year. Now I will have to go back to Auckland very disappointed that the cities major live event theatre is now closed.	No	No	
0233	Build New		Some shows like some of the ballet bypass Hamilton, because we don't have facilities good enough or big enough to host them. Napier or New Plymouth seem to get those shows, why not us? Improve Founders Theatre as soon as possible.	No	No	
0234	Build New		Larger stage. Encourage better productions to come to hamilton.	No	No	
0235	Build New		Because the space of the Current Founders theatre does not allow for the larger scale performances from NZSO, NZBallet and Large Musical Theatre sets. If you start refurbishing you will find loads of other problems and the cost will escalate quickly. It is better to build something that will future proof us for the next 50 years.	No	No	
0236	Refurbish	No	Not going to cost as much a new one. Scraping is not a good idea because there is nothing. Peopel don't want more on there rates bill	No	No	
0237	Demolish		The council has too bigger debts to spend tens of millions of dollars on new projects. Wait to the debt is reduced significantly.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0238	Build New		Hamilton is a city it needs a decent large purpose built theatre. City's need theatre, arts, ballet, musicals and opera etc in a venue that's the correct size and built to host such wonderful events. Yes we have other theatres in Hamilton, but none of them have the ability to put on large theatrical events and NO Claudlands is an arena it cannot host the ballet etc HAMILTON NEEDS A PROPER PURPOSE BUILT LARGE THEATRE A city with no theatre has no soul	No	No	
0239	Refurbish	Not Answered	Hamilton needs the Founders and to me this is the most sensible option.	No	No	
0240	Build New		A new theatre would be exactly that, well planned with the most up to date features and not just changes here and there, enlarging this room or that one. I would like to suggest when planning the entrance way there is allowance made for a check in coat/umbrella area. That is one area which is badly lacking and on a wet night it is most annoying to have to manage wet umbrellas/coats, and also on cold nights you don't always need to wear a coat or jacket in the actual theatre so to have a check in area would be most practical. A new theatre could possibly mean more parking, maybe underground for at least 100 cars and during the day that space could be used for general public at a cost. Which ever option is chosen it must NOT be OPTION 3 as Hamilton needs a theatre.	No	No	
0241	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a theatre like the Founders, but building new is just too expensive for ratepayers	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0242	Refurbish	Not Answered	More cost effective and still retain a specialist functioning theatre I would also have considered investing the \$\$ at Claudlands with regard to making a space there acoustically better, specialist stage for theatre shows with appropriate seating, i.e. flat seating in present auditorium at front not good at present.	No	No	
0243	Refurbish	Yes	I would be happy with either refurbishment or build new but have chosen refurbish because I assume this would be a faster option so we can have our theatre back quicker.	No	No	
0244	Build New		Because their requirements are not the same a performing arts centre needs to have different spaces for different types of performance. The current theatre does not fulfil this remit, and the Gallagher centre at the University (which does) is nowhere near big enough. A large city like Hamilton, which is ever expanding, needs and deserves a purpose built performing arts centre that will attract both national and international artists and which can accommodate the size of audience they will command. Refurbishment will not achieve this result - it will only postpone it and would therefore be a waste of money. Demolition and closure would leave the city distinctly disadvantaged, and if this discussion were about the rugby stadium it would not even be on the list of options.	No	No	
0245	Refurbish	No	If the building can be made safe and effective for \$30 million less than rebuilding the answer is obvious. Why load the taxpayer with more debt when it is avoidable?	No	No	
0246	Build New		Founders Theatre is a big part of the Hamilton Arts culture that we can't lose. But building a new theatre would mean that we would have more opportunities for live performances.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0247	Build New		Refurb seems good in the short term however Hamilton's a rapidly growing city that deserves a top class venue for hosting events, not a 'make do and mend'. The current building has sentimental value but it's no supermodel.	No	No	
0248	Refurbish	No	Its the most economical option.	No	No	
0249	Refurbish	No	Current location is the best position. Why spend twice as much money on a new building which is not going give us any real differences.	No	No	
0250	Demolish		Hamilton has plenty of alternative venues for key events (ie/ Claudelands for graduations etc, Clarence St & Riverlea theatre for smaller theatrical productions), and the cost to refurbish or build new should be invested elsewhere. We don't currently get the big productions anyway, we can't compete with Auckland, and it's not far to go to Auckland for a big show. I don't think a refurbishment or rebuild will provide significant community or economic benefits to justify the investment.	No	No	
0251	Build New		It would be great to be able to see touring productions and to have all the facilities we need to produce great shows as even with the theatre in working condition we were limited in what we could do. I would however be happy with refurbishing the old theatre if building a new one wasn't an option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0252	Build New		Hamilton needs a venue that can incorporate all local and overseas shows. People are prepared to travel to Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington to view overseas shows, which means that Hamilton misses out on all the income that these shows generate. However, there is no sense in building a new venue without serious consideration to parking. I have attended shows at Claudelands and find that this venue is sorely lacking in adequate seating, the steps are steep, lacking descent hand/safety rails, the acoustics are appalling, but the access and parking is great. To refurbish the existing building with the problems the Founders has is a absolute criminal waste of rate payers money. Build new to put Hamilton on the map. Build new to illustrate what Hamilton has to offer. Build new to enhance our city. Build new to encourage the world to come to Hamilton. Build a new,bigger, brighter Founders Theatre. Build new.	No	No	
0253	Refurbish	No	What is there is good, good bones just needs upgrading. Less money then a total re-do	No	No	
0254	Refurbish	Yes	I have danced with Limelight dance academy for 11 years and have had every single preformance there. I would real like a larger stage and improvement made to the backstage (*cough *cough air con in the dressing rooms)	No	No	
0255	Refurbish	Yes	This is the cheapest option. Hamilton definitely needs a theatre and I like the location of the Founders where it is now.	No	No	
0256	Build New		i think a copper runout like this should be made the most of and re building has the most potential.	No	No	
0257	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0258	Build New		If we are going to spend this sort of money , then lets do it once and do it properly and build a building that will last several centuries. The new complex must also be in the centre of the city night life area so as to be able to make use of the additional night life of the city after an evening show or even a day time show. The present Founders is too far away from the city entertainment area and after a show you tend to drive home rather than continue to make a night out. Let have something that we can be proud of and these top shows will want to use. At present we are regular travelers to Auckland to get our entertainment, so give us reason to stay and spend locally.	No	No	
0259	Demolish		Why not use Claudlands & develop that & bring it up to another Standard, we are struggling to finance that profitably yearly. Regards John.	No	No	
0260	Refurbish	No	Best way to continue with the arts in Hamilton without demolishing the current Founders theatre which is significant to many locals	No	No	
0261	Build New		Founders is key and central to arts and culture in Hamilton. Without it there is no permanently available and viable option for large scale productions and performances. Without it, many touring acts and performances as well as Hamilton based shows will be forced to either skip Hamilton, move elsewhere or, as in the case of Mary Poppins 2016 be cancelled/postponed.	No	No	
0262	Refurbish	Yes	Culture is an important part of any city and community and having a council theater would be a sad. It's costly but not the most extravagant option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0263	Refurbish	Yes	Founders theatre is a big part of Hamilton, I attend at least three shows a year there, and was heavily involved in a dance school that used that location every year. I think it would be a shame to demolish it and not rebuild although I think we don't need to build an entire new one. The original founders theatre hasn't had much money spent on it in a while and is a well used community venue	No	No	
0264	Refurbish	No	Almost the same result as for building a new theatre. Cheaper and shorter time frame.	No	No	
0265	Refurbish	Yes	I think it is a quick yet brilliant solution.	No	No	
0266	Refurbish	No	It would take far less time to get the theatre up and running than a complete rebuild, and allow it to be put back into use. I think maintaining the character of the original theatre is of significant value to the community. I think demolishing it completely would be silly as hamilton needs a place like founders theatre for the cultural community.	No	No	
0267	Build New		Hamilton needs a significant large theatre and performing space, both for large touring performances and professional and amateur theatre, to which other theatres do not compare due to the size and flying system of what the new theatre could offer.	No	No	
0268	Demolish		Attended the theatre several months ago - the place stunk and the interior e,g curtains, furniture etc	No	No	
0269	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is a well known and respected theatre and many international acts choose to use this venue. If it is demolished Hamilton would not necessarily get as many international acts coming through.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0270	Build New		Founders has been a very unsatisfactory venue. It is in the wrong part of the city (too far away from ancillary facilities such as cafes), is acoustically very poor, has a stage that has been too small for large ensembles such as the NZSO or the Royal New Zealand Ballet. A new, purpose-build concert hall on the banks of the Waikato with good connections through to Victoria Street would transform Hamilton as a city. It needs to have an auditorium seating c1200 and be properly designed acoustically. It might be adjacent to (or part of) a convention centre.	No	Yes	
0271	Refurbish	Yes	Older theatres have a sense of history and atmosphere, which will be lost if a new one is built. It would be good for a city of Hamilton's size to have a theatre, but i guess it really depends if the number of attendees warrants one.	No	No	
0272	Refurbish	No	It is important to retain the historical aspect of the theatre as it is an iconic feature of Hamilton. New is not always better when it comes to architecture.	No	No	
0273	Build New		Performing Arts is an important part of the culture of a city. Therefore, a fit for purpose theatre for full scale productions/performances are important. In terms of education, all people need to have access to view/participate/experience performing arts from ballet, kapa haka etc or have a space in which to hold different events such as conferences, meetings etc.	No	No	
0274	Refurbish	Yes	I would like to choose a new building, but only if that is going to be somewhere near the centre of Hamilton. Otherwise I would like the old building refurbished, the position nice and easy to reach, being in the middle of town. Thanks!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0275	Demolish		We have other options available in the waikato to cater for events. Founders is ugly and uncomfortable with no parking. There is no way it would only be 50million for a rebuild. And refurbish costs would get blown out. Claudelands is suitable for most large events and there are other smaller theatres for smaller events. Auckland isnt that far for ither events.	No	No	
0276	Demolish		Hamilton has other venues, incl the ridiculously expensive Claudelands building. We are still paying for Claudelands and it would be irresponsible to saddle us with more debt. Also, having kept an eye out on what Founders offers, it is typically elitist and geared towards the interests of older rich white people. Given that Hamilton has a youthful and growing population, and a significant Māori population, it seems inappropriate to spend so much money on a venue not geared towards Hamiltons demographics. Let's stick with what we've got and make it work for us instead of debt for the elite.	No	No	
0277	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0278	Refurbish	Yes	We need a facility such as the Founders and this option is the least costly. Should Hamilton have been in a better financial situation I would have preferred a new build. WE NEED A DECENT FACILITY for the likes of the NZBallet the NZSO and local stage shows such as Mama Mia and the aborted Mary Poppins	No	No	
0279	Build New		Hamilton needs a venue of a high quality that caters for a number of functions. The current theatre does not have the greatest structure and acousting could be better.	No	No	
0280	Refurbish	No	Less cost to the rate payers for the money involved.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0281	Build New		Because this is a chance for Hamilton to have a city theatre that is more of an icon and destination in the town like the Civic Theatre and Aotea theatre in Auckland. It should have a more central location which would signify it's importance in the city. This is an exciting opportunity to have a cutting edge performance space that will rival anything that Auckland or Wellington has. Then, as a consequence Hamilton can also get the large scale shows that are being shown in the other larger centres.	No	No	
0282	Demolish		-	No	No	
0283	Build New		Given the amount of school performances, awards ceremonies, and concerts I have attended at the founders theatre I would be saddened to see money put in to refurbishing it just to have it torn down later anyway. I personally can never afford to attend concerts and shows held at claudelands and appreciated the lower prices for performances in founders. I also have grown up with founders theatre and see it as a local icon, I think with a complete rebuild it could put more life back into hamiltons CBD with hosting hot new shows.	No	No	
0284	Refurbish	No	About time that this country decided to keep something that has been there servicing the community for so long. I would rather not see a builder put up an office block in it's place	No	No	
0285	Build New		Spend the money now rather than later. The stadium is a perfect example of a half pie job. We need to be thinking ahead of the game rather than just doing patches	No	No	
0286	Refurbish	No	It's important to have a theatre like this for a city the size of Hamilton. Why would you build a new one at such an expense when the existing one can be brought up to standard at a much lower cost.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0287	Build New		To me this is the only viable option: we definitely need a performing arts place and it should be significant, a place for the Waikato and New Zealand to be proud of both in what it has to offer and it's aesthetics. It needs to be a forward thinking, future proofed building appropriate to Hamilton's growing size and central location and provide ease of parking so the older community members feel it is accessible. Hamilton is a vital place and this should be reflected in our cultural spaces.	No	No	
0288	Build New		I like the Founder's Theater, I have grown up with it watching Ballet and musicals. However, I don't feel it is 'iconic', I don't feel there is any special architecture design to keep it there. In fact the most important part is the fountains which I am sure could be replicated and incorporated into the new design. Also some real forethought can go into building something amazing for Hamilton that can bring all sort s of wonderful theater - maybe multi use so smaller items can been seen there too, so income will come from a variety of performances.	No	No	
0289	Refurbish	No	It is the cheapest and quickest and will provide the city and adjoining districts with a much needed and perfectly acceptable venue for many years ahead. The cost will be objected to by some residents but objections will be greater if you plan to go for option 2. Some will go for option 3 but for a city the size of Hamilton, and growing fast, a decent venue is absolutely essential.	No	No	
0290	Build New		Hamilton and surrounding counties are vibrant and economically wealthy. We need a new theatre that reflects this. A new larger venue would also allow bigger shows we will need as our population increases.	No	No	
0291	Build New		A new theatre could be custom-built to include all the design features required for a wide range of performing arts productions.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0292	Build New		Waikato is growing and retaining this old 50 years old building is not protecting the future.. Build new and be pro active as the way theatre is going it is changing rapidly and the new technical future needs to be used or we give it up to others.	No	No	
0293	Refurbish	No	1. The \$13.8 million set aside could be used for refurbishment. 2. Seismic strengthening is not required and is superfluous because Hamilton is one of the safest places from a seismic hazard. There are no known tectonic fault lines across Hamilton. Therefore you can save the \$6.0 million quoted. 3. New seats as a whole are not required and only the badly worn seats need replacing. 4. Refurbishment at worst will only take 1.5 to 2.0 years. 5. By adopting these measures, the budget of \$13.8 million is sufficient for refurbishment.	No	No	
0294	Refurbish	No	It would be a shame to lose such a building... to have no real theatre in Hamilton seems like a backward step for a city which claims to be shaping a world-class city. We need to do something if we are going to claim Hamilton is a great place to live, do business and visit... seems pretty backward to demolish.	No	No	
0295	Refurbish	No	There's something special about going to the theatre, in an instant you are transported somewhere else and taken on a journey. All the events that I have attended over the years bring back fond memories which I think attending makes it all worthwhile to do the refurbishment. There is no other facility in Hamilton that can cater for such events not even Claudelands - the theatre has a different set of requirements which means that we will miss out on certain shows and events. We are supposed to be building a world class city, what world class city has no theatre? Let the journey of theatre continue....	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0296	Refurbish	No	New Zealand as a country does not have a lot of history and I feel Founders Theartre is a lovely bit of Waikato history we cannot lose . The Theartre is a fantastic venue , and although not as flash as the Civic in Auckland , is our regions Theartre and we should keep it.	No	No	
0297	Build New		For some time, the Founders Theatre has been a sub-standard space for performances in Hamilton. The sound system, air conditioning on stage, lighting and acoustics are less than optimal, there is little or no rehearsal space, it lacks flexibility and it is not a good venue either for performers or for the audience. I am sure that some of these issues could be at least partially addressed by refurbishing the building, but I think that, in the long run, building a new, modern, well equipped space would be a much better legacy for the citizens of Hamilton. There is a thriving performing arts culture in this city, and we need a local venue of this size in our city, both for local and visiting events. I am sure that the Ralph Hotere artwork could be kept and used as part of a new building. We are a wealthy city in New Zealand terms, and we have high quality facilities for sports events, large productions (Claudelands) and for recreation. We also have a world class and much used facility in the Gallagher Performing Arts Centre. The Founders Theatre is an anomaly on this list, and it is one that is worth the effort and cost of addressing. In stark contrast to the V8 fiasco, money spent on a new theatre space represents an appropriate, locally supportive and necessary investment in the future of this city. Dorothy Cleary 858 River Road 855-0965	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0298	Refurbish	No	Many of the facilities and structural components seem adequate as they are. A total rebuild seems unnecessary and would take too long. Plus a larger spend for the City.	No	No	
0299	Refurbish	Yes	It is unthinkable that we should permanently be without a facility to host major events, and it seems that Claudelands cannot satisfactorily fill that space. On the information given, we cannot see major benefits in building new, if the facility would be of similar size to the present, and just of different configuration. A new facility would cost greatly more, and importantly take much longer to become available. A new facility might be better if we look out 50 years, but probably not for the next 25 years. Our choice for 6 below would be dependent on more information showing clear and major advantages over refurbishment which the documents so far have not done	No	No	
0300	Refurbish	No	WE RETAIN A VIABLE VENUE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND SHOWS, CLAUDELANDS IS TOO BIG AND IS LOSING MONEY HAND OVER FIST. I HAVE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE OF WORKING THE FLYS AT THE FOUNDERS AND KNOW THE PROBLEMS WIH THAT.	No	No	
0301	Build New		We have a responsibility to provide for those that follow us just as others have for us. There are always mean spirited doubters but we should ignore the bastards. Live and varied entertainment is not a thing of the past so go on and get on with it. Cheers , John Mowat	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0302	Build New		Fixing up Founders would be a waste of money the theatre is old and past its use by date, the cost of fixing founders to a modern and high standard theatre makes it more worth while to fork out a bit of extra money to build a theatre with an entire lifespan. There is very little significant heritage to the existing founders building (Unlike ChCh Isaac Theatre Royal which was very well restored and fixed). It would be best to build a more modern theatre fit for more purposes in a better location.	No	No	
0303	Build New		Because it is vital that we support the arts scene in one of the country's biggest cities. It is a nonsense that Hamiltonians have to travel to Auckland or Wellington to see big productions/shows. I prefer the new build because, even though it will take longer to complete than to refurbish Founders Theatre, we have to think strategically about what is going to meet the needs in the distant future. If it is only going to take the council another 4 years to meet the repayments, then that is worth doing, compared to waiting for an extra 2 years and having a building that might go some way to meeting our needs, but that will always have limitations because of the current structure/floor plan. At the moment, there is no suitable alternative in Hamilton for the big shows, and this means that a number of our students at school are missing out on wonderful educational opportunities too, either being able to attend shows or to be in them as extras. We have a responsibility to think about the people and the place with the best possible future in mind.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0304	Build New		Although I enjoyed the shows at Founders Theatre the seating was not ideal . The seats were uncomfortable and unless you booked as soon as tickets were released it was impossible to obtain a decent seat . Apart from Founders Theatre every theatre I have been to has STALLS and CIRCLE . This is great as it gives you an option to have good seating both upstairs and down . If a new Theatre was built it could be designed to meet modern requirements .	No	No	
0305	Build New		We have the chance to build an exceptional theatre that will bring back the touring groups that no longer come to Hamilton and give the locals a space to perform!	No	No	
0306	Build New		Hamilton needs a new theatre to accommodate the shows.	No	No	
0307	Refurbish	No	As much as people like to bag Founders Theatre, it is still a good theatre! The refurbishment would make more economical sense and at the same time retain a bit of history! By the sounds of things it'll look like basically have a new theatre, the things that need an upgrade will get it and all at a reduced cost.	No	No	
0308	Refurbish	Yes	because the founders have been a big part of Waikato and we need to keep the building	No	No	
0309	Refurbish	No	Cheaper for starters and quicker turn around so that it could be used again for future performances. I believe it's a waste to demolish such a significant building and build new and an even bigger waste to close and demolish. Option one seems to me to be the only option.	No	No	
0310	Build New		Because I think this theater is a huge presence in Hamilton stage culture and simply cannot be permanently closed. The theater must be present in Hamilton, but I think a rebuild would be more appropriate and would bring the spotlight back onto stage performing in Hamilton	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0311	Build New		No restriction on floor plan or siting - the current Founders is poorly served for accessibility and parking.	No	No	
0312	Refurbish	Yes	I chose refurbishment above as I had to chose an option but I would like to know if the refurbishment cost could be better spent adding a similar set of features to Claudelands to make that a more multi-purpose venue capable of hosting all the same type of events that Founders should be capable of hosting but with the added capacity that would also be available with a new build?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0313	Build New		Hamilton cannot consider itself a friendly city for its population by not having an iconic building that will attract residents and visitors alike. It is unfortunate that the Founders has been neglected over many years, but rebuilding opens up a number of potential opportunities. The Hamilton Gardens are a further attraction that are not connected to the CBD and relocation of the Founders between the gardens and the Ferrybank could establish a natural flow along the river between them. Whilst I have personal attachment to the existing theatre, such buildings need to be built to recognise modern earthquake standards, and this is an opportunity to provide the city with a theatre sized for its future population. If it were adjacent to the river it could include permanent restaurants and other facilities. Whilst quoted costs are \$50 million, I would expect local corporates and others would be happy to support the venture, remembering that the existing Founders was largely built with profits from electricity sales when HCC had its own electricity supply business. WEL Energy Trust and Momentum would appear to be positioning themselves to support projects of this type. It would therefore seem the impact on rates could well be contained to much less than the figures quoted. By rebuilding on the proposed site Hamilton could gain much more than merely a new theatre, and continue to make more of its riverside location. The riverside from the CBD to the gardens could become an iconic promenade, especially if the Grantham Street slip road on to Cobham Drive were to be closed to vehicular traffic and turned into a pedestrian walkway. Further landscaping could make the pedestrian route to the Gardens a feature and possibly a river "bus" could be established as an alternative method of moving along the river.	No	Yes	
0314	Refurbish	Yes	Most cost-effective Retain the theatre	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0315	Build New		There is a large area surrounding the theatre and I think it would be a good idea to start fresh and take advantage of the space available at the current location. I do not think there is much point in spending \$20 million on the refurbishment and being restricted to its current structure and size. Using the current structure and improving it could just lead to another \$20 million being spent on it in the next 15-20 years. If time and money is going to be invested into the theatre, (which I think it should be) The council should go all out and completely rebuild it at the current location or a new one. I believe having a theatre like founders is great for the city and we should take the chance we have to improve its facilities and attract even bigger and better acts and prevent them from continually bypassing Hamilton. Our because our city is only going to get bigger and so should the things that bring people here.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0316	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city that is only going to get bigger, historically Founders theatre could not house many touring shows due to its stage size, capacity and fly system. This has seen a large impact especially on the dance community within not just Hamilton but the greater Waikato. Theatre is a human activity that doesn't really hurt anyone or anything except maybe its carbon footprint, this can be addressed with a rebuild especial if the rebuild has a direct focus on our physical environment. Our human environment needs theatre: While people are engaged theatre, or the arts they are less likely and statistically to be engaged in other negative activities. Theatre is a sophisticated expression of our basic human need – “to mimic, to tell stories of ourselves and others, and to create meaning through narrative and metaphor. Theatre brings people together and creates positive communities, as an industry theatre contributes to our economy and revitalises neglected neighbourhoods, this has been proven around the world. Theatre demonstrates to us a kind of public discourse that lies at the heart of democratic life. It encourages people to build our skills for listening to different sides of a conversation or argument, and teaches us to empathise with the struggles of our fellow human beings whatever their views may be. Both the creation of theatre and the participation in theatre contribute to education and literacy. Finally, theatre matters; it influences the way we think and feel about our own lives and encourages us to take a hard look at ourselves, our values, and our behaviour. These are all things Hamilton should aspire to support and encourage within our growing community.	No	No	
0317	Refurbish	No	Because it means we still have a venue in our town and at the same time it is a much quicker and cost effective solution	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0318	Build New		I worked for the Theatres for 13 years recently and have seen the turn down in patronage in the last few years in my time there. I have worked and toured extensively around NZ and the world and can see why in Hamilton things seem to struggle. The theatre is old and has no wow factor, these days people want to go out and enjoy the space they are in as well as the show. A new theatre would create a buzz and if the front end was built right it be a place to go to meet friends and socialize and then see a show if you choose to. A nice new venue would give our current and up and coming actors and artist a place to shine and a city to be proud of, a city to say "I grew up at that theatre and its an amazing place" We need to be modern, we need a venue which fits in with out amazing arena. Lets be a smart thinking town with smart high tech venues, we to stop being old farmer town Hamilton.	No	No	
0319	Refurbish	Yes	Cost and time frame to complete	No	No	
0320	Build New		As a Drama teacher at Hamilton Boy's and Girl's High Schools for many years I would like to see a new Theatre built in the downtown area close to the river. We are frequent Theatre goers and are very interested in the arts. We have spent many millions on the Stadium and Claudlands now is the time for the performing arts. This is golden opportunity to do something exciting and imaginative. No the council should not cap it,s contribution	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0321	Build New		I think this is an opportunity to think bigger. I recognise that many will see this as a further burden on the current generation but I see this as an opportunity for a purpose built facility to meet the needs of the wider arts community. The Council has been strong in the building of Waikato Stadium and Claudelands. Certainly some councillors continue to brand Claudelands as a burden on the city but as would be the case with a new theatre both will come into their own. I am not sure how HCC will be able to persuade the wider Waikato community to contribute but I believe they should do so. I hope the Council will move to a new building on a new site, preferably close to the river and other facilities in the CBD and I believe it should happen with imagination and style. Let's continue to be proud of Hamilton and its quality facilities.	No	No	
0322	Demolish		The city green belt has become a collection of roofs and parking lots. I would like to see green belt restored. We need a performance centre -- I don't suppose the Claudeland Event centre (with diminishing events being held there) could double-up with a bit of refurbishment?? \$50M is staggering sum. How does that compare with the Claudeland Event Centre price tag? or the Stadium price tag? (email me the answer at kate.hayward2@gmail.com - thanks!)	No	No	
0323	Refurbish	No	It is the cheapest option, and plus I think the Founders has its place in the city. We need to have a decent auditorium	No	No	
0324	Refurbish	Yes	It is more realistic to raise \$20 million than \$50 million.	No	No	
0325	Refurbish	No	History. Hamilton has a bad habit of not refurbishing historical buildings and prefers to pull them down.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0326	Demolish		We have Claudlands which is losing money why have all these other venues which are also losing money. Have one decent venue instead of 2 or 3 other ones all trying to break even, none of them successful.	No	No	
0327	Refurbish	No	It is a good and more affordable compromise. It will increase capacity for better shows and not take so long.	No	No	
0328	Build New		Being a dancer and dance teacher our annual concert at Founders Theatre has always been a highlight of the year. From learning as a small child to becoming a teacher Founders has been that special place I can perform and show my family and friends my hard work. Besides that I will go to as many performances at Founders Theatre as possible. Between the ballet, concerts and amazing shows put on by Hamilton Operatic Society I have not only been entertained but inspired to continue on performing. I have seen the good and positivity around theatre and the impact it has on people's lives! Building a new theatre confirms that the Hamilton community will have on going performances and experiences for theatre without having to travel to Auckland. I'm very excited for the future of theatre in Hamilton and feel like we should take positive action in continuing theatre growth in Hamilton and NZ ! Build us a new theatre !!	No	No	
0329	Refurbish	Yes	It is essential that The City of Hamilton has a tailored performing arts venue, of a size to take touring shows, the price needs to be manageable by council and quickly attained, therefore I choose the cheaper option. It needs a fly tower and to have decent acoustics. The surroundings and seating must be of a standard that is suitable for sophisticated choral and orchestral works as well as musical theatre entertainment. Theatrical technical equipment for lighting, sound and special effects needs to be in place so that shows can readily and speedily move into the venue.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0330	Refurbish	No	This is a lovely intimate venue which works well for a town the size of Hamilton. OK the toilets are a bit dodgy and the foyer gets very cramped in it's current configuration but if refurbished to bring it up to date it has a lot more years left in its life. The cost is also more realistic - \$50 million is just silly money and we already have Claudelands Event Centre under utilized. We need a venue the size of Founders in Hamilton.	No	No	
0331	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs to have a long term option for theatre, plays, ballets and the likes. If hamilton wants to keep the creatives its important to keep these venues going.	No	No	
0332	Demolish		Spending 20+ million on a non-core asset is not even close to financially appropriate. Let's focus on reducing debt, doing core stuff at the highest standard, and make sure that we are facilitating (through minimal regulatory burdens and pro-business policy) the ability of any private enterprise to build and run a theatre like Founders if it is feasible in the local market.	No	No	
0333	Build New		I own a dance school with 540 students and the need for more dressing rooms and a bigger stage, side stage is needed. Also would love to have the ballet come back!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0334	Refurbish	No	H.C.C. has a poor record for maintenance and updating amenities e.g.Y.M.C.A.,Municipal PoolsFOUNDERS is no exception.It only has cold water available in washrooms! The present site has sufficient parking available and is only a short walk from the Transport Center Even if earthquake strengthening exceeds \$6m refurbishment is the more affordable option and will return the amenity more quickly to the City It gives the best result for the least money.	No	No	
0335	Build New		It needs updating visually and needs to be bigger. Also the seats are way too close together at the back of the theatre. Very uncomfortable for adults sitting side by side.	No	No	
0336	Refurbish	Yes	If the terrible acoustic (I'm a musician and regularly play on stage) is fixed and the stage is widened then the theatre would be more user friendly. It's the cheaper option. My second preference is a new theatre	No	No	
0337	Build New		New is better than old.....build it by Claudelands Showgrounds....the land is free there...and its close to the city....	No	No	
0338	Build New		The possibility of more productions coming to Hamilton	No	No	
0339	Refurbish	Yes	The founders theatre is a Hamilton landmark, if it were to be demolished it would be a huge loss to the city. While the Claudlands event centre is a large building it is a purpose built centre to host the likes of Home shows etc. Hamilton needs a function centre that will host concerts and stage shows, so long as the budget is kept under control and doesn't get completely out of hand, I'm sure Hamilton rate payers won't mind contributing	No	No	
0340	Refurbish	No	Costs less than building new	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0341	Build New		An extra \$69 on the rates is not a huge amount to establish a brand new state of the art theatre that will do Hamilton proud. Let's build it on a new site somewhere in the main entertainment part of town. That will boost the restaurant and bar trades, access existing parking and be a focal point for down town.	No	No	
0342	Build New		For the money you'll spend repairing it's worth replacing! I think it's dated and it's not practical for parking either! The change rooms are very in practical and there's not enough toilets!	No	No	
0343	Refurbish	Yes	Council needs to safe money refurbishing is the only way to go	No	No	
0344	Demolish		It's cheaper than building new and it's nice to maintain the memories of the original.	No	No	
0345	Build New		Keep up with the times and really make Hamilton a city of the future.	No	No	
0346	Build New		Hamilton needs a threate so can have shows come to our city. I love attending many of the dance school annual dance shows there too.	No	No	
0347	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city with a strong & talented arts group. We need to encourage the arts & provide a great situation for concerts/ballet etc.	No	No	
0348	Build New		Hamilton deserves a state of the art theatre for all to enjoy - the performing arts have made my kids shine and made them the kids they are today - I wish that for others	No	No	
0349	Build New		While the theatre has great history it's obvious it needs updating especially for the performers sake - those changing rooms are miserable.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0350	Refurbish	No	1/ As I understand it the cost of building the Founders Theatre was possible as a result of contributions from the general public as a tribute to the Founders of our fine city. This must be taken into account when making a decision on the options available. Heritage is important. 2/ The theatre is in an excellent position with plenty of parking in the near vicinity. The number of theatre patrons who wish to go to a restaurant before or after a show would be in the minority and will do so regardless of the theatre's position The rest of us should not be subsidising them to have a new theatre in the central city so they can walk to a restaurant. This is NOT A GOOD REASON to rebuild. 4/ The estimated time frame to refurbish is shorter than a rebuild. 5/ To demolish and rebuild means the city will be without a venue for too long a period thereby reducing revenue to the city and encouraging people to travel to Auckland. Not a good habit to encourage. We need the revenue in our coffers. 6/ To demolish and have no theatre is totally unacceptable for a city the size of Hamilton and it's surrounding areas.	No	No	
0351	Build New		The existing theatre is too small and layout isn't very good to justify a refurbishment but there is definately a need for a theatre to cater for events that are not large enough with the required funding for the Claudelands Event Centre.	No	No	
0352	Demolish		We have claudlands event centre to hold events at and the money would be better spent else where	No	No	
0353	Build New		I love attending large productions. The NZ ballet company haven't been able to bring any of their large productions to Founders for years now as it is too small. I really think it would be dismal for the next generation if this continues. Napier can host them. I am not a sports fan but have never begrudged the money spent on sporting facilities . Let's provide the future generations with a decent arts base.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0354	Refurbish	Yes	It's time for a new one! This one was only meant to last 50 years! I've used it 16 times and now we have to use a different one because the council wasn't I top of repairs needed	No	No	
0355	Build New		I would guess that although initially more expensive in the long term it would be more cost effective. It would be better to attract more shows. Could it be built over at Claudelands? Easier access and alot better parking.	No	No	
0356	Refurbish	No	The location s perfect for events, close to restaurants etc. The building is an important part of Hamilton with a valued history of performances. I have attended many performances and played in a few myself. The downsides about the building such as the awful dressing rooms and loading docks will be upgraded as well as the numerous ideas in the proposal. These are exactly the things that need to happen at less than 1/2 the cost of building new.	No	No	
0357	Refurbish	No	0	No	No	
0358	Refurbish	Yes	Retains historical elements, is an acceptable cost, and a shorter time frame for been able to be used again.	No	No	
0359	Build New		The acoustics in founders are terrible. It needs to be completely redone with proper design and planning.	No	No	
0360	Build New		Great opportunity for the city to create a world class venue. The new theatre would attract more international companies and therefore bring more revenue into the city.	No	No	
0361	Refurbish	No	I love Founders Theatre and refurbishment is the best value for our money.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0362	Refurbish	Yes	Claudlands is now our main venue but we do need something as a backup for smaller events.A refurbished Founders theater would be ideal with out going over board with the expense of building a new venue.	No	No	
0363	Refurbish	Yes	Why demolish the theatre if its just going to be built around the same size? Why not just save the money? Refurbishing seems easier and a smarter option.	No	No	
0364	Build New		We need to become a modern city. We need to attract the best shows etc. Let's get modern!!!	No	No	
0365	Refurbish	No	I strongly believe that we have to retain this architectural icon for future generations. This city has very limited historical buildings and to demolish the founders would be a travesty. I love the style and comfort and size of this theatre,. I struggle to understand how it will cost \$20 mill to replace the fly, the curtains and the green room, back stage area. The acoustics there are perfect and should not be tampered with. ('They are best in any theatre worldwide' as quoted by Dane Malvina Major years ago) Please, please, please save this beautiful building	No	Yes	
0366	Refurbish	No	It is not viable to demolish one building and rebuild another of a very similar standard.	No	No	
0367	Refurbish	No	I think that the current theatre location is very good. It is important to me that there is a theatre available for community groups and touring shows to use, but don't think we need to spend \$50million.	No	No	
0368	Refurbish	Yes	Because it's got memories, I've been going there since I was 2-3 years old.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0369	Refurbish	Yes	We need a theatre in Hamilton. It's brings events to Hamilton that which is a city that doesn't have a lot going for it and also a city that has a reasonably big arts scene. Such a shame that things like the the royal New Zealand ballet can't come to hamilton currently makes us appear like a small town rather than a big city that has an attraction. Also there are a number of dance schools in the community that currently don't have anything suitable to perform in. A shame for our up and coming to miss out on opportunities. Chose refurbishment so it didn't take too long but do think the size needs to increase	No	No	
0370	Build New		We must have a theatre. We can't continue to lose events and cultural opportunities like we have done. I'm not a car racing fan but why did we ever get rid of the V8s? It cost us, yes, but it added a positive profile to our city and was an event that added to the vibrancy. Losing a theatre in a city known for its Arts culture will be yet another loss that consigns us to be known only by the jibes thrown out on shows like TV3s 7Days. Cities that people want to go to are cities where things happen. Without a Founders-like theatre events will, as the HCC info sheet states, bypass Hamilton. Claudelands is not a theatre and nowhere else is big enough to be a significant city's theatre. Increase our rates by \$69 a year and maintain other fiscal targets. It is important that Hamilton stays relevant. We are central to the North Island's everywhere! We could be the cultural hub of the central North Island but we need events and attractions. Already the HCC Parks and Gardens division is world class - people will like BEING here! Don't take away reasons for them to come here!	No	No	
0371	Build New		We need an updated theatre. One that is capable of holding more events and tours. Better seating solution needed. Modernise.	No	No	
0372	Build New		Needs to be closer to entertainment, dining etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0373	Build New		Hamilton is the 4th largest city in New Zealand and its population is rapidly growing. It is not always convenient or preferable to travel the 2+ hours required to visit Auckland theatres (particularly for evening performances). Founders Theatre is old, dated, and its acoustics are appalling. A long time ago we discovered that it is preferable to pay less money and sit in the cheaper seats at the back/top of the theatre to get decent sound, even if it means taking binoculars to the performance! Refurbishment might go some way towards improving it, but if you are going to spend a lot of money, you would do just as well to spend even more and completely replace the theatre, because a new one will have far better and more modern features, and will be a credit to Hamilton and its region. Hamilton deserves a top-class theatre with lots of capacity; its other theatres are all excellent, but none can accommodate 1000+ audiences. Think big, Council - and think of future generations - refurbishing Founders is only a stop-gap. Spend the money now and give many years of pleasure (and improved culture!) to old and young alike.	No	No	
0374	Refurbish	Yes	In spite of the fact that having a newly build state of the art theatre is very appealing and an ideal future proofing option, the duration of 5 to 6 years without this facility and a cost to the community of \$50M is a heavy burden to bear. Reducing the unavailability period to between 2 to 3 years and keeping the costs around \$20M is prudent and also offers the facility back to the community earlier. In regard to Q6 my only concern would be the duration of the build resulting in this facility being unavailable for so long. If other facilities can be available in Hamilton to provide some cover for the Founders during this time I would definately choose new build	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0375	Demolish		Claudelands needs to start paying its way, and consolidating seems to be a logical move.	No	No	
0376	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre to host the major performing attractions. It is an opportunity to have a world leading performance venue close to the city centre... Make the new building a stunning attraction for the city and be the envy of the upper North Island. I prefer a new location close to the river and Victoria St centre of the city (perhaps integrated with the ferrybank initiative)	No	No	
0377	Demolish		1 and 2	No	No	
0378	Build New		-	No	No	
0379	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre for the dance and arts community, without one we are letting go of a very important part of our community and not providing current and future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy these experiences. I prefer new as think refurbished potentially could end up costing more due to unforeseen issues so build new and make it amazing.	No	No	
0380	Refurbish	Yes	Founders theatre is an iconic feature of Hamilton and crucial for mid size productions. Also a good location for large school awards nights or productions. Where is the statistics about how often this building is used?	No	No	
0381	Build New		Refurbishment generally goes over budget and although the building has history a new build would be seismic ally up to standard and would have better acoustics with more modern facilities and a better use of space?	No	No	
0382	Build New		-	No	No	
0383	Build New		The current theatre is inadequate for musical performances and lacks enough seating to accommodate big functions.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0384	Refurbish	No	The City needs a theatre like Founders. The location is good for parking and is close to the CBD. The existing building has the history of serving the city well. Upgrading is more cost effective than building	No	No	
0385	Build New		-	No	No	
0386	Build New		This option would provide best value for money in the long term.	No	No	
0387	Build New		the current theatre has been great - I have lived in Hamilton most of my life and have been on stage for various performances and been in the audience for many also. we need to continue this venue into Hamilton's future and make it better build on our knowledge of what had become outdated over the years. Build something that will be a great memory provider for generations to come.	No	No	
0388	Build New		The investment in a suitable theatre would be a great asset for Hamilton. This option gives a longer period than refurbishing. Demolishing is not a suitable option. Hamilton needs a suitable theatre. Claudlands is a sport complex. The cost of the strengthening of the current theatre to the earthquake standards is not known at this stage at could possible be above the \$6m estimated in the paper article.	No	No	
0389	Refurbish	No	The building has character so it is worth retaining it. It is cheaper than building a new theatre. It is unacceptable blow to culture in the city to lose this facility	No	No	
0390	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0391	Refurbish	No	I have grown up going to founders for all sorts of events. It holds a lot of history for Hamilton and it would be a massive loss demolish it all together and rebuilding won't make it the same.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0392	Refurbish	No	1. Minimum cost 2. Building with architecture we will appreciate in 20 years time 3. Auckland isn't far away for events can't be held in founders	No	No	
0393	Refurbish	Yes	Refurbishment would work just as good as a new build. The only down fall is there needs to be more parking in the area.	No	No	
0394	Build New		It would not be appropriate for Hamilton to be without a world class theatre. Refurbishing the existing theatre would restrict the scope of what could be done, whereas building a new theatre would allow for a design that will be fit for purpose for future generations. Hamilton already misses out on music and arts events that smaller NZ cities get to host as a result of there being no suitable venues in Hamilton.	No	No	
0395	Refurbish	Yes	I have danced at founders every year since i was 5 and it is time for an upgrade! Or to upgrade the old founders	No	No	
0396	Demolish		Claudlands is more than adequate. There is a major touring show on there now ice age on ice . Development of the cbd River making room for River side hospitality and working with businesses is better use of money and will give longer term ROI compared with the other options.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0397	Build New		Because a city the size of Hamilton should have a full size functioning world class theatre. Close and demolish is a terrible idea and a great loss to the city and its culture. It is absurd that you could even attempt to be a functioning city without some type of venue like what Founders Theatre could potentially be. Arts benefit the culture of a city, the mental and emotional well being of the citizens. It has great benefits for the city in terms of financial gains - particularly if it is operated effectively. I believe Hamilton and the local arts community has a great deal to offer locally, nationally and internationally - as has been proven numerous times, and I would be embarrassed to live and work in a city that was so close minded and dysfunctional to even consider removing a theatre like this.	No	No	
0398	Build New		It is a chance to make an architectural statement. I'm actually torn between this and reburishment because I enjoy what it currently says about another time in Hamilton but I'm slightly more in favour of a fresh artistic statement.	No	No	
0399	Build New		To attract more large performances. Hamilton needs to invest more in arts and culture. So many talented locals that need facilities to showcase their work.	No	No	
0400	Refurbish	Yes	It's costs less than building a new theatre, and it wouldn't take as long. As long as the stage was bigger, to allow more events to be held there (ie: Royal NZ Ballet), and it was safe with improved seating, accoustics and flying system ... a refurb is a great option!	No	No	
0401	Build New		Hamilton needs a good venue for drama, musicals, orchestral, opera.	No	No	
0402	Refurbish	No	Quicker to complete, will enable RNZB to bring all their shows to Hamilton. A buffer new build is probably not necessary, the bigger attractions may still not chine to Hamilton as we don't have a large enough population.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0403	Refurbish	No	We already have Claudelands event centre which can hold the bigger style Concerts so to save money I think founders size is better suited to the smaller more intimate performances and with better acoustics and modernised a bit would be great. Hamilton doesn't need two huge places, Founders is lovely just needs updating.	No	No	
0404	Demolish		Hamilton needs a theatre of some reasonable size, demolishing it and not rebuilding is not helping the need for a theatre, therefore the refurbishment is a cheaper option than rebuilding.	No	No	
0405	Refurbish	Yes	I just think its a cheaper option and the rest of the money that would be spent making a new 1 could go to other things	No	No	
0406	Refurbish	No	Cost less than building new Don't want to lose iconic building to Hamilton Great theatre, just needs to be updated and maintained	No	No	
0407	Refurbish	Yes	It would be a huge shame and loss for Hamilton to close and demolish the theatre. Upgrading and refurbishing our theatre so that it meets safety standards seems the best option so that the theatre can be back in use as soon as possible	No	No	
0408	Build New		Hamilton city is growing and has a thriving amount of people interested in the performing arts - having a theatre as large as/larger than Founders Theatre is convenient for those who want access to watch or work on/perform in larger shows in many different disciplines e.g. theatre, musicals, dance. Keeping Hamilton's theatre scene strong is important for any youth interested in dance, acting, stage crew etc. as well, as they'll be able to audition for larger scale shows.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0409	Refurbish	Yes	The theatre is not bad in layout or design, and have been to many great shows there. A refurbished theatre is cost effective given the current economic situation, and conflicting opinions on this facility and any council spending for that matter. A new facility would be great, but also cost inhibitive. Demolition would be a tragedy, and an embarrassment for our city.	No	No	
0410	Build New		It is absolutely reprehensible that the 4th largest city in NZ currently does not have a performing arts venue capable of accommodating the likes of the Royal New Zealand Ballet. The value of such a venue cannot just be measured in dollars and cents, but in the enjoyment provided to the greater community in terms of being able to offer a wide variety of entertainment. Obviously, if the new venue is not able to go ahead, then Founders Theatre MUST be refurbished. Demolishing it and not replacing it is simply NOT an option.	No	No	
0411	Build New		I would like it on the original site as it is part of the CBD and has some history. I think it needs to future-proof so should be build new but I hope some of the historic features and art can be incorporated cleverly into the new design.	No	No	
0412	Build New		New design and technology to make the building last well into the future	No	No	
0413	Build New		a new total rebuilt would mean that Hamilton has a theatre that would last a number of years and attract quality acts to our city.	No	No	
0414	Build New		Hamilton deserves a top class theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0415	Demolish		refurbishment - I perform at Founders Theatre all the time, and but the sounds of what the bullet points are explaining above. it sounds very exciting. This would make the shows performed at Founders Theatre more advance with the new and better facilities you guys will refurbish. This is exactly what it needs I don't think it is necessary to build a new Theatre or definitely not be closed and demolished.	No	No	
0416	Build New		Future proofing is essential. It will be a draw card for future events and endorse the performing arts	No	No	
0417	Refurbish	Yes	It's important to have a quality performance venue in a centre this large, so that our population can experience cultural events and that our local performers and technicians can develop their skills in a quality, larger space. This is the cheaper option for retaining a venue at this location	No	No	
0418	Build New		Hamilton needs more performance venues not less	No	No	
0419	Build New		Because the arts and shows of this nature are an amazing experience that every person should have the ability to attend. It should not come down to dollars whether people's experiences are limited. People's lives are enriched by these opportunities and money comes and goes. What's 4 years in the life of a city to pay it off? I think a new building closer to either restaurants or accommodation would be more appropriate and by changing the location, parking can be factored in because the current options are a nightmare for large events.	No	No	
0420	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0421	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0422	Build New		needs more parking	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0423	Build New		For me, the only options are refurbish or build new. I think it would be ridiculous to demolish and not rebuild, as it is such an important, and useful type of venue to have. The reason I chose rebuild over refurbish, is that it just seems like the structural issues (seismic strength) would be able to be better addressed by a complete rebuild. Also, it would give the opportunity for a fresher, more modern building.	No	No	
0424	Build New		Because Hamilton needs a theatre that caters for the Arts and as we are the next closest city to Auckland and growing, we need a theatre.	No	No	
0425	Refurbish	No	The refurbishment option is clearly the best option. Hamilton cannot do without a theatre for the arts and graduation ceremonies etc and to close it would not benefit the city or its people. The reason its the best option is because Council already has \$13.8 million set aside for the refurbishment. A new theatre would be far too expensive for city ratepayers to afford and may turn out to be nothing more than an expensive luxury in unstable economic times.	No	No	
0426	Refurbish	Yes	We need a theatre but I don't want the higher cost of a new build	No	No	
0427	Build New		the old ones not fit for purpose and it looks dated.Lets have a new state of the art theatre for hamilton to be proud of	No	No	
0428	Refurbish	Yes	It is a much more cost effective option and it allows shows that usually bypass Hamilton.	No	No	
0429	Refurbish	Yes	The building already has a history, and plus it's cheaper than building new. You need to keep this in the city for many reasons, 1. It provides work and jobs for people 2. It brings people to Hamilton 3. It brings people into the city for something other than work. The city seems abandoned now, people only go in there for work, it doesn't feel safe anymore to walk around and this would have a positive light to an otherwise dim area. Just because there has been a decline in attendants over the last 10years, look at what entertainment is being provided there	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0430	Refurbish	Yes	It is a most cost effective option.	No	No	
0431	Build New		-	No	No	
0432	Refurbish	No	It would be a terrible loss to the arts community of Hamilton to lose such a great venue and spending an additional \$30m to rebuild is unnecessary	No	No	
0433	Refurbish	No	Because I have performed at founders theatre every year for 17 years and I love the feel and memories I have there of it. With a new one no doubt they will try to make it to modern and it will end up being a flop. Why change something that is already good when you can just do up the one already there. Also saving money.	No	No	
0434	Demolish		Demolish and turn into a park with seating toilets, plant lots of trees and make it an area to enjoy the fountains and relax, may be intime the TUIs will return. use claudlands show grounds as our theatre for the city.	No	No	
0435	Refurbish	Yes	It is the cheaper option and will keep this Iconic theatre up and running Claudelands arena is useless for sound and for traffic where as the founders is nice and easy, when I lived in Hamilton I went to many shows at this theatre Rebuilding elsewhere would cost more and still have the same amount of seating. All the other iconic theatres of hamilton have closed or been demolished and while still a small seating theatre is more homely than the arena.	No	No	
0436	Refurbish	No	Cost	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0437	Build New		Building new is preferred so as not to be limited by the existing structure / layout and its impact on modern theatre facility requirements with regard to backstage facilities and stage technology. Also better able to increase size of front of house space currently very cramped. Build to current seismic standards will achieve better result than retrofitting seismic upgrade to existing	No	No	
0438	Refurbish	Yes	cost effective and still able to maintain arts community including schools.	No	No	
0439	Demolish		Close it down - put the money that would be spent on the other options to pay off existing debt.	No	No	
0440	Build New		If building new.... a bigger theater can be built and bigger parking options as Hamilton and outlying area populations are growing very fast and we are in need of a bigger and dedicated theater venue in my opinion. Meg James	No	No	
0441	Demolish		Strictly cost. As a family we have little confidence that the publicly stated costs of the Refurbishment or Build New options will be achieved. Perhaps HCC might consider spending a few million to add some performing arts facilities to Claudelands ??	No	No	
0442	Refurbish	Yes	I have been going to the founders for many years, it really is the only venue in Hamilton for major shows (e.g. NZ ballet productions) as well as chamber music etc. Parking also surrounds the theatre as well as the fountains, in fact the theatre and its grounds stand alone and it is also an icon from the 50es. If a new venue were to be built i think it should remain on the current site.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0443	Refurbish	No	The fix/refurbish will take approx 3 years while a new theatre will take at least five years and while it is estimated to be \$50 million, we all know how costs escalate and will the city end up with a theater that still does not cover what is required due to cost constraints. Hamilton cannot afford to be without a venue of Founders size and nature for this length of time. While NZSO have used Clarence St Theatre this year for 1 concert and it was well received - this was only able to occur as it was not the full strength compliment of the orchestra. Almost every Regional city has a venue of a similar size and nature as Founders Theatre - ie Napier Municipal, Rotorua Civic, TSB Showplace in New Plymouth, Dunedin Regent, Palmerston north Regent, Wellington's St James, all have had a stage house rebuild setting the benchmark which Founders falls way short of. Their councils did rebuilds - not new theatres as they saw that this was the best options and all these theatres work extremely well While money will always be a problem for city council to find surely the cheaper option of fix/refurbish is the better option. Where exactly would a new theatre be built - talk has been bandied about the riverside but where is there a suitable block of land with a similar or larger footprint than Founders at present - it is not just the actual theatre size but also theatre access and amenities, parking which have to be taken into consideration It is important that council make the right decision and retain the beautiful old lady Founder Theatre and upgrade her over the next three years so we can be proud of her and it works and shows return such as the Royal Ballet and NZSO	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0444	Build New		Hamilton is the only major city that lacks a decent modern theatre. The present building is an embarrassment. It lacks any architectural beauty, and is also in the wrong place.. Please return the site to its former garden space format, and build something great. An investment worth making in a growing city!!!	No	No	
0445	Refurbish	No	I think that Founders Theatre is iconic Hamilton and still has style and a great location. With expansion of the front reception area it would be a great all round venue for Hamilton's size as you reported dropping numbers hence no need to go bigger. I feel that it is vital that we recognise the arts in Hamilton as there has been heaps spent on sporting facilities but little encouraging the arts. But at the same time we need to be realistic how much we spend hence the reason I favour refurbishment at 20million dollars. It is important that what we do in the refurbishment results in a state of the art theatre that is ready to move with the times and stay current technologically. Keep the old girl going I say!!	No	No	
0446	Build New		Start again... Of course you can repurpose some of the special elements of the existing theatre, but if you rebuild you start from scratch and get it right. Embrace new technology, add comfort for the seating, etc. it is not historic enough to warrant a refurb. You could make it bigger, though. Why stick with the same size. Bigger=more international acts.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0447	Refurbish	No	It is very important that Hamilton has a venue to stage large and important cultural productions eg RNZB performances. It has been embarrassing for some time that small centres like Napier are able to see these shows but not us in Hamilton. It seems that the refurbishment option would make it possible for us to stage all of these performances and that the " build new" option will not actually increase the range of performances available to us - plus its \$30m more expensive! I consider it just as vital that Hamilton has venues for the arts as for sports events. Consider the indignation if Hamiltonians were told they had to travel to Auckland to watch a national rugby game! I've never been to the stadium in Hamilton but am happy to pay for it in my rates - but we need to fund the arts equally!! Considering the next question about whether I would prefer build new if we only had to pay \$30m - I think that depends if it is going to take a lot longer as I think time is also important - even 2 years without the founders theatre is going to have a huge impact on Hamilton!	No	No	
0448	Build New		South Victoria st would be a better venue, central , & in the Arts vicinity. We must have bigger/better facilities for touring companies, e.g NZ opera, NZ Ballet & overseas shows. More professional productions in theatre, music & dance would visit Hamilton, making us more attractive for out-of towners & overseas tourists. Good for our economy!	No	No	
0449	Build New		A new build would provide the opportunity to expand its use and would hopefully last a good time.. Being the hub of Waikato it is essential to have a venue capable of hosting decent ballet and opera.	No	No	
0450	Refurbish	Yes	It is an Icon for Hamilton. In my opinion the best deal. It should be started as soon as possible before costs arise again	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0451	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is a perfect venue. Not too big or too small. Although it has not reached heritage status it is important to keep our older buildings and function centres. Is this not what New Zealanders love about old cities around the world. Rebuild the old when needed and cherish them. I do not in any way want a new venue. The Founders is just fine thank you.	No	No	
0452	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre. Refurbishing costs can often increase when unexpected things are found. Starting fresh means that the city will get a building that is modern and fit for purpose - also a chance to build a new iconic Hamilton building	No	No	
0453	Build New		I lived in Auckland when the Q Theatre was built. The quality of theatre productions it attracted (and continue to attract) are outstanding. A fresh theatre means it's done correctly and forever.	No	No	
0454	Demolish		It can be held in other places. The refurbishment or rebuild is just don't serve the purpose as there is a decline in attendance to the theatre	No	No	
0455	Build New		Hamilton is one of the fastest growing cities and it is unthinkable NOT to have a theatre. This straight away cancels out option 3. Option one is throwing good money after bad money and still won't give us the size of theatre we need for the city and a suitable updated flying system. I furthermore do not believe that 20 million is sufficient to do option 1, especially keeping in mind that seismic upgrading does not only apply to the flying system but also to the whole building. OPTION 2 IS THE ONLY SENSIBLE OPTION AND SHOULD BE DONE AT ALL COST.	No	No	
0456	Refurbish	Yes	It's such a great theatre. I'm sure lots of people have so many memories there - I've sang, danced and performed on that stage. Would be such a shame to demolish it!!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0457	Build New		Because it allows a larger theatre to be built which I think is an essential aspect to the theatre.	No	No	
0458	Refurbish	Yes	I have been living in Wellington but will probably move to Hamilton permanently in early 2017. As the 'new' theatre would be of similar size to the refurbished one, might as well just refurbish it. As Hamilton is NZ's third largest city it MUST have a cultural centre for the performing arts and be able to accommodate the NZSO, Opera and RNZ Ballet.	No	No	
0459	Refurbish	No	The smartest option.	No	No	
0460	Build New		A fresh build would not be restricted by trying to work within what is currently there. It also would be less likely to result in unforeseen problems through the build ie, discovering once refurbishment begins that problem A is actually bigger than originally anticipated and will now cost \$X more than budgeted.	No	No	
0461	Refurbish	No	Cheaper Option	No	No	
0462	Refurbish	No	Cheaper.	No	No	
0463	Build New		We need to promote the Arts and need a venue to draw the crowds to our city	No	No	
0464	Refurbish	No	Cheaper option.	No	No	
0465	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton, Waikato needs a facility like the Founders!! I wouldn't like to see it go. Therefore have ticked the cheapest & quickest option just so that Hamilton & surrounding districts has a purpose built theatre. For me, Option 3 is not an option and of course, would love a new Founders but it takes longer and is nearly 3 times the cost.	No	No	
0466	Build New		A new theatre near the museum would help to create a vibrant city core that will attract businesses and compete with the Base	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0467	Refurbish	Yes	I have been going to Founders Theatre for 45 years. Location of the theatre is central and there's always good parking. I would like to request more car parks for the disabled. Why isn't money going into a trust fund for future maintenance on the theatre.	No	No	
0468	Build New		Because it is better to build new & have it up to safety & earthquake standards, than refurbish, where things can still go wrong down the track.	No	No	
0469	Demolish		cost	No	No	
0470	Demolish		The Founders Theatre's position in the city is ideal. It's an icon building and the main look should be retained. We now have the Claudelands building - we don't need a replica. The cost of \$20m is more appropriate than the cost of rebuilding - what would we really gain for an extra \$30m if we rebuilt?	No	No	
0471	Build New		Suggestion is to build a new theatre on Hinemoa Park and sell the existing theatre to developers to create hotel accommodation.	No	No	
0472	Refurbish	No	A no brainer. We very much need a theatre, the current one is insufficient and if the refurbishment delivers what it promises it will be great. Two years late meeting the debt/revenue target is a non-issue. As long as larger productions can perform safely and the acoustics are improved we could all cheer. Parking will still be tight for some productions but we are coping. Building from new is too expensive, a risk of too many hidden expenses, and will likely be a hideous building. Demolishing it, leaving no venue for quality concerts, ballet, etc would be criminal. And too many people cannot/would not travel to Auckland (nightmare city) or Rotorua.	No	No	
0473	Refurbish	No	MORE ECONOMICAL SHORTER TIME TO COMPLETE.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0474	Demolish		the building is sooo old.dont throw good money after bad..We would still end up with a make over with old as bones.The dinasoure is costing plenty while you all hum and ha. Lets get the eye sore down ASAP and then sit and think about the whole deal with time on our side. The longer it stands there , the more cost to no avail.Claudlands may fill some of the gaps in the mean time.	No	No	
0475	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton that services such a huge area needs a large impressive theatre to draw major touring productions. Us, the 'punters' have waited a long time for the dear old Founders to be modernised and expanded, or rebuilt; now the opportunity has come. Whether on the existing site or elsewhere we need this building. The existing site would have the nostalgia of the old lady but parking would need to be addressed, i.e. more of it! The Claudelands Event Centre is a completely different venue and can never take the place of a purpose built theatre. I think there is no question of not building new - the Waikato needs it!	No	No	
0476	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton that services such a huge area needs a large impressive theatre to draw major touring productions. Us, the 'punters' have waited a long time for the dear old Founders to be modernised and expanded, or rebuilt; now the opportunity has come. Whether on the existing site or elsewhere we need this building. The existing site would have the nostalgia of the old lady but parking would need to be addressed, i.e. more of it! The Claudelands Event Centre is a completely different venue and can never take the place of a purpose built theatre. I think there is no question of not building new - the Waikato needs it!	No	No	
0477	Refurbish	No	Cost less than new theatre, would still enable larger performances than previously, location is still convenient to city centre. Shorter time frame. We NEED a theatre sooner rather than later	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0478	Build New		Hamilton needs a more modern theatre which can seat more people. Hamilton is a growing city and we do not want to miss out on performances from overseas etc because we do not have a theatre that they can use. The extra money to refurbish the existing Founders Theatre should be spent on a new exciting modern building.	No	No	
0479	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment is all that is needed to bring it up to a safe and comfortable standard, that will allow us to continue to use it for a variety of shows. This option is also less than half the cost of having to build a new theatre. And I don't think a new theatre would provide significantly greater benefits than a refurbished one.	No	No	
0480	Build New		Hamilton needs a more modern theatre which can seat more people. Hamilton is a growing city and we do not want to miss out on performances from overseas etc because we do not have a theatre that they can use. The extra money to refurbish the existing Founders Theatre should be spent on a new exciting modern building.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0481	Demolish		I think people that want a new theatre will cry out that other venues are not suitable, in reality I think most productions that would have used Founders had it been available, will adapt by using other venues. Maybe we will miss out on larger shows, well, many, many Hamiltonians travel to the likes of Auckland for big shows already, as they do for Auckland Airport. The new expressway will only make this easier. And many many Hamiltonians also won't go to Founders theatre shows. There is little to lose by closing the theatre now and reviewing in say 2 years time, in fact it would be interesting to see how people/shows adapt to not having Founders. If it proves not the case and there is support for a new theatre in say 2 years time, then fine, re-look at the options, this is a massive investment your talking about, what is the urgency? Furthermore the call from the Council as to its fiscal responsibility to get debt down and its challenge to fund infrastructure in a growing city is loud and clear, we are hearing this all the time in the media, to me funding infrastructure should be a priority. Arts & culture are important too, but there is plenty the council do in this space and alternative venues where the city can make do. Having lived in Rototuna and paid higher and higher rates each year, I would like to see more spending out there, like sports facilities, to me the Council has benefited for well over 15 years from a large rates income source and development contributions such as Rototuna and the investment by Council in that area is not equitable vs spending on other things or areas.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0482	Refurbish	Yes	If the theatre was to be demolished and then rebuilt to a similar size and cost \$30M more dollars then that seems wasteful. Hamilton needs a theatre!! I have been backstage in this theatre and it does need some serious work but I like the ideas presented here to refurbish all of the areas that really need it. Let's not lose our theatre!	No	No	
0483	Build New		Building something that can bring larger scale productions to Hamilton will have a ripple effect to businesses, such as eating, accomodation, retail as show goers will be able to come to Hamilton to see these performances which usually are only available in Auckland. A venue that is purpose built instead of refurbishing what is already there will enable all the changes to be made without the constraints of the existing building.	No	No	
0484	Demolish		Claudeland's Events Centre should be utilised a lot more. If events were to take place at Claudelands it would help with their revenue, especially as actual figures are down on what has been budgeted.	No	No	
0485	Refurbish	No	I am opposed to option 3 (close and demolish) as I feel its is very important for a city the size of Hamilton to have a venue for high quality arts performances of a larger scale, i.e. larger than what can be accommodated at the University venue. Being from Wellington originally I still really miss the ballet and would love it if the RNZ Ballet toured here. I prefer option 1 to option 2 for two reasons. The first is the financial implications, i.e refurbishment is cheaper and less of a burden on ratepayers going forward. The second is the environmental impact in terms of waste to landfill of a huge amount of material with high embodied energy.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0486	Build New		Founders is dated and simply doesn't compare to similar venues in other districts in order to keep attracting performances and events to the theatre we need to either be on par with or offer something better than city's close by such as Tauranga and Rotorua A refurbishment option doesn't even include the seating which is very tired	No	No	
0487	Refurbish	Yes	Would be a shame for Hamilton to lose Founders, refurbishment seems like the smarter option	No	No	
0488	Refurbish	No	It seems the most cost-effective, timely, and wise. I think it is important to Hamilton - our history and our future - to keep Founders Theatre alive.	No	No	
0489	Refurbish	No	It would be sad if it was demolished.	No	No	
0490	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0491	Refurbish	No	Still feel like old Hamilton	No	No	
0492	Refurbish	No	Cheaper option	No	No	
0493	Refurbish	Not Answered	*Do not close or demolish*	No	No	
0494	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0495	Build New		The acoustics are poor in the present Founders-NZSO I members have told me the sound rebounds back at them on stage The audience cannot get the full effect of the beauty of a symphony orchestra because of the above The stage cannot accommodate a full ballet meaning patrons are forced to go to Auckland The present Founders is the ugly 60,s architectural designs-like those awful blocks of flats in Ham East The foyer is too small-difficult for the audience to socialise. As a "founder" I believe it has outlived its use by date As Hamilton is the fourth largest City it deserves a theatre complex worthy of such an expanding city and its art lovers a venue of which we can be proud and one in which artists are able to showcase their talents without the beauty of the music being muffled by poor acoustics Refurbishment could not be an option on the present site as I have been told the theatre cannot encroach on any more of the green belt .which means under your suggested enlargements the audience capacity would be less-[i.e. if the foyer and stage were to be enlarged-where would the extra space come from ?	No	No	
0496	Refurbish	No	The cheaper option, plus we keep an iconic Hamilton building.	No	No	
0497	Refurbish	No	Cheaper option	No	No	
0498	Refurbish	No	It is the cheaper/smarter option.	No	No	
0499	Refurbish	No	Cheaper option	No	No	

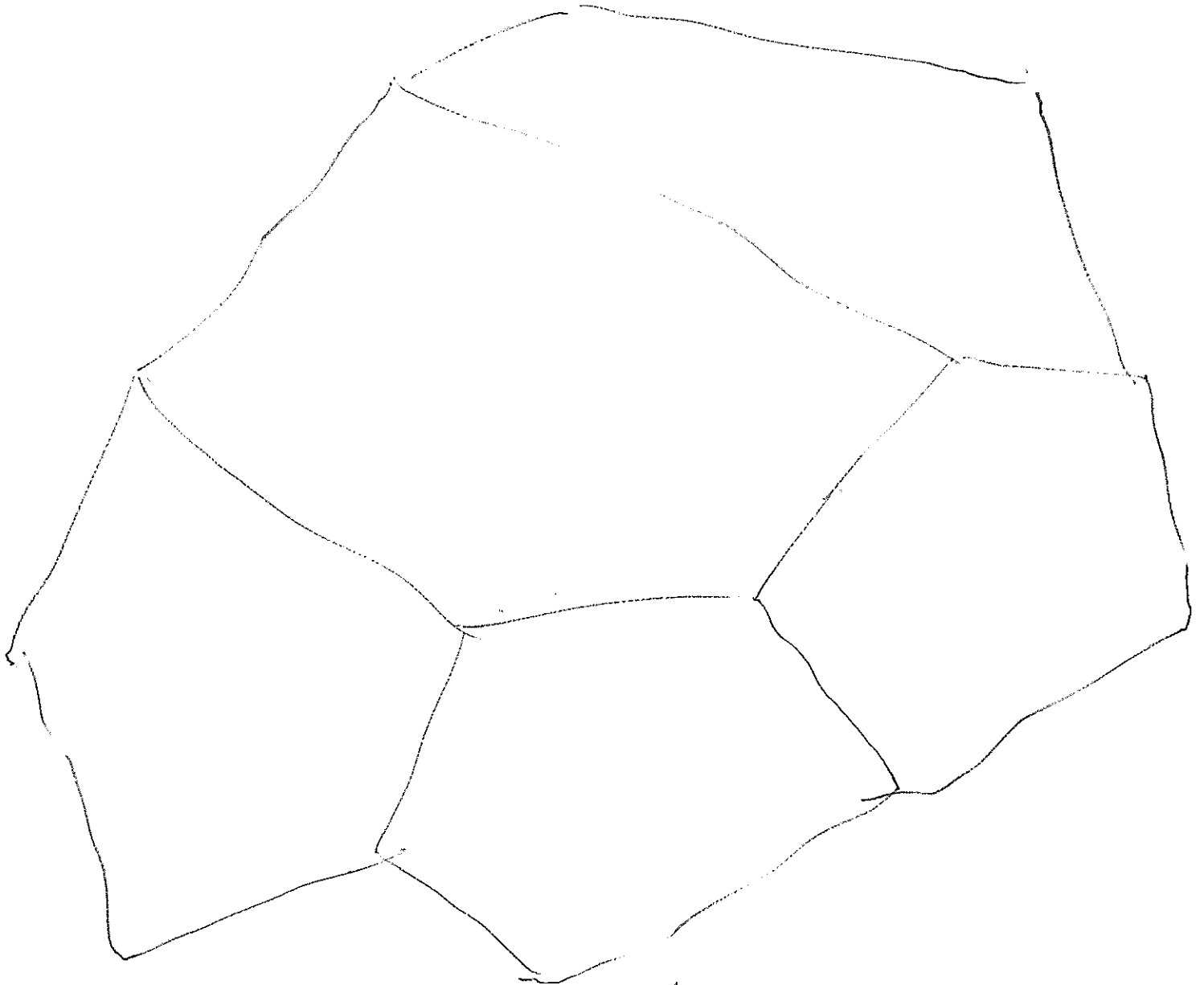
Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0500	Demolish		OPTION 4 Sell the building to a developer to convert into high class apartments. Hence generate cash flow for HCC as well as capital injection. Now use this capital to build a new theatre at the under used Claudelands Event Centre maybe even inside existing building.... Do your homework council.	No	No	
0501	Demolish		Hamilton needs a centre such as the Founders has provided and it is already noticeable that we are not getting the touring shows to our city that we did. Vital the Founders is refurbhished or replaced. Replacement is I am sure the best option and the sooner the better. The option of a new uptodate facillity enables all boxes to be ticked for the future.	No	No	
0502	Demolish		After reading several pieces on the Founders Theatre I would like to say it is far too early for anyone to give an opinion until ALL the facts are known. I would like to add to date my feeling is that we should refurbish as long as the Council are this time going to meet their responsibilities in keeping it all in good order. This situation would never have happened if Council had been proactive from day one in keeping up the standard of the theatre. I do not see any reason at this time to relocate the site and in so refurbishing this will not arise. It is such a shame we are and continue to miss opportunities with shows not coming to Hamilton as our Theatre is not up to standard. The theatre is a public asset and should be kept up to standard and we would not find ourselves missing the enjoyment of the Theatre as we are so doing at present and could do for quite some time yet. I reiterate, I don't think we can give a true picture of what we think until all aspects of the Theatre refurbishment, rebuild or relocate can be put to the public.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0503	Demolish		We would like the council to choose Option Three to close and demolish as we believe that the council should not commit the rate payers to more debt. As rate payers we are on a very low fixed income and need to live within our financial means, we strongly believe that the council needs to do the same. We see the Founders Theatre as a nice to have facility but not a core must have one. Where projected project costs always seem to grossly exceed original projected estimates we as rate payers do not want to be encumbered with inevitable rate increases that would result from such a commitment to options one and two. As we do, the city must live with in its financial means.	No	No	
0504	Refurbish	No	I think the present size of the Founders is generally big enough esp now we have Claudelands and with some improvements this is all that we need	No	No	
0505	Refurbish	Yes	We need a decent sized theatre facility in Hamilton.	No	No	
0506	Build New		A large theatre is critically impart for the people of Hamilton the region. It will enable large scale performances to accessible locally. The current theatre is old, tired and has many limitations and the opportunity to build a new one will create some thing for the future. While the cost difference of \$30m is significant it will be appreciated by future generations and its impact minimal over time. It is such an import asset to the region we need to do it well. I prefer the re-siting of the theatre to a more central location maybe near Victoria St and the river which will enhance that area of town rather than a theatre that tends to stand apart form the hub. Hamilton now needs a new theatre for the not only the arts community but culture and arts are so important for the liveability. The cost is warranted for our children and grandchildren.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0507	Refurbish	No	Love the history of Founders Theatre and feel as though the city needs an option of some kind. To demolish and not replace seems a waste, and to build new seems extravagant. However, I'm not sure of the current capacity, so perhaps a new Founders Theatre would better suit city needs, my preference is based on cost effectiveness and sentimentality.	No	No	
0508	Refurbish	No	The theatre has good enough bones to work with. It's never going to be a facility of huge size due to car parking availability and the fact that Claudelands already exists to fill this need. It COULD be a great theatre for ballets, musicals, plays and opera if the backstage area were improved to accomodate quality productions. Not everyone wants to rattle about in a giant Claudelands arena either.	No	No	
0509	Build New		Hamilton could be an internationally great city due to it's multicultural nature. We have solved the Islamic question.	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 509 Insert – 1 page long

Chuvor Theatre



Dodecahedron

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0510	Build New		This is a great opportunity to build a signature building which can be purpose built. Also an opportunity to relocate to a more central and attractive position in the city. Combining with museum, riverbank, arts post close to a vibrant area of the city where there are plenty of restaurant and bars. What is happening to the swimming pool site? Could also use outside area to create amphitheatre for external productions	No	No	
0511	Refurbish	No	The current theatre has good heritage values, and provides a great venue for events and shows. It's a key attraction in the city centre.	No	No	
0512	Refurbish	No	I think Founders Theatre should be refurbished with up to date machinery, a bigger stage and bigger seats. The building is not old, much loved by many, in a central city position, in lovely surroundings, some of which could be taken to enlarge the building which is needed.	No	No	
0513	Refurbish	No	Because it is an icon that holds a lot of our generational history. Please keep it.	No	No	
0514	Refurbish	No	Because there's no need to spend 50 million when the building can be upgraded for much less.	No	No	
0515	Demolish		We have spent a lot of money building the Claudelands Events Centre and it can host large events in the future. Founders Theatre can be closed and demolished because a lot of events are already hosted in Claudelands anyway. Ice Age, Disney on Ice, The Breakers games, boxing matches and Ricky Martin's concert are all hosted by Claudelands. There are more parking spaces available there. It is also a multi-zoned centre that can host multiple events at the same time. It is also much larger than Founders Theatre. If we refurbish or build a new theatre, we will create more debt for the future generations and rates will go up even further. That's not what the residents of Hamilton want.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0516	Refurbish	No	It is quicker and cheaper to refurbish. We need the theatre, it's in a great location and is a great size for Hamilton - we don't need to overinvest in a newer, more modern theatre.	No	No	
0517	Build New		To cater for shows and entertainment deserving to city of Hamilton 4th largest city in NZ. For the pride of Hamilton at least. The time frame seems crazy,should be fast tracked,maxium 3 years. That's what we should do.	No	No	
0518	Demolish		Large theatre events are already available in Auckland and it is not far away. Smaller events are well catered for in our smaller theatres combined with Claudelands Arena and possibly the Stadium. Also, the current theatre is not well utilised, refurbishing it or building a new one would not change this fact. the result is most likely to be another annual drain on public finances for a building that does not pay its' own way (the same as Claudelands and the Stadium) If the theatre is to be rebuilt, or built new, then the council should not be responsible for the upkeep. this would ensure that any groups wanting to have the theatre will need to have a compelling business case combined with the motivation to keep it working through their own funds. again, if a theatre is to be built, the council could gift the land to a charitable entity with caveats on the land that it can only be used for this purpose and if the theatre is ever abandoned, then the land reverts back to the council. the council could also forego rates on this land to make the business case easier to meet. but the actual running costs should not be met by the council	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0519	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a reasonably large performance theatre. It needs it urgently. The projected time to refurbish is 2-3 years. That is time enough for going without a theatre. The building time for a new theatre is simply too long. Obviously cheaper for a refurbishing though I'd be amazed if the cost would be limited to \$20m and I'd be astonished if a full replacement would be limited to \$50m. The present theatre looks old-fashioned and unstylish but so what. It's served the region well in its present state for decades. If it can be 'done up' and made safe for around the projected cost it should serve the region equally well for years to come	No	No	
0520	Demolish		I think its time has passed and there are other places suitable to hold sinilar events if need be	No	No	
0521	Refurbish	No	Council has been wise in reducing debt over the past few years. However, Hamilton needs an improved arts venue to cope with the cities growth. Of course with the debt burden we had, acting on this in a timely manner has not been possible. Now we must face growth and embrace a change that will benefit the 'here and now' of Hamilton, but also those who will call this great city their home in the future. I see the refurbish option as best, because it addresses the need while keeping spending reasonable. The central location of the Founders Theatre is quite an icon of ours. As there is already an adjacent green space of considerable size, the park option seems odd. The venue fits well in its environment. Lets look forward to pulling bigger acts to Hamilton, and bigger crowds from further afield. Matthew Milburn. Melville resident.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0522	Refurbish	No	I think with refurbishment it will still be a most suitable venue. It is a classic 1960's building and has a lots of good memories for the people of Hamilton. It is a good size for most events and performances with larger events being catered for by the Events Centre.	No	No	
0523	Build New		Rebuild but not to the same size. We need a venue that will accommodate the larger ballet performances and other shows that are not coming to Hamilton because the theater is inadequate. We need a venue with better toilet facilities and refreshment areas. We need a venue that is wheelchair friendly. We need a venue with sufficient parking. We do not need a large park around the venue. If we need more money sell the Claudelands white elephant and just the savings on the huge annual Loss/ Subsidy will pay for the new Theater.	No	No	
0524	Build New		To bring Hamilton into the 21 Century for the next 50 years	No	No	
0525	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0526	Refurbish	No	It's a great theatre with good sound characteristics, easy access, good parking and a good size that seats more than some other theatres in Hamilton yet is not too large or barn like.	No	No	
0527	Refurbish	Yes	because if your going to spend \$50 million on buliding a new that is quite similar you might as well just redo the inside. the founders theatre had been in desperate need of a makeover as its interior design is old and outdated :)	No	No	
0528	Refurbish	No	The theatre itself is an asset that should not be discarded. It needs an upgrade. So give it one.	No	No	
0529	Build New		A new theatre needs to have both increased seating and stage area. The present size of both restricts some performances	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0530	Build New		It needs a bigger stage to hold better acts such as the NZ royal ballet. Would be great to invest some money into developing venues like this to bring people into the city.	No	No	
0531	Refurbish	No	I believe looking at the cost and the benefit to the city far out weighs the need to demolish and rebuild. I do not think it is necessary to replace it all, it could be refurbished most successfully. With a competition for Architects, for the best design that is most fitting to Hamilton and the Waikato.	No	No	
0532	Build New		Gives opportunity to build a Theatre that will meet the requirements of users now and in the future which should increase the use of it. A new building will provide a better experience for audiences. . A new theatre should be built on another site in the CBD to help to stimulate the CBD. and use the opportunity to open up views of the river.	No	No	
0533	Build New		The City of Hamilton needs such a purpose built venue. As a key NZ city we need to be able to provide for the full range of functions, concerts, conferences, performances etc. By world standards we are a small city but so are all NZ cities and we all need to have facilities that can showcase performing arts for our population and for the arts. There is little point in spending \$20 million if in 10 years time we have to spend again to increase the size to strengthen or modernise. Do it now - do it properly.	No	No	
0534	Build New		Either refurbishment or a new theatre but if a new theatre then it could be built with consultation of traveling productions (such as ballet companies) to make sure the theatre meets everyone's criteria which will mean more shows	No	No	

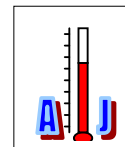
Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0535	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs a good theatre to attract productions as well as for local artistes. It seems to me a waste of money just to upgrade a theatre that is not suited to modern performance needs. Looking to the future, the whole district needs a venue like the Founders.	No	No	
0536	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is an iconic land mark for Hamilton, it has provided opportunity for local talent to be exposed and has provided us with great entertainment with national and international events. Keeping the original features of the theatre, keeps the history of the theatre alive for future generations. The shorter timeframe for the renovations is also appealing so Hamilton can attract major events sooner, before we are forgotten and become just another city events pass through.	No	No	
0537	Demolish		Given Claudlands event centre has yet to be profitable, I suggest investigating spending \$20M (i.e. the cost to refurbish Founders) on making Claudlands usable for events that would normally be held at Founders.	No	No	
0538	Refurbish	No	I think we need the theater and it is cheaper than to build new.	No	No	
0539	Refurbish	No	This will get performances back up and running quicker and keep the historical make up of the theatre intact.	No	No	
0540	Build New		I believe we need a theatre about this size. Claudlands is great for larger concerts but lacks the amenities the Founders has.	No	No	
0541	Build New		More options in regards to design and features capable. The Founders lacks a character and one would hope a new structure would have a visual appeal to go along with its modern design.	No	No	
0542	Refurbish	Yes	More affordable and gives a venue sooner.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0543	Build New		looking to the future Hamilton is growing fast -important city & The ARTS are important to society life-need new theatre . New theatre in Hamilton will be well used ,attract shows we cannot get -we go to Auckland Civic & Vectra etc & it is getting more difficult to go for several reasons including traffic congestion!.we would prefer to go to Hamilton anyway -just that the shows havent been there! look to the future -new theatre!	No	No	
0544	Refurbish	Yes	The burden of \$50million for a new building is to much during these financially difficult times	No	No	
0545	Build New		I believe Hamilton is a growing city and the investment would cater for the growing needs of the city and it's community. I have lived here for four years now and would love to continue to. The one thing I have found lacking here is the arts. There is a community here but it is malnourished. Rebuilding a new theatre would be a great investment	No	No	
0546	Refurbish	No	It has the most benefit for the city	No	No	
0547	Refurbish	Yes	i think the Founders is an ideal size for concerts and performers, it just needs refurbished to give it a facelift and the necessary work. Also we need to think of the cost factor and due to budget reasons.	No	No	
0548	Refurbish	No	Keeps a good facility available while still being financially wise.	No	No	
0549	Demolish		Our city needs to focus it's spending to do a few things well, rather than lots of things averagely. Theatre is not strong here so why push so much money into it.	No	No	
0550	Build New		If Hamilton has any intentions of being civilised then it need a proper theatre. Founders is so poor in layout, acoustics and general facilities that it is obsolete. You cannot make a silk purse out of as sow's ear!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0551	Build New		1. This would attract the public to the venue and aid the problem of the 4% decline in attendance to the theatre. 2: This is a good opportunity to upgrade the theatre. Because of the age of the building, a replacement may be necessary sometime in the near future in any case. 3: Due to the proposed increase in revenue and monetary gain to the area, the higher cost of this option would be a sound long term economic investment.	No	No	
0552	Build New		The way we use theatres is changing and having a more modern structure allows for keeping Founders as a place that can be used for generations to come. Refurbishing may keep it going longer but it will still not be as capable of accommodating future events as a new build.	No	No	
0553	Build New		We need a large complex to bring more art and culture into the region. Although more than double the price, the option will allow us to design a building that is not restricted by its current 60 year old footprint, perhaps move away from its school hall like internal appearance. The cost maybe double, but from your proposal, if not covered by rates then your debt/revenue target is just going to be a 2 year difference.	No	No	
0554	Refurbish	No	I feel that permanent closure is not an option for a city this size. A full rebuild for \$50m + could meet with a lot of opposition and there is the risk the project will be hijacked. Also 6 years is a long time to be without such a facility - Hamilton would be well and truly off the performing arts map by then with shows routinely going to say Tauranga or Rotorua instead. So that leaves refurbishment as the only realistic option	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0555	Build New		The existing building has done its time, its tired. The Gallagher Concert theatre at the University is regarded nationally as acoustically excellent. The City (and Districts) deserve an equally fitting building for the next 50/100 years.	No	No	
0556	Build New		1. I believe Hamilton needs a modern theatre for hosting major productions, so this leaves Options 1 or 2. It would be a backward move to go for Option 3, i.e. to leave the city without a major theatre. 2. A major theatre should be a most modern facility, built to last and serve the community for 30 to 50 years or more. The design should therefore be based on the latest concepts regarding the basic layout, operation, lights, acoustics, air-conditioning, indoor air quality, energy efficiency, fire safety and seismic strength. With Option 1, it would not be possible to achieve these goals due to the limitations inherent with refurbishing an existing structure. 3. Based on the above, I believe that Option 2, 'Build New' is the most suitable option and should be selected.	Yes	No	

Submitter 556 Insert – 3 pages long



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Date: 01-12-2015

CURRICULUM VITAE: DR ALEC JOHANNSEN



PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME	:	Dr A F B (Alec) Johannsen
DATE OF BIRTH	:	1938-12-12
NATIONALITY	:	South African
ADDRESS	:	43 Idol Road, Lynnwood Glen, Pretoria, 0081
PROFESSION	:	Mechanical Engineer
SPECIALIZATION	:	Applied thermodynamics, HVAC
PRESENT POSITION	:	Self-employed: Alec Johannsen Consulting Engineers

SUMMARY

Over 40 years experience in consulting engineering, applied research, and development of engineering software. Experience with technically complex projects requiring innovative approach, and creativity. Strong in analytical skills and practical problem solving.

EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL STATUS AND AFFILIATIONS

BSc [Eng] and MSc [Eng]	Warsaw Institute of Technology, 1960 & 1961
PhD [Mech Eng]	University of Pretoria, 1983

Registration: Registered Professional Engineer in South Africa (Reg No 720654)

Affiliations:	Fellow:	S A Institution of Mechanical Engineers
	Member:	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
	Fellow:	S A Institute of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning

EXPERIENCE

April 1991 - present	Self-employed, Alec Johannsen Consulting Engineers - Consulting services in air-conditioning, heating, ventilation, energy efficiency, heat exchangers, heat pumps and steam installations. Design of air-conditioning installations for office buildings, hospitals, shopping centres, churches, cinemas and educational institutions. Development of thermal engineering software, e.g. air-conditioning design software Bsimac 7.0 (cooling loads, heating loads, annual energy), psychrometric software Ps-Data, thermal modeling of industrial effluent dams, design of refrigerated beer fermentation tanks, and others. Major clients: National Dept of Public Works, Dept of Public Works North-West, Dept of Public Works Limpopo, Dept of Public Works Gauteng, Middelburg Municipality, Worthington-Smith & Brouwer Consulting Engineers, Bayside Aluminium, CSIR, National Energy Council, Silverton Engineering, S A Plant & Engineering Co., Armscor, Keeve Steyn Inc, Amplats, Kinesis Logistics, Shibbolet.
April 1989 - March 1991	Cahi de Vries & Brink, Consulting Engineers – Associate in charge of Mechanical Engineering Department.
Nov 1965 - March 1989	National Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, CSIR - Researcher to Chief Engineer and Head, Heat Mechanics Division. Applied research, development and contract investigations in the fields of heat & mass transfer, refrigeration & air-conditioning, solar energy, heat recovery and heat pumps. Work for government agencies included, amongst others, six research reports for the former Foundation for Research Development and the National Energy Council dealing with heat pumps, structural heat storage, ice/chilled water storage and heat recovery.

PUBLICATIONS: A total of 20 papers in professional journals, 18 conference papers and over 120 research reports.

Publications related to energy efficiency of buildings:

Grossman, G., Johannsen, A. 1981. Solar cooling and air-conditioning. **Progress in Energy and Combustion Science**, Vol 7. July

Johannsen, A. 1982. Advances in design of air-heating collectors. **Solar 82 Conference, University of Pretoria**, Pretoria, South Africa.

Johannsen, A. 1983. Performance simulation of regenerating type solar collectors. **Solar Energy**, Vol 30, No 2. February.

Johannsen, A. 1984. Performance simulation of a solar air-conditioning system with liquid desiccant. **The International Journal of Ambient Energy**, Vol 5, No 2. April.

[CV: Dr Alec Johannsen, Continued]

Johannsen, A. 1986. Heat gain through a curtain wall with windows and an external glass facade. **Frigair 86 Conference**, Pretoria, South Africa.

Doyle, C.C., Johannsen, A. 1990. Computer-modelling of a structural storage air-conditioning system. **Frigair 90 Conference**, Pretoria, South Africa.

Johannsen, A. 1991. The effect of wind speed on the cooling load of buildings with solar control glass. **S.A Refrigeration and Airconditioning**. March.

Johannsen, A. 1995. Non-Azeotropic refrigerant mixtures for water-heating heat pumps. **South African Mechanical Engineer**. February

Johannsen, A. 1997. Performance evaluation of the airconditioning economizer cycle in different regions of South Africa. **Refrigeration and Airconditioning**. July.

Johannsen, A. 2004. Advances in cooling load computation methods: a closer look at factors affecting the cooling load. **RACA Journal**. September.

Energy-related Research Reports for Government Agencies:

Johannsen, A. 1984. A review of development and application of heat pump technology. **CSIR Research Report 585 submitted to the Foundation for Research Development**. January.

Johannsen, A., Kaiser. G. 1986. Potential of electrically operated heat pumps for heating water in South Africa. **CSIR Research Report 615 submitted to the Foundation for Research Development**. August.

Kaiser. G., Johannsen, A. 1987. Potential of heat recovery in South Africa. **CSIR Research Report 649 submitted to the Foundation for Research Development**. June.

Doyle, C.C., Johannsen, A. 1989. Computer-modelling of a structural storage air-conditioning system. **CSIR Research Report 673 submitted to the National Energy Council**. November.

Johannsen, A., Kaiser. G. 1989. Potential of ice/chilled water storage for air-conditioning systems in South Africa. **CSIR Research Report 675 submitted to the National Energy Council**. December.

SOFTWARE: Author of BSIMAC software for air-conditioning design and compliance with SANS 10400-XA, approved and certified by Agrément South Africa. www.bsimac.co.za



Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0557	Build New		Exisitng building is tired and done its time. The City, Districts the Waikato Region deserves an acoustically fine concert building.	No	No	
0558	Build New		A more modern theatre could mean bigger dhows to Hamilton without having to make the trip to Auckland.	No	No	
0559	Refurbish	No	Cost to rebuild too uncertain Additional Debt to rebuild too much for rate payers to bear Existing location is good, plenty of parking Basic structure exists Others councils / communities have own priorities and therefore won't / can't contribute The city is run down enough now with budget cuts that essential capital investment work is being deferred. Increasing the debt further than required by the refurbishment option will only add to Hamilton's diminishing appearance and lack of day to day maintenance of parks, streets and CBD	No	No	
0560	Refurbish	Yes	Couldn't justify the expense of building new and seems a waste to let this as serve demolished. Seems like the only option.	No	No	
0561	Refurbish	Yes	Cost - don't want theatre to close.nlovecgling there to see stuff and the fact it brings things to hamilton that we otherwise have to travel for	No	No	
0562	Build New		We need a mid-sized theatre, Claudelands is too big and heartless for some performances, and Clarence Street is too small/makeshift.	No	No	
0563	Refurbish	Yes	I had originally thought that I wanted to build a new theatre but looking at the list of refurbishments that would be done to the theatre, I think it ticks all of the boxes. The arts is a massive part of Hamilton and to not have a theatre that can hold big shows seems crazy to me. As a cast member of Mary Poppins that was cancelled I believe that the theatre needs to be fixed right away so that Hamilton can continue to put on amazing shows and get even better shows coming to perform.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0564	Demolish		It's a horrid building. I would support building new if and only if the site was located somewhere with adequate parking. The current site is painful. What about extending the performance centre at the university? Parking might still be an issue. And what about Claudelands? Any opportunities there?	No	No	
0565	Build New		It's 54 years old.....its time for a serious upgrade.	No	No	
0566	Refurbish	Yes	Founders is a great place to perform and to watch live productions. To refurbish the theatre would be a fantastic way to keep its character and history, which I think is very important for the arts. It makes it more pleasurable seeing a show when you have various other memories there. I love Founders, and would hate to see it demolished. It is one of the only places in Hamilton that can accommodate large scale productions, and without it Hamilton will lose out altogether. It would be a huge loss for the art community in Hamilton, and surrounding areas, if Founders were to disappear.	No	No	
0567	Build New		-	No	No	
0568	Refurbish	Yes	I definitely want to see the theatre reopen. A total rebuild would be great, but it seems like \$50m is a pretty massive cost.	No	No	
0569	Build New		It would be amazing to see a fresh beautiful new theatre in Hamilton where shows and productions can be held and the city can have pride in arts and the theatre in Hamilton.	No	No	
0570	Build New		Having the ability to host large-scale productions is something Hamilton needs to add to its arts culture. Without theatre, Hamilton is losing one of its main attractions. Making a new location would ensure that the best possible theatre was built for sustainability and expansion of what could tour here.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0571	Build New		for the exact reasons listed above. A new theatre would be capable of hosting major touring productions, and would not be limited by a pre existing floor plan.	No	No	
0572	Build New		Hamilton needs to have a theater to encourage a large variety of acts to our community at a reasonable rate. We need a venue for our theater company, our ethnic groups and hold community events. It is important to the soul of a community to protect the arts.	No	No	
0573	Refurbish	No	My preferred option is refurbishment as I feel that a city of Hamilton's size needs a suitable venue for the arts. The cost of building new seems too large of a burden for ratepayers (without much additional benefit over and above the refurbishment option), and indeed it is possible that even the cost of refurbishment may represent too much additional cost for many who already struggle with rate rises. My preference for refurbishment is possibly selfish as I enjoy attending events at the theatre; I recognise that a sizeable sector of the community makes no use of the Founders Theatre and would be justified in resenting an obligation to contribute financially to its rehabilitation. Given the provided costings I have chosen refurbishment, but considering that large projects seem to run over budget more often than not I am on the borderline of regretfully choosing demolition.	No	No	
0574	Build New		-	No	No	
0575	Refurbish	No	I believe that if Hamilton wants to attract major shows or events, then this is the most "cost-effective" option available (though it's still a lot of money). If the council were to choose the build new (\$50 million) option, then there is always the danger of budget blowouts and the finished project might well cost a lot more than the \$50 million - which is why I prefer the refurbishment option.	No	No	
0576	Refurbish	Yes	Most cost effective way to keep it	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0577	Build New		In a growing city of our size it is imperative we have a theatre capable of hosting major touring productions. The Royal NZ Ballet and the Opera to mention a couple. The money wasted over the years putting bandaid over the shortcomings of the old Founders has been mostly wasted. It has been leaking over a stage that has been too small for years. Bite the bullet and build something new that we can be proud of. To have to go to cities much smaller than Hamilton to see our national ballet is appalling and embarrassing. Start from scratch and do it well. We are not just a city for sport we have a proud history of culture here too. The Operatic Society put on world class shows regularly. Please, please listen to those of us involved in the arts and care deeply about Hamikton.	No	No	
0578	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0579	Build New		Why not, look at it this way in 10 years it would cost even more to build. Why not let it be a cultural hub and attraction for Hamilton.	No	No	
0580	Refurbish	No	Founders is part of Hamiltons history and should be retained. With no alternate venue it is too far to travel for shows and lost revenue for the city from the wider waikato area.	No	No	
0581	Build New		The existing site of Founder's Theatre is in the wrong place to connect with the entertainment hub in south end of Victoria St. An alternative site close to /overlooking our river location would be fantastic.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0582	Build New		Because we simply do not have a large scale theatre that can adequately accommodate large performances. I've seen the RNZB perform at Founders, and every time, they have to perform a scaled down version of their show. We are a growing urban center, we need facilities that reflect that. Claudelands Event Center simply isn't designed to work as a theater performance space. Clarence St, Riverlea and The Meteor, while all fantastic performance spaces, just can't provide the space and facilities needed.	No	No	
0583	Build New		IT is appalling that events like New Zealand Ballet cannot be performed in New Zealands 4th largest city. We spent so much on the road race fiasco but that should not deter us from doing what is right for the Arts in Hamilton. Many of us do not want or able to go to Auckland to see events, we should have them here.	No	No	
0584	Build New		Best option, thinking of the prosperous future of the Waikato.	No	No	
0585	Demolish		The financial impact is too high. We have other venues in Hamilton (Clarence St, Gallagher Performing Arts, etc) that can meet the need. Founders as well is unnecessary, considering the impact to my debt burden	No	No	
0586	Build New		I think the costs to refurbish could baloon over \$20m once more work happens and new things to fix are found, there are many unknowns. If we are spending half the money to refurbish I think we should rebuild a new theatre. Refurbishment would potentially need more money down the track when standards change or if he building deteriorates. My only concern with rebuilding is that the theater would be closed for six years.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0587	Build New		With the development of the river bank I believe having a new purpose built theatre in that area will only make the central city more vibrant. Having a new theatre will ensure that all codes of building, earthquake strengthening etc are met. It also gives Hamilton the flexibility to build a theatre that will cater for a variety of shows, building a flexible design to ensure different styles of theatre performances are able to be accommodated.	No	No	
0588	Build New		Lack of parking at present site Poor acoustics for orchestras and choirs at Founders Poor backstage facilities. Wings and stage too small for Ballets and Opera New building should be multi functional as in ChCh's James Hay Theatre and separate Auditorium on same site.. At present one building is not suitable for different types of events. . In fact all the reasons for the necessity to refurbish the Founders. If all these could be addressed at the present site and no other site for new facilities was available this would be cheaper option but not not overcome parking problems.	No	No	
0589	Refurbish	Yes	It is handy where it is located now and I think it's an Icon that has been there for many years. I don't want to lose the theatre at all as we miss out on all the good shows as they go to Auckland or other centres. I don't know why so much was spent on Claudelands when it could have gone to the Founders instead.	No	No	
0590	Build New		Existing building is dated so refurbishment would only be cosmetic for the public areas. Founders is an asset for the whole region not just Hamilton so should also be funded by other local authorities in the region.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0591	Build New		The present theatre is too small and needs to be larger to meet the future needs of a growing city. The site where it is currently is central and with enlargement of the parking area is quite adequate for a new multi purpose theatre	No	No	
0592	Build New		In addition to the good reasons given under "Option 2: Build New," points 1-3, I add another. It is one of the ugliest buildings I've seen in my life. I would hope that if the choice is made to build new, councillors could opt for a building that is inspiring and beautiful to look at. A building for the arts that looks downright ugly is a contradiction. For those who like the current look of the place, you can always host ugly performances inside but at least the building itself should not look as if it's something the Soviet bloc designed in the Stalinist era.	No	No	
0593	Refurbish	No	this is an established building here in hamilton it is iconic. we need to keep our old buildings for the future not make everything modern. we go on about people respecting and remembering our heritage but we have hardly any heritage buildings left?? isn't it better to enhance what we have rather than make more waste for our future?	No	No	
0594	Build New		1 - opportunity to move the location and expand the green belt 2 - using new materials with greener life cycle 3 - Incorporating infrastructure to support new forms of performance media 4 - scope to bring a larger audience closer to the stage with a better auditorium design 5 - inclusion of facilities for mobility and other ability access	No	No	
0595	Build New		We need big entertainment functions in Hamilton as Auckland is just to congested and expensive to travel to.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0596	Refurbish	No	We need a theatre in Hamilton. We have a lovely old building which we should keep - it's good to have architecture from different decades rather than everything the same (ie. new and soon to be old and boring). There is less disruption and a shorter time frame if we keep the existing building. And less cost.	No	No	
0597	Refurbish	No	Love the existing building. Don't like wasting money.	No	No	
0598	Refurbish	No	Got to be the least whole life cost option. Upgrade needed anyway. Bring funding forward and get on with it my son!	No	No	
0599	Demolish		It is old and dated, and we have claudlands which is near new, modern and under used. Definitely think the money can be better used than spending \$20 million than re doing a building that will get used a handful of times a year	No	No	
0600	Build New		Better future proofing wth a new build.	No	No	
0601	Build New		A new building would mean we can redesign parking and the area around it to be more suitable for a growing and modern city. It will also be an investment for the city as if major productions come here it will benefit the hospitality industry and ticket sales could be massive	No	No	
0602	Build New		The Founders is a lovely heritage piece, but no longer meets the needs of users or performers (and hasn't for some time) - especially as Hamilton has no venue suitable for large productions. Purpose-building to todays' needs and standards should extend the life and usability of the venue, ensure health and safety, and lessen future upkeep. It would be nice if we could keep some of the De Lisle aesthetic/design features, but the viability of archiving heritage at the expense of practicality just isn't the main factor here - the point is a quality performance space that will serve the community.	No	No	
0603	Demolish		Why cant we use claudelands which is not utilised as much as it could be?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0604	Build New		If it is built properly this time it will allow big performances to come to Hamilton and that means you don't have to travel to Auckland to see good shows. If it is built right it will last for many years and generate income for the city Demolishing is not an option as it is leaving the city with no appropriate performance venue. Refurbishing is going to cost a lot of money too, and essentially how much better can it get as the bones are already there.	No	No	
0605	Refurbish	Yes	Refurbishment option preferred for the following reasons: will meet requirements for upgraded , stronger , larger facility will retain current building on the same site and continue the fine reputation the theatre has built up over it's 54 year history is in my view the most cost effective option As a rate payer, I am happy to pay an annual levy \$28.00 for next 20 years	No	No	
0606	Build New		It is by far the most visionary option. I've already planned the new theatre in my mind. It could change the whole national perception of Hamilton from national cow-town, to national cultural hub.	No	Yes	
0607	Build New		Founders is 54 years old and no matter how much you spend refurbishing, you will still have a 54 year old building. However, if you build a New specific WELL DESIGNED building looking forward for the next 50 years you have exactly what you want. 54 years ago Founders was just the berries but theatre needs have changed and our theatre has NOT kept pace with New :Laws, greater demands for flies, need for greater stage space , and so you can go on. When Claudelands was built I do not believe it was ever the intention of it replacing the Founders. 2 different buildings for different purposes.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0608	Refurbish	Yes	The refurbishment cost is an acceptable level of rates funding \$28/yr over 20 years, rather than \$69/yr over 20 years. I don't believe closing the theatre would help Hamilton to be seen as the "City of the Future". As a growing city we need to have a venue that has character and history to showcase those events that would "get lost" if they were held at Claudelands.	No	No	
0609	Refurbish	Yes	-Most cost effective option -preserves a heritage building even though it is not officially a heritage building.	No	No	
0610	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is a Hamilton institution. While I haven't been to anything there lately (due to having young children) I have been to many things there over the years. It could definitely do with some work, but it would be a shame to lose it.	No	No	
0611	Refurbish	No	I think it would be a real shame if Hamilton didn't have a theatre for the Waikato region. My family, friends and I have enjoyed many shows here. I think refurbishment would keep some of the character and history whilst saving \$30m for a replacement.	No	No	
0612	Refurbish	Yes	While still expensive, it's a good choice for a budget-conscious Council. Demolishing the building would leave a profound void in the centre of the city; we need venues for high-quality entertainment. Building new is probably too expensive. However, with both a refurbishment or building new option, careful monitoring of costs is essential to prevent massive budget 'blow-out'.	No	No	
0613	Demolish		Costs will big whether you refurbish it or rebuild. So why not rebuild and get all the extras that come with this option!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0614	Build New		The founders is old. We should have a theatre that is modern and capable of hosting many events. Just demolition is not an option! A city this size must have a theatre. It must be a priority and built as soon as possible.	No	No	
0615	Refurbish	No	I think Founders Theater is a great theater for Hamilton and if it was demolished, it will be a big lose for Hamilton	No	No	
0616	Build New		Easier to redesign and include new technology by rebuilding. Rebuilding would also be to a higher standard the the band aid approach of repairing.	No	No	
0617	Build New		We need to spend an appropriate amount of money to build a new fit for purpose theatre which will stand the test of time.	No	No	
0618	Build New		Spend the money to get a better long term investment.	No	No	
0619	Refurbish	No	I think our city NEEDS to have a cultural beat, and for this to happen we need to provide artists with a stage that will attract them. I do not think however that we need to demolish and start things from scratch at great cost, the Founders Theatre building still looks good from the outside.	No	No	
0620	Build New		The current Founders Theatre was built with the vision for that time it is now time for a new vision. Let us build a Theatre that meets our current needs but also has the capability of being able to meet the future changing needs of Hamilton for the next 50 plus years. A really good designer with futuristic but practicable vision needs to lead this project. In the long term building a new theatre will prove to be the cheaper option. We will then get a purpose built building which is what we need.	No	No	
0621	Build New		It just needs an upgrade like claudlands have it for events, etc a bar..	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0622	Build New		Opportunity to create a world class theatre which can house shows that currently bypass Hamilton. The theatre could be moved so its in the city centre which would bring more life into the centre	No	No	
0623	Build New		The existing building is a bit of an eyesore.	No	No	
0624	Build New		My preference is to demolish the Founders and build a NEW one on a NEW SITE... one with LOTS of PARKING. The Founders is NOT placed well for parking, or safety, and over the years has not met the needs of Hamiltonians. I started going to the Founders as a small girl (45 years ago) when I sang in school choirs. I have performed there MANY times... then as an adult I have accompanied children there for ballet concerts, school performances, and friends graduations not to forget shows like Collin Fry. It has not been big enough, had enough toilets, had enough room in the foyer for half time, had enough parking etc etc etc for YEARS. Maybe something could be built out at The Base where there is LOTS of parking. Thank you for reading my submission.	No	No	
0625	Build New		Because it's future-proofing.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0626	Build New		As a performer, I know that the facilities that the theatre offers are great for actors and dancers, but the facilities don't really work so well for musicians. If a group wants to perform on the stage, it is hard to get the sound right because the theatre isn't built to accommodate those kinds of acoustics. The lighting is also not great for instrumental performances as it is hard to back light music etc. I also think the seating could be improved in the theatre, if you've got someone tall in front of you, you can't see a thing and there is always little to no leg room. Some of the older dressing rooms don't have enough bench space, mirrors and lighting for large groups of people. I also think more there could be more 'warm up space' for performers. I know there is a small dance studio out the back but there isn't really a sound proofed space where musicians can warm up before going on stage.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0627	Refurbish	No	I agree that the existing theatre isn't fit for purpose any longer. However, I also respect the fact that it is an example of mid-century architecture that is likely to have heritage value in the future. Too often we have been too late to recognise the value of these buildings (e.g. the Riverina Hotel, the Embassy Theatre) and, given that the money for the theatre was raised by public subscription I believe it could be an important part of Hamilton's heritage in the future, even though we don't consider it as such now. I also don't believe that having a brand-new, state-of-the-art theatre in Hamilton will make it any more competitive with Auckland. The fact is that we are a smaller population and major touring companies are unlikely to pack in and out of a venue two hours down the road, if they can run their production in Auckland where the population base is bigger. Refurbishing the existing theatre would address the issues with it not being suitable for some locations and would make it more enticing/acceptable for productions that bypass Hamilton, despite visiting other regional venues. If we were to demolish and rebuild, I'd be concerned about the new theatre being a white elephant for the reasons I have stated above. There is also the issue of where to put it, if not on the same site - it should be in central Hamilton, but where?	No	No	
0628	Build New		Even though it is more expensive it gives the city and opportunity to build something for the future where we want it go.	No	No	
0629	Refurbish	No	I wouldn't like the shows to not come to Hamilton for too long.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0630	Refurbish	Yes	We need a facility in Hamilton so that we can continue having events which the Founders caters for. To refurbish is the cheaper option and to have option two when numbers attending the Founders has decreased does not seem a good option. I would not like to see Hamilton lose such a facility when we are a growing city and we would then have to travel further afield to see events.	No	No	
0631	Build New		Since moving to Hamilton we have enjoyed living in a progressive city, Hamilton with all of its roading infrastructure, its gardens and other developments is obviously looking to the future and we think that if this opportunity is missed, it will be regretted in the years to come.	No	No	
0632	Build New		Hamilton is a growing town and a better building would maybe entice more acts to stop here. I think the location is a great site with the parks around it and the cricket pitch next door and walking distance to the motels and the cbd. I would support the refurbish of the old theatre but maybe it's time to move on.	No	No	
0633	Build New		A city needs a decent performance space - you have the opportunity now to create something new exciting and iconic.	No	No	
0634	Refurbish	No	Makes sense to use what's already there, growing up in Hamilton I went to many events there and have amazing memories if stage challenge hosted there. It would be a shame to close and go without these however Hamilton already has Claudlands to host major tours so the rebuild is probably not necessary. Refurbishment also seems like the more environmentally friendly option.	No	No	
0635	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0636	Refurbish	No	I don't think demolition is a viable option. Hamilton is a vibrant, growing city and we need facilities for the arts. Based on the information provided, it seems the less expensive refurbishment option is likely to provide the same facilities as a new build, plus it will preserve the history of an iconic (albeit relatively modern) Hamilton building. The location of Founders is fine where it is, so I see no need to relocate it.	No	No	
0637	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0638	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre was built to commemorate the centenary of Hamilton and should therefore be retained for its heritage. In future times, people will be grateful that the building was saved. The land that the Founders sits on is sufficient to allow for expansion/upgrade of the building as required. Look at the Embassy and the Regent - gone forever! I don't support a new building altogether in the same place because the present one was built in faith at the time and it was stated that it was an outstanding piece of architecture and it still is.	No	No	
0639	Build New		Although, its going to cost a lot of money, it will be a better more healthier place to watch things that are showing there.	No	No	
0640	Refurbish	Yes	The current location of Founders Theatre is excellent. The exterior does look a bit dated, but the interior is nice. Parking is good in the current location. I have been coming to NZSO concerts for the past 5 years with family members of all ages, and this is a really important part of our lives. We have also enjoyed musicals and concerts there. A new theatre might be nice, but it is much more expensive, and the location may not be as good as the current one.	No	No	
0641	Refurbish	Yes	Being capable of hosting major touring productions could bring in more people and have a positive effect on other businesses in Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0642	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton is a large and growing city. We do not want it to return to its reputation of being a cow town. The Founders was probably never much of a theatre and certainly does not satisfy the needs of the city of today. However, we are sceptical as to whether a really good, iconic, theatre can be built for the suggested money. Although Hamilton is growing, the burden on the existing ratepayer base would be very considerable. if the suggested refurbishment was undertaken in full, the theatre should prove suitable for many years to come	No	No	
0643	Build New		We'll have a brand new theatre and it will only take 4 years longer to reach the debt target.	No	No	
0644	Build New		Might as well make a good long term investment and get exactly what we need the first time around. Would rather go to Hamilton instead of Auckland for events.	No	No	
0645	Refurbish	No	I love going to Founders and it holds many memories and I feel it would be utilised more when it is refurbished. People know where it is and we need to hold onto buildings that help us tell us whakapapa.	No	No	
0646	Build New		Founders theatre is now past its useful life due to inattention and inept council leaders. Unfortunately just refurbishing it will not do a good enough job, and Hamilton will continue to lose out on major shows. A new theatre should be built to state of the art standard so that Hamilton has the best chance of making up for the city council's inability to maintain something to a reasonable degree. When Founders was built, it was not paid for by the council, and the least they could do to make up for this shambles would be build a modernised facility.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0647	Refurbish	Not Answered	Because this is an iconic building in Hamilton. We have been to many events in the theatre and it would be a devastating loss to the city. The history and memories of Founders deserves to be recognised. We have friends and relatives outside of the Waikato district who travel to Founders for events and cannot believe the Council is considering demolition. Am not answering the next question 6 as do not want a new theatre built!	No	No	
0648	Demolish		Travel to other centers is much easier than in the past Other spaces such as uni arts center for smaller musical events eg classical music or instrumental music There are other theaters in the area for local theatrical societies If someone really thinks it is essential then they will convince business to front most of the bill.	No	Yes	
0649	Build New		The city is a lot bigger than when the theatre was first built. We need a bigger venue to attract more acts and allow for bigger audiences to attend. This will need to be done at some stage for the city and the cost will not be coming down any time soon.	No	No	
0650	Refurbish	Yes	Its great to have a theatre that isn't too big & is centrally located. Being able to refurbish or rebuild it is my preferred option! My daughter thinks The Wiggles live there!	No	No	
0651	Build New		Hamilton and the Waikato deserve a new up to date theatre to take us into the future. Fixing up is not an option for looking ahead and close and demolish is not even worth consideration. Sports gets thousands of dollars for new up to date facilities and if we are not to slip back to our cow town image , we need to just do it. future Hamilton dwellers will commend our forward thinking and action.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0652	Build New		If relocated a new theatre will assist with revitalisation and transformation of the CBD. This is a better long term outcome than investing in an old theatre in poor a location.	No	No	
0653	Build New		1.The Founder's theatre was build for the 1960's on Green Belt land.i was a 5 year old with my school when we performed at the theatre. Hamilton has grown since then and the city needs to cater for a larger population. Use this opportunity to build a new performing arts centre with state of the art technology and engineering. 2 A PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE should be built to cater for the 21st century.The heart of hamilton culture needs a place where the people can celebrate their culture and attract visitors to the centre. a new centre in a different place will also attract major international performances and will be a boast for the region. 3 There is a performing arts centre in Brisbane at Southbank next to the river.The area attracts a huge amount of visitors to the centre and the riverbank. I believe a performing arts centre could be build near the Waikato river and this will attract more people to the CBD. This would attract more apartments, restaurants and cafes and people back to the city centre.it would cater for the young people and older adults. A ferry could transport people to the centre from various ends of Hamilton 4. A state of the art centre would attract people from Auckland, Tauranga and Rotorua and not just the local region.	No	No	
0654	Refurbish	No	We must have a proper theatre. Refurbishing is the most sensible/sustainable option.	No	No	
0655	Refurbish	No	It's a beautiful part of Hamilton City and in a central location.	No	No	
0656	Refurbish	No	The city needs a venue of this type, and the building is an iconic and well known one in the city. Aside from the obvious - that it's the cheapest option	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0657	Refurbish	No	It is the most cost effective way of retaining a theatre that can house major productions and have it up and running sooner than a brand new one. Hamilton needs a premier theatre but the cost of a total new build is not warranted and will take too long.	No	No	
0658	Build New		I'm sick of travelling to Auckland to see shows who can't fit into Founders Theatre. Imagine how many more shows our family could see if we didn't have a 4 hour round trip to Auckland to see them.	No	No	
0659	Refurbish	Yes	It's cheaper and takes the least time. I used to dance for Drury Lane and loved our end of year productions in this theatre. The theatre holds a lot of memories for a lot of people. Would be a shame to move it or demolish it. It would be great to have shows back up and running in there. Definitely would be great to include more parking though.	No	No	
0660	Build New		-	No	No	
0661	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0662	Refurbish	Yes	For the last 49 years, I have attended prize givings, graduations, a wide range of concerts and shows at the Founders Theatre. The sound system was refurbished and worked very well. We attended the Tommy Emmanuel concert where he played the guitar, just him, and the sound was excellent. I worry that NZ Ballet has nowhere in Hamilton to dance in and that Hamiltonians (including the residents of the wider Waikato) are missing out. I would prefer not to have to travel to Auckland to see shows. I do not like the new trend at Claudelands where patrons can buy alcohol and they disrupt patrons by going in and out to the toilets and buy alcohol. It is like attending a rugby match. Please in the future do not let patrons at the newly refurbished Founders to go in and out of shows like that. Once the door has closed that is it. Do we have to have a bar? I know you get sponsorship from businesses that rely on sales of alcohol. I am not anti alcohol, I drink plenty of it but it changes the culture of the experience. Please do not let patrons bring alcohol into the shows while they are watching.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0663	Refurbish	No	If the flying system had not failed then the council would have simply refurbished and it is assumed that research supported this option. Attendance is dropping 4% a year. There is no evidence the community is demanding or supporting the theatre. Attendance seems to have averaged 1500 per week, or about 2 full performances. There is no evidence provided that the community would attend the new zealand ballet or other performances that pass hamilton by. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that Claudelands could not be provided with a stage and flying system to make the maximum use of an existing facility that has better parking options. No costs for simply replacing the flying system have been provided which could be funded instead of refurbishing. It is not yet determined what the seismic strength is not whether strengthening is required. In summary, insufficient information is available to make an informed decision and spend larger amounts of ratepayer money.	No	No	
0664	Demolish		-	No	No	
0665	Refurbish	Yes	Founders theatre is a nice building, certainly up to any other cities standard. We need a theatre in Hamilton.	No	No	
0666	Refurbish	Yes	Cost/Benefit	No	No	
0667	Build New		A new building would bring more performers to the city, and with a complete new floor plan all eventualities would be covered.	No	No	
0668	Refurbish	Yes	It's current size fits with many of the cities current needs.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0669	Build New		Build new because refurbishment always costs more than expected and the budget will easily blow out to the cost of the new build. Lets learn from lessons from the hospital and build it right the first time. lets not lose a section of our community - the arts Build new but only on the current site - why move, great site, close to the transport bus centre and close to the restaurants close to the hotels/motels, close to the airport, close to the arterial routes for out of town visitors	No	Yes	
0670	Build New		refurbishment can often have issues and additional hidden costs	No	No	
0671	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0672	Build New		iam afraid that the refurbish option may see a founders theatre that does not entirely deliver on promises. how much money can you throw at something old, like a car and expect it to run like a rolls Royce? a new site is also preferred.	No	No	
0673	Build New		I think it is important to have a new, larger space which will attract more shows, concerts and therefore money to the city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0674	Refurbish	No	I believe that the design and capacity of the auditorium is adequate and - indeed - ideal for the functions and performances of the type for which it was built. The issue of acoustics would be addressed in any refurbishment and up-grading of the auditorium. That the 'back of house' facilities and the flying system need up-grading is an absolute necessity - no argument there. The Structure and strength of the tower certainly needs to be addressed to meet seismic Standards. As far as the flying system is concerned, there are people and companies here in Hamilton with the knowledge and capacity to use the technology and engineering principles available in order to design and build a very good and safe package. In this discussion we should not confuse the issue by pretending that Founders' Theatre and the Claudelands complex can be compared - one is an apple, the other an orange.!	No	No	
0675	Refurbish	Yes	In my professional capacity as the director of Theatre Systems & Design Ltd, a company providing engineering services to the entertainment industry, I think it is vital for Hamilton and the wider Waikato region to have a performing arts facility that is capable of meeting the current and future requirements of major touring and local productions. It is also most realistic to refurbish from a financial point of view as this will meet the above objective. A New Build may be more advantageous from an overall perspective but at the same time may well be less likely to proceed due to the significant costs involved. To close and demolish is not an option as this will deprive a very fast growing population of a chance to participate in the performing arts in order to contribute to their general well being.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0676	Build New		It is time we had a new purpose built theatre that can cater for more shows. The founders has done a good job, but it's time to move on to develop a theatre that meets the growing size of Hamilton and the increasing diversity of its population. We have excellent smaller facilities but need a larger theatre to attract the ballet, orchestra and overseas shows that skip Hamilton because the founders is simply not big enough or modern enough.	No	No	
0677	Demolish		Most Buildings in NZ are designed for a life of approximately 50 years before major work is required for repairs or to bring them up to date. The Founders Theatre has had it's day, it is simply outdated and wasn't well designed from the beginning. 1. The electrical and electronics in the theatre are well out of date. You need state of the art design for this to last the next 50 years. 2. The seating arrangement at the Founders Theatre stretches too far back from the stage. The audience needs to be closer to the stage with the seating area wider and wrapped around the ends of the stage. The seating and stage area should be wider than it is long. An upper level of seating should also be included to increase seat numbers. 3. Apparently the original accoustics were substandard and had to be replaced. State of the art accoustics could be built into a new theatre. 4. The Founders Theatre could be converted into a town hall for meetings and political gatherings at little cost. No need to demolish it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			5. Parking has always been a problem in Hamilton and that can be avoided by siting a new theatre in or near the cbd and build parking underneath the theatre like sky city casino's parking arrangement. Don't rely on nearby parking buildings. Hamiltonians don't like paying for parking. For example: Locate the new theatre where the transport centre is now and put the transport centre underground at Garden Place. 6. Also it's a good idea not to build a new theatre at river level. If for any reason a dam or two is wiped out on the Waikato river there would be catastrophic damage to buildings at river level. 7. Likewise with the Municipal baths location in Victoria Street. There may be a massive cavern underneath that location caused by the water leaking from the pools over a long period of time. 8. A performing arts theatre is an essential community project and you only build it once every 50 years. But if it is well designed structurally it may well last 100s of years with only up to date renovations required from time to time. 9. Do not allow funding to restrict the building. Make it the best it can be for the people who use it. Both entertainers and the audience. This is a chance to provide a top class theatre with all the mod cons that we can all be proud of and if done properly could last for more than 50 years.			
0678	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is a Hamilton icon and has been a great venue for dance, singing, theatre and orchestral performances as I know as I have performed there in all these genres in the past. We need to restore it and maintain our icon not demolish it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0679	Refurbish	No	Founders is a relatively young building - 54 years young. Think of the opera houses and theatres of Europe. Many are hundreds of years old. We have very little cultural heritage in New Zealand in terms of buildings. Many of those that we did have were demolished in the cause of progress. Founders is an iconic building of Hamilton. Members of my family and community have performed in that theatre for 30 years. It was always considered the most prestigious performing arts venue in the city. What message are we giving to our children? Answer: If something is getting on in years and not performing as it might throw it away and get a new one. In an age where we are trying to instill in children the principles of reuse, renew, recycle this is contrary to all that schools are doing.	No	No	
0680	Build New		The existing hall is poor in comfort and acoustically. Just wait until the Council's debt levels are significantly better.	No	No	
0681	Refurbish	No	The cost is value for money and it will virtually be a new theatre anyway	No	No	
0682	Build New		The current location is out of date given the entertainment in Hamilton is located at the south end of Victoria Street. Things have moved on. However my main concern is that the preparation of the estimate is NOT complete. There is no mention of the cost of Earthquake proofing the new building. In addition, although Claudelands seems to have been dismissed as an alternative venue - apparently because of lack of height for the stage equipment, has anyone looked at how much it would cost to adapt Claudelands?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0683	Build New		We need to think 40 years away ..is it time to make once HUGe complex with sports arena and room for cultural events. Also need decent parking . With the motorways bringing a new concept and different transport options ..is it time to look at how best transport could bring a wider audience to Hamilton . Like the cake tin in Wellington . Hamilton needs a visionary to push the boundaries and think outside the square for this new building and the rest of the council to have the courage to push this through . If this is not done properly we will end up going to Auckland and that would be really sad and not good for Hamilton and Waikato . This is a golden opportunity for Hamilton to be bold and courageous . Lets hope this is taken	No	No	
0684	Refurbish	No	I feel that this is the best option, not only costwise, but ultimately in order to retain an iconic Hamilton structure. It's great to have a smaller, more intimate theatre in the Waikato region. I recently went to a James Reyne concert at Claudelands Arena, which would have been far superior in the Founders Theatre, both in seating and sound quality.	No	No	
0685	Refurbish	No	I don't want my rates to go up anymore and it would be adequate.	No	No	
0686	Refurbish	No	It appears the refurbishing the Founders will give it a great facelift and modernize it. It seems unjust to spend another \$30million and to have building of the same size and structure. Im also attached to the Founders and its location. Ive been to many events there and would like the old building backbone to stay but just bring it up to current day standards.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0687	Build New		Building a new theatre is ideal because if it's refurbished basically all you're doing is fixing the problems as they arise, and may end up spending more money than you need to. Building a new one will allow for these problems to never arise. Also as someone who uses the theatre regularly (once a year for shows with my dance school) I don't want to see it gone completely. It is very useful and will continued to be used as long as it is there.	No	No	
0688	Build New		Hamilton is growing. We need a future proof venue to grow the arts in our city. Spending time and money to refurbish something we will soon outgrow would be a shame.	No	No	
0689	Build New		Hamilton is growing. We need a venue to grow the arts with it. To close completely would be terrible. To refurbish taking time and money for something we would soon outgrow would be an opportunity lost.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0690	Refurbish	No	This option retains a building with a 50+ year history that is sited in a central part of town where there is reasonable parking. Although there are issues with this theatre, overall it has served Hamilton fairly well and with the planned refurbishments will again do so. The refurbishment cost estimate should be affordable in the planned time frame. The plan for a new theatre, in expectation of attracting more shows, is probably not realistic as many productions, including the NZ Ballet are, in fact, still unlikely to come due to high travelling costs. This means that the expensive option of a new theatre will almost certainly struggle to meet its required revenue. As well, if a riverbank site is chosen the theatre may well need an underground carpark, the costs of which, as noted in the notes to this option, have not been included in the \$50 million estimate. I also think it is fairly important to realise that any theatre of this age is likely to be seen as "deficient" in terms of current production (and patron) requirements.	No	No	
0691	Refurbish	No	I believe a theatre is a huge asset to the city. The Founders Theatre has been a very important part of the life of our city for a long time so it should be retained as such. Refurbishment is the cheapest way to do this and also the way that it can be preserved as such.	No	No	
0692	Build New		Hamilton is growing and needs a modern theatre, I would prefer the same site, close to city, expanded parking is a must however, maybe utilise some of the nearby sports ground	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0693	Refurbish	No	Hamilton need to maintain it theatre options, the central city is having enough trouble as it is without losing a draw card, Ideally it would be great to build a new iconic theatre, something that could be unique and a landmark -think Sydney opera house, but that is something that would be better on the 20-30 year plan when the local government is in a better place financially .	No	No	
0694	Refurbish	No	Hamilton need a theatre. Good if theatre in central Hamilton. This is most cost-effective.	No	No	
0695	Refurbish	No	Because the Founders theatre has so much history since its opening in 1962, It has become a well known nz venue that has showcased countless performances over the wide spanning history. So I believe it should stay for the History, also I believe it is a icon landmark in Hamilton. It will be very disappointing to see this icon gone. I think if the money was invested in the Founders to refurbish it, it would be a very good move to help preserve the Founders with a long history of performances which has become one of the most successful venues in nz , which is a great asset to Hamilton.	No	No	
0696	Build New		The cost of refurbishment is relatively high compared to rebuild. We would prefer a multipurpose facility that could be adapted for large and smaller audiences. Something more modern and fit for purpose than a refurbished facility would allow. A refurbished facility while looking better and with some functional improvements will still be limited. . A rebuild could allow the creation of something something akin to a modern performing arts centre	No	No	
0697	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0698	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0699	Demolish		I think at this stage we have the claudlands events centre to use, plus a few other theatres. I think we should demolish and close at this point, we could just convert it into more gardens/park or maybe a decent size carpark.	No	No	
0700	Build New		"How can we turn our back on an endeavour which increases our children's cultural intelligence, heightens individual sensitivity and deepens our collective sense of humanity? I suggest to you that we cannot." —Alec Baldwin at Arts Advocacy Day 1997 As somebody who has worked their whole life opening up the wonder of theatre in Hamilton to young and old, I have seen the benefits this has opened up to businesses, as well as cultural and personal stories that have been told on the Founders stage. I was talking to my mother the other day and she informed me my family donated to a public fund to help build the Founders Theatre. So the Founders does belong to the city. The Founders Theatre has been out of date for many years, and we need to provide a beautiful theatre for the city. Somewhere we can have more than 400 watching a cultural event apart from rugby. The Claudelands Event Center is not suitable for the ballet, theatre or anything that needs good acoustics. I can't count the number of children who have been introduced to great theatre in the Founders Theatre, in fact I don't think I want to live in a city that doesn't have a great cultural centre. Lets have a great cultural centre for Hamilton. A jewel.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0701	Demolish		There are enough theatres in Hamilton that are under utilised as it is. If for some reason these facilities do not meet the requirements for performances then alterations to an existing facility would be more cost effective. I do not think the council should rebuild or refurbish at considerable cost and with a high likelihood of creating yet another 'lemon' for the rate payers to subsidise	No	No	
0702	Demolish		There are alternatives available for the majority of performances and all those venues are also under utilised.	No	No	
0703	Refurbish	No	The current theatre in its current position are iconic to Hamilton. we have new Claudlands arena which serves a different purpose. I see the refurbishment of The Founders as similar to the refurbishment of The Civic in Auckland. Just simply something that has to be done!	No	No	
0704	Demolish		There are other theatres that are not used to full capacity, modify these if need be	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0705	Refurbish	Yes	I firmly believe that there needs to be a theatre in Hamilton, capable of catering for the events that Founders currently does. I do not consider demolishing an appropriate option for the community. It is a difficult decision between refurbish and new - I chose refurbished as the preferred option as it is significantly cheaper - and given the proposed new theatre would be of a similar size and scale, I did not feel that the price difference was worth the new theatre, and based on the description of differences provided above. Furthermore, Founders has history, in the location that it is. I have read suggestions that it could be moved closer to the heart of Hamilton and/or Waikato River, however for me, I prefer the current location as access is easier (parking for car which realistically is the method I use to get to events in Hamilton) and even if the new theatre was closer to amenities in town such as bars and restaurants, I would be unlikely to use them, which I imagine is one of the reasons why an option being considered is to move the theatre.	No	No	
0706	Demolish		The family that originally donated the theatre to the city should be respected for their generosity, and the theatre has a historic value to the city. It is one of the few buildings we have that has character.	No	No	
0707	Build New		FT is Hamilton's (and by extension the Waikato's) main centre for performing arts. The other venues in Hamilton fulfil other needs/purposes. If the financial impact is only an extension of 4 years on the debt/revenue ratio goal - not ideal but not the end of the world - I think that building a new venue with a view to the future is the most sensible and progressive idea. Hamilton will only continue to grow and our community should have the ability to see and to enjoy the best of what the world of performing arts can provide. There is no price tag to what great art can do to inspire people and to challenge our thinking. At \$50 millions, a complete rebuild is a very sensible option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0708	Refurbish	No	To us Founders is an intrinsic part of "Our" Hamilton. For 40 years we have attended many events & shows. We like the layout of the premises, it's ease of access from multiple points of the City. So it's a bit olde worlde, yeah, so what, to us that adds to the romance & mystery of the building and the shows presented. The only issue from our perspective is parking..... Maybe a multi-storey carpark in the area of the fountain. You know in all the since the fountain was built in 1976-77, we have taken our children down there ONCE and have observed another small group there ONCE.... Is it really serving any purpose???	No	No	
0709	Refurbish	Yes	I think a refurbishment is the better idea because of money. Having no theatre at all is not an option. And having a bigger theatre to accommodate larger acts may not even get them, as a lot of acts would not play Auckland AND Hamilton. However, a new big theatre may entice them to Hamilton RATHER THAN Auckland. Anyway, there has the be a theatre-refurb or new would be great. I just chose refurb out of the two because of money and also keeping a bit of the history of the theatre.	No	No	
0710	Refurbish	No	I feel that the current building is okay and with the new refurbishment it could be brought back to a nice theatre once again. I would hate to see the theatre moved from the site it now stands on. It is in a good position with plenty of parking, nestled amongst the lovely trees and grounds, and easy walking to main street, and close to bus stops.	No	No	
0711	Demolish		I dont know what revenue the founders theatre delivers for the HCC. Without knowing that the alternative options can be funded from sufficient revenue I believe debt repayment should be a priority. Maybe also the Claudelands events centre can be used for some events that would otherwise have been held at founders making the Claudelands more profitable	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0712	Build New		Stage is too small for some types of performances (eg ballet). Current layout means only one point of entry - always long queues to enter auditorium Need more modern layout to accommodate wider variety of performance types rather than just the traditional style	No	No	
0713	Refurbish	Yes	Existing site well located and easily accessed. It feels about the right size for concerts and plays. And the cost appears more affordable compared to building new.	No	No	
0714	Build New		[A] I am no arts lover, but feel Hamilton needs a decent theatre, so rebuild but allow for an underground car parking building which can be used as a council fare paying parking building during the day and available to patrons at night Plus a enlarged out doors parking area [B] Find a area overlooking the Waikato River with the same requirments as above, but include retail shops and coffee shops overlooking the river these shops could be leased out and there for making money for the council. The site for the building doesnt need to be in the CBD but a suitable area to allow for a long term structure.	No	Yes	
0715	Refurbish	No	The theater already exists, why waste money building new, rather do the necessary to bring it up to scratch!!! Our children already have so little to do and see here in Hamilton in terms of the Arts, it would be sad to rob them even further. We recently moved from the North Shore in Auckland (a year ago) and I was saddened to see how much my children have already missed out, an example being a lack of a children's choir and a place to practice and have concerts in!! At least if the theatre still exists they may have the opportunity of seeing someone else from around the country performing	No	No	
0716	Demolish		The council have built Claudelands at a huge cost to the Hamilton ratepayers - we the ratepayers can't afford \$50m to build a new theatre, so make adjustments to Claudelands and hold theatre shows there.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0717	Refurbish	No	I have had many years of experience in the Founders Theatre, as a performer, a parent & a public person enjoying a show. It is a beautiful icon of Hamilton and I think there should be no problem in refurbishing it to the appropriate level of need and enjoying our building for many years. I am sick of seeing beautiful buildings pulled down and then spending even more money to replace it. How ridiculous. I say use what you have and improve it. It will be the best way to invest money. Defiantly do not pull it down at all!	No	No	
0718	Demolish		Fit for purpose. We wouldn't miss out on some shows. Would be great if it could be in the town centre	No	No	
0719	Build New		I feel for the long term, a Re Build would be a better option for Hamilton and the Waikato in general. I would have liked to have seen the Ten Toners who were going to be in Hamilton at the end of May, but had to cancel due to the closure. I am not prepared to travel for such shows, as this would be more cost to me, as I would have had to stay over night somewhere else. Alot of other people would be in a similar position as me. If the Founders Theatre was re built, i think a site with plenty of parking would be a good plan. The Claudelands Events Centre is great value with plenty of parking.	No	No	
0720	Refurbish	Yes	This is the most cost effective way to secure a large quality theatre space for Hamilton.	No	No	
0721	Build New		I think we would get a more useful, purposeful building if we started from scratch. It would be great to be able to see international class productions in Hamilton rather than having to go to Auckland all the time for them. My concern is if we go with the refurbish option it will never be quite good enough. I think it is better to build what modern and meets the new needs of theatre, dance, concerts, etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0722	Refurbish	No	Any seat one sits in at Founders has a good view including zz. The seats are comfortable and it has that old world charm about it that is lacking anywhere else in Hamilton. I love the warmth of the decor. The exterior of the theatre was painted a few years ago but I think the choice of colours was very safe and bland. I think the current exterior could be improved with the right choice of colours.	No	No	
0723	Build New		The Theatre has reached its use by date and needs replacing with a full up dated theatre facility together together with an art centre etc to accommodate all arts and thus make Hamilton an arts centre comparable with other New Zealand cities.	No	No	
0724	Refurbish	No	This is an historic building. It is in a good location. It is intimate and a great place to enjoy special events We have a modern venue at Claude lands. Don't be shortsighted council. Future generations will applaud you for maintaining the founder's theater. for future generations to enjoy.	No	No	
0725	Refurbish	Yes	The time frame is not too long and will keep everyone's interest in what is being done. People will be more ready to have a say, help and stay involved if the time frame for refurbishment doesn't exceed about 3 years.	No	No	
0726	Demolish		The cost out ways the usage. I would much rather see money used in other ways that would improve the greater community, example; opening a train station in the CBD and getting a direct train service to Auckland, I believe more people would use this compared to a event centre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0727	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders theatre is in a good position where it is. To agree to a new theatre could mean it being "High-jacked" and taken somewhere else in the city. It has already been suggested that the river bank would be a good idea! That would not make sense adding flooding as a possible problem and possibly more importantly another parking and access problem. So let's keep it in the same place. New would be good but at what cost to the community if it is moved. Sure, if it stays in the same place and we can afford it, it may be money well spent for the future of the arts and cultural well-being of our city. If we can have a rugby stadium for sports folk we should equally have a good sized theatre for arts folk!	No	No	
0728	Refurbish	No	Minimal refurbishment - which is not an option presented. Is there a possibility to keep the obsolete technology, load test the equipment, and wait for the seismic assessment before calculating a minimal repair to keep as is? The council should hold to its debt/revenue targets, but where possible continue to provide a venue for performing arts and other cultural events. \$20m to totally refurbish is NOT a good idea (costs could blow out further) \$750k or less (guestimate) to load test, sort out the fire curtain raising, and perform minimal seismic repairs would be the smartest choice. (though the quantum of repairs can't be fully established until the seismic report is completed in July) \$50m for a new venue is tempting, but let's get our finances in order first. So, yes to Refurbish, but NO to \$20m... we need a fourth choice. Minimal repair.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0729	Demolish		There are several other venue options available in Hamilton that are under utilised. These venues could be made suitable for the touring events. The cost to refurbish or rebuild the theatre would be added to the councils already high level of debt and would be passed onto the rate payers, which is pointless when other venues could be used to host events	No	No	
0730	Build New		I believe that this will future proof a worthwhile resource for Hamilton and the greater Waikato region.	No	No	
0731	Refurbish	No	Because I feel the Founder's Theatre is an icon of Hamilton and is such a good sized theatre for performances as it is not too large so still has an intimate feel. I do not know of any other venues in Hamilton that can compare except perhaps the Clarence Street Theatre but is is not as big as the Founders and does not have the ambience of the Founders either. I would personally feel devastated if the Theatre was scrapped.	No	No	
0732	Build New		Refurbishment does not future proof in the same way as a rebuild. This is an essential community asset.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0733	Demolish		I would prefer to build a new theatre in the central city by the river but retain the old theatre in a new form for community use. We want a vibrant inner city so it needs people to give it life and energy and they need a compelling reason to go there and experience all it can offer. What better than a wonderful theatre complex gracing the banks of our magnificent river, where one can sit and enjoy the views, have a drink, see a show, and be surrounded by wonderful cafes and restaurants, the Museum and art galleries and of course make a day of it with the shops close by. Interesting boutique style shops, no need to try and compete with the big malls when we have little lanes and side streets which can be given so much character. This type of thing is already under way I think and increased inner city living can only help. For years now we have been bemoaning the fact that the central city is dying and it will continue to do so as long as we persist in ignoring it. Hamilton is a wonderful place to be with so many great assets and deserves a theatre to complement these. Please do not refurbish Founders as a theatre or build another one away from the city centre.	No	No	
0734	Build New		History tells us refurbishing seems to always cost more than estimates. Hamilton is a progressive city and I believe a new theatre would enhance our cities reputation as progressive.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0735	Build New		A new-build allows for the best outcome as the theatre can be designed without any limitations by the old structure. Building a new theatre at the current site will allow HCC to set a landmark by using recycled and sustainable building materials and design a eco-friendly building with rainwater collection, PVS on the roof to generate electricity, etc. This is the chance for HCC to create a landmark for Hamilton and show the rest of NZ. Retain current location as it is sited nicely in the large green area around Founders, useful for overflow and other needs. Would be a shame to convert to a car park. Also I question if there is enough room at the river to allow for a great design.	No	No	
0736	Refurbish	No	Always better to refurbish - than starting afresh - just like renovating a home - You don't demolish a home just because the roof needs replacing or the electrical system needs updating. I would shop around for better pricing of the renovations and insist on fixed price contracts so there are no budget blowouts.	No	No	
0737	Demolish		None of the above applies on it's own. This is an alternative. Refurbish Founders Theatre, but plan for the addition of a parking building (This would be a long term plan as the refurbished theatre would attract bigger events to help fund the next development. This could then be used for parking for events at the stadium/cricket ground, with a shuttle service as required.) of say 5 levels with provision for a restaurant on the bottom floor (or possibly the top floor) If the restaurant is on the top floor with views over the area this could also be available for weddings etc Costs for parking for events in the theatre could be included in the ticket price. etc	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0738	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a viable theatre. Having the Founders Theatre closed has already meant the loss of attractions such as the Royal NZ Ballet, and the cancellation of local events. Founders Theatre has a long history that should be celebrated.	No	No	
0739	Refurbish	Yes	I think the seating is fine, having sat in all parts of the theatre. The foyer is great as it is, very roomy with a nice atmosphere. The women's toilets could do with one extra - very crowded at interval). But it's the stage that needs work done on it, as the Royal NZ Ballet will not bring their large productions here. I do not see any point in spending extra money on building a newer theatre, as Claudelands will cater for the very large productions (boxing, Pacifica, skating, sports etc)	No	No	
0740	Refurbish	No	It is cheaper to refurbish as opposed to rebuild and any option is going to have a cost blow out regardless so at least it has an established history and area.	No	No	
0741	Refurbish	No	The existing Founders Theatre is a Hamilton icon and should be retained. The auditorium has a lovely warm intimate feeling and seems to be about the right size for shows (musicals and plays),concerts,ballet and orchestral productions, which the Events Centre does not provide. The above refurbishment will be enhanced with the new entrance and enlarged foyer. Perhaps better provision for parking could be looked at although we have not had trouble in the past in finding a park, generally in side streets and there should not be any further parking problems with the refurbishment as the number of patrons will not be substantially increased to exacerbate that area. From personal experience the number of disabled parks is inadequate.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0742	Demolish		The high cost to low use numbers disturb me. The continued under-funding of other art centres due to the cost of this behemoth. The debt ratio of the council already. The cost and continued expenses of the claudelands event centre. Everyone but the council saw that coming.	No	No	
0743	Build New		A refurbish would just be updating something that is old and tired. Quite often when refurbishing projects happen unknown things occur which require fixing and just blows out the budget. This happens too frequently. My preference is to build new on another better positioned site on a capped budget with no over runs.	No	No	
0744	Demolish		Close and demolish - use the Claudelands Events Centre instead. Access and parking is better at Claudelands and the Council maybe able to recoup some of it's investment. I have attended several functions at Claudelands and find this to be a very good venue. If facilities need to be upgraded at Claudelands to meet every need for a theatre then I am sure this could be managed at a fraction of the costs for the other two options above.	No	No	
0745	Build New		Hamilton needs a sophisticated Theatre that can host both local and international events including Ballet. It needs to be in the CBD close to accommodation and hospitality precinct.	No	No	
0746	Build New		The new more custom built/modern facility will allow more options to generate greater income.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0747	Refurbish	No	There is much of Founders that is still working well but we need the seismic report to confirm this. If it is structurally sound then the cost of refurbishing reduces to \$14M which is close to the previous budget. I question the replacement of the seats as personally I find them comfortable and have spent whole days sitting in them for conventions. Again why create waste if they are not broken? Upgrading the fly system, the acoustic quality, the backstage area, toilets and building code compliance are essential in my view. Why does the foyer need to be larger? I have never felt it was uncomfortably cramped before a performance. I would like to see an lift or a ramp adjacent to the stairs into the auditorium for those less able. Not increasing rates to fund this refurbishment is another plus for middle to low income people. A few community fundraising concerts could contribute a little to Council coffers but as importantly would engender support of the project. With a shorter closure time rental will help to repay the debt and keep Hamilton and the Waikato on the circuit for shows.	No	No	
0748	Refurbish	Yes	Providing the refurbishment is done thoroughly, as per the list above then the existing site could be made to service the arts in the area for a good few years in the future. The fact that it is also the cheapest option is also a factor, as long as the work is done to a high standard.	No	No	
0749	Demolish		I think money could be spent on other venues around the city to get an alternative venue. i.e. Claudlands	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0750	Build New		because already there is so much to fix and hamilton is a growing community in the art scene so a newer theatre would work much better being able to do more complex shows which will then bring more money into the community and the council	No	No	
0751	Refurbish	Yes	This option will not take too long to accomplish and is reasonably affordable. Hamilton needs a facility that can host shows that have a large participating cast such as ballet or a large choir and orchestra eg. Cantando & TWSO. Many of the audiences that come to Founders are elderly, or are young families and they do not want to, or are not able to, travel to Auckland or Tauranga without incurring a lot of time and expense.	No	No	
0752	Build New		I think we need to look to the future and build something that will provide the needs of Hamilton with it's ever expanding population. Patching up an ageing, mono purpose building would be money wasted. I think the current site is too small to build a suitable arts and performance venue of the size we need. I suggest another site , for instance, the land at the racecourse, as there is plenty of room for a flexible development, parking and pleasant, treed surroundings. Most people drive to concerts and so I don't think a central city site is necessary. We could have a multipurpose concert venue on a larger scale than the Gallagher Performing Arts centre, but more varied than the Claudelands event centre. If this happens, we would have three venues which, between them, could stage any kind of public event and complement each other.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0753	Build New		As a city growing in size and importance, Hamilton needs to show the way with a modern fully operational theatre for all aspects of plays, concerts and cultural performances for local, National and International shows. Although Claudelands Arena is a great place.. We have been to various functions there, some performances will not work there.	No	No	
0754	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre has been the primary venue for the arts and entertainment in Hamilton and the Waikato region for over 50 years. It has been enjoyed by many city and regional residents. Hamilton needs a professional concert/show venue with good acoustics, comfortable and accessible seating particularly for the elderly. Hence I would favour the refurbishment option - this means only 2 years without this cultural venue - plus a lesser cost than complete replacement.	No	No	
0755	Build New		We need a theatre and a refurbished building wouldn't last as long. Do it once, do it right.	No	No	
0756	Refurbish	Yes	While fit (younger) I attended about 4 things a year. I prefer the idea of refurbishing this theatre. 1) The land is there and parking etc could be improved. 2) There a few if any drunks, homeless people etc in that area at night. 3) Improving statistics is top priority. Why am I against new building 1) Where? Ferrybank MAD, drunks etc, no parking? Stability of ground. When building has been done, costs WILL be more than estimated! I support to cap at \$30 million and additional funding sourced.	No	No	
0757	Refurbish	Yes	It has a good location and we need more than one large venue in a city this size, the other being Claudelands. We need to have shows, productions, exhibitions etc as part of the life of the city. We need to celebrate the Arts, music, dance, drama etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0758	Build New		The current one is at great location, we need a better theatre with balanced cost.	No	No	
0759	Refurbish	Yes	The reason would be that it costs less (on the face of it) however I would not be averse to having it replaced but definitely not closed and pulled down. The city the size of Hamilton should have a fine theatre for the arts where ballet , orchestra's and shows can be seen. It has been made clear that the Event Centre at Claudelands is not a suitable venue for the type of performances the Founders has been used for so we should either refurbish it or replace it. The next question does not include fund raising from other local authorities nearby.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0760	Build New		I would like to see a building that is architecturally interesting and distinctive, as well as meeting all the requirements for safety and seismic rating etc. I've heard many a complaint about the acoustics over the years. More seating would be good. At the moment there really are no bad seats, so I would not like to see that compromised. The parking could be better, perhaps a multi level carpark that blends in with the building... like they do in the UK. It would be good for the theatre to be attractive enough to put on postcards and even draw tourists like the Len Lye museum in New Plymouth. The Founders has never been beautiful! I am happy where it is currently located but I see how it would be nice to have a big theatre close to restaurants and bars too. I wouldn't mind a small surcharge on my rates for a few years to pay for it, however not everyone is going to say that... perhaps there could be a couple of fundraisers to help out? I would not like the close and demolish option with no new theatre. The refurbish option seems like another patch and we don't know how long it will be before another patch is required.	No	No	
0761	Refurbish	No	this option is a lower cost and hopefully less risk of a cost blow out which seems to happen with HCC projects,, ie, V8"s,, Rugby Stadium „Claudelands Event Centre.. and will be quicker than fighting over a design, demolition and build new..... biggest problem is i have little faith and confidence in the HCC to keep a project in budget or to cost put when the project was accepted.	No	No	
0762	Build New		Hamilton is a large city within the Waikato region, the city needs a proper purpose built art and theatre to cater for the larger shows that tour NZ. The road to Auckland is busy and we should not have to travel that distance to see shows.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0763	Demolish		Although I support the Arts, there are other options (venues) that can be used. In my personal opinion, as a resident of Hamilton since mid-2012, there are a number of other areas that need urgent Council investment. Primarily, infrastructure to cope with the rapid population growth. We do not need to end up like Auckland with a lot of 'nice to haves' but not enough of what we need. Please make more responsible and practical decisions and show some much needed firm leadership.	No	No	
0764	Refurbish	Yes	Because founders theatre is a huge part of Hamiltons arts programme. We have no other major theatres capable of holding large audiences for shows such as the ballet and other performances.	No	No	
0765	Build New		Founders Theatre is fundamentally acoustically flawed, and I am doubtful that any amount of acoustic work would improve that.	No	No	
0766	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city and we need a theatre to accommodate and reflect the growing population, not just for now, but for the future. We also need to be able to host major touring productions. This would be of an advantage not only to Hamiltonians, but to other towns further south (& north) with the possibility of encouraging out-of-towners to spend more time in Hamilton using our motels/hotels, visiting our Hamilton Gardens and eating at our restaurants and cafes.	No	No	
0767	Build New		The citizens of Hamilton and the wider area deserve to have access to high performance Arts events. Founders Theatre has been outdated for many years now. With an influx of Aucklanders to Hamilton we need this options. Lets make people come to Hamilton not us go to Auckland	No	No	
0768	Build New		If money is to be spent then new is better to future proof a valuable city venue.	No	No	
0769	Refurbish	No	But council needs a plan for future to build a performing arts centre that puts us in the same league as other cities	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0770	Build New		A city such as Hamilton needs to have a large theater to maintain a vibrant arts scene by being able to host the touring shows.	No	No	
0771	Refurbish	Yes	I'm concerned that a new build could be side-lined for budget reasons. If the existing building was re-furbished it could continue to meet the city's needs to provide a suitable facility for visiting artists and shows. \$20 million is an acceptable cost to us and future generations, \$50 million is a big burden.	No	No	
0772	Refurbish	No	Most events can now be staged at Claudlands Event Centre so why not refurbish the Founders Theatre and convert it to apartments i.e. sell it to a developer.	No	No	
0773	Demolish		The Theatre would be enhanced by close proximity to the river's edge. It could have a cafe near the entrance, in which concert goers could sit and eat a meal or snack in a relaxed setting whilst waiting for opening time. The Theatre would need to be built with wide and grand windows, where appropriate, overlooking the water and park-like setting around it. It needs to be pleasing to the eye, as much as possible. The current Founders' sight could be made into a top-notch, pretty apartment grouping, modern and attractive, with lush growth and trees all around it, maybe with smart shops and cafes underneath the living floors, and areas for outdoor eating, as we see in cities like Singapore.	No	No	
0774	Refurbish	No	IT IS AN ICONIC LOCAL THEATRE THAT IS IN A VERY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION. IT IS A SUITABLE SIZE FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS AND WITH THE RIGHT TYPE OF REFURBISHMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0775	Refurbish	No	The theatre has provided a wonderful cultural venue and is an icon of its time. The restoration and preservation of the architecture from its era is something to be valued - something that in NZ we don't do often enough, sadly. Once refurbished, it could be marketed for all sorts of shows for its capacity. We will always need larger venues (e.g. Claudelands Arena) but there are plenty of different shows and events coming through the region to ensure good use of all facilities. Auckland has the Aotea Centre and the Vector Arena and is used accordingly. Eg, Vector for big blockbuster shows and the Aotea (2000 seat capacity in comparison to Vector 10,000 seat) for shows like the recent Prince concert in February, The Readers and Writers Festival, etc. It provides Artists and Concert Organisers choices and also encourages smaller and equally relevant events to have a good quality venue to perform at.	No	No	
0776	Build New		Building a new theatre is the best option to ensure a high quality of future events are attracted to the city. The additional four years to meet the debt/revenue target is insignificant to me.	No	No	
0777	Demolish		The cost to rebuild / reburbish is too high and a waste of money, lets focus on the river plan!	No	No	
0778	Build New		Make use of the river bank development and place it amongst bars and restaurants and parking options. Make this a world class arts and theatre centre to attract high quality performers and acts. Current location has poor parking options and no hospitality .	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0779	Refurbish	No	Having practiced Architecture in this city for over 35 years and being heavily involved for many years in theatre production in stage, lighting and set design with HAOS and Playbox, I have a pretty good understanding of theatre design, costs and implications. The last attempts to upgrade the foyer area and entrance, were an insult to architecture; there were no considerations given to the existing elements of design, very poor cohesion of old and new and no synergy of connection. The evidence of the costing structure is too open and shows no details; Elemental estimates from a Quantity Surveyor should be transparent and available for others especially Consultants as well as the public domain; listing these items in detail, not just random numbers from some who "think" they have the experience and answers. I have been involved in several retrofits of theatre design the UK and its time this City realised that pulling a city down is not the answer, perhaps they should take a leaf out of Dunedin, Wellington and Napier's Council philosophy. We have lost too many buildings in this city over the last 20 years because of the Councils lack of foresight and REAL bad Architectural Direction. Build the cities Heritage by using what you have, retain, regain and refurb; it will always be more economic to extend and refurbish a structure and rebuild from the ground up.	No	No	
0780	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment is my preferred option as at the end of the day the city will have a great modern facility to use, without too much cost. It will also mean that the theatre is closed for less time than a new rebuild.	No	No	
0781	Refurbish	Yes	Because out of the three it is the best possible option and will take the least amount of time to re-open!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0782	Refurbish	Not Answered	It is essential to refurbish this historic and vital Hamilton asset. SPONSORS are readily found for other projects. Why not this one? GIVE A LITTLE a fifty fifty arrangement has been successfully used for other projects nation wide. It is a matter of marketing. I would appreciate your evaluation of my suggestions. I have been involved in theatre here since the 80's. I notice that we lost out on the current NZ Ballet - The Wizard of Oz.	No	No	
0783	Refurbish	Not Answered	Refurbish providing stage would be large enough to accommodate ballet and the orchestra pit large enough to accommodate NZ Symphony Orchestra, for ballet performance.	No	No	
0784	Build New		Do it once and do it properly and well.	No	No	
0785	Demolish		All buildings can reach this stage. However maintenance is a must in retaining our Cities Historic character. Other Cities save as much as they can and incorporate this into new additions. Save the Founders it still looks better than Claudelands.	No	No	
0786	Demolish		The Founders theatre should be removed with the fountains to remain and the area to be a park - named "Founders Park". Funding should come from sponsorship, to be put aside for another theatre or modify Claudelands events centre - those that wish to have the theatre could nominate a set amount though their rates to pay a council fund raiser - there should be NO loan or mortgage with an interest rate attached to it.	No	No	
0787	Refurbish	Not Answered	Founders Theatre ... Refurbish. I would like to vote for this option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0788	Build New		we need to have a world class facility to attract world class acts. I don't want to have to drive to Auckland to see these, and this theatre is a regional facility so is not something that should be funded just by Hamilton City Council	No	No	
0789	Refurbish	Yes	We do not like Claudelands as you are either seated on a flat surface or a very steep one which is not suitable for older people. My biggest fear is what would happen if there was a fire when the audience are elderly as in the case of acts like Judy Durham. We went to one concert where we were seated in the back row on the floor and we couldn't see the artist. The sound is pretty bad.	No	No	
0790	Refurbish	No	As long as the theatre could be made safe with regards to earthquakes etc it would seem a shame to waste perfectly good resources that are already there - more environmentally friendly. However, if the outcome of the seismic study shows that it cannot be brought up to a high standard of earthquake strengthening with refurbishment, then I would prefer to demolish and rebuild.	No	No	
0791	Demolish		The trees shade during summer is beautiful and families can visit, picnic and play sports at the venue. I think you should add another playground, fountain and BBQs.	No	No	
0792	Refurbish	Not Answered	Part of our historic asset.	No	No	
0793	Refurbish	Yes	Cheapest Option to keep theatre on current site.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0794	Demolish		I believe that a new facility is the best option, to be built alongside the Claudelands Event Centre. * There is land and parking there that could be well utilised and this could be a complimentary facility. * I'd feel safer going to shows on my own here then I would in the city. * The area is easy to access for most people including buses and large vehicles. * The Events Centre can be used for after function catering etc Access from the city is a short walk over the Claudelands Bridge. The existing theatre could be demolished and the area restored as an outdoor activities area for Hamilton. This could include an adults and children's play workout area with Adult style outdoor Gym equipment as in other parks around the world. I believe this would enhance that area of the city where there are big Sports fixtures etc.	No	No	
0795	Build New		This is only my preferred option if it was to remain on site. I think having a new facility that caters for all shows would give Hamilton a great draw card (as opposed to just Auckland - being the nearest). I attend shows in Auckland but would prefer not to have to travel and/or stay. I also support the point below - with extra funding coming from outside/private sources to provide a new full venue.	No	No	
0796	Refurbish	Yes	Because I feel this is a valued building and enhancement would still continue to make it a most useful venue for our citizens. There are many people in Hamilton who value the building and the shows we have seen there.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0797	Refurbish	Yes	The Arts are a very important part of a community and we need to have a theatre that can provide for high calibre of shows. This is the cheapest and fastest option to allow us to do this. Getting rid of the theatre and choosing to have no theatre of this size is ridiculous and limits the performance arts in Hamilton. The option to have a new theatre will take too long and the arts will slowly fade away in Hamilton due to there being no theatre to perform in.	No	No	
0798	Refurbish	No	Because the Founders was built with a large amount of money from the people of the Waikato area over 50 years ago. Many of these people fought for our country and the right to enjoy cultural experiences, and money was tight for some of them. My parents were not well off, small farmers from Cambridge, but I remember them finding money to contribute to this new theatre being built in Hamilton. Both became good supporters of a wide variety of cultural events at the Founders in their later years. If we can add to it, and refurbish it to a reasonable standard, we should. Please don,t pull it down, like so many other buildings.And please do not relocate it to the centre of town. Many of us older people do not enjoy going into that part of town but the Founders is fine with plenty of handy parking.	No	No	
0799	Refurbish	No	It is a good facility. I would not want to spend the money for a completely new theatre.	No	No	
0800	Refurbish	Not Answered	Close and demolish isn't an option in my view - we need a theatre in Hamilton capable of housing large shows and audiences. I think the central location of Founders is good, so it would be good to keep it where it is. The building has a lot going for it as it is, so improving what already exists makes the most sense to me.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0801	Build New		I have attended performances in the Founders for most of it's 50+ year life. As I understand it was named Founders as an honour to our founding fathers and to me the site should also be kept for the same reason. It is central, known to most people and surrounded by old mature trees - how fitting for our founding fathers. Have always felt that this theatre, more than any other in Hamilton, was ours' and I have great pride in it. I hope the new one will be just as elegant and up to date as this old one was when opened.	No	No	
0802	Build New		Hamilton is possibly one of the fastest growing city's in NZ, and we definitely need another Founders Theatre. I think it needs to be rebuilt, rather than refurbished, as often alterations can become very costly when they need to rebuild things etc.	No	No	
0803	Build New		Hamilton needs a venue for national and international performers that we can all be proud of. There is no point spending money on patching up the old venue as it will just need to be demolished in 15 -20 years and rebuilt at an even higher cost than normal now. Let's build a future proofed building now, for not just us but also for the next few generations.	No	No	
0804	Build New		Spending a lot of money fixing an old, and arguably unfit, building seems pointless as it will likely be no more than a short to medium term solution. I would happier investing more for a facility that will be fit for the future.	No	No	
0805	Refurbish	Yes	We need a theatre in Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0806	Refurbish	No	It is ideally suited to parking and has been an icon building since I was a child. Good seating. Better economy. Shifting a theatre closer to town is a nightmare for parking and why waste more money to achieve the same size theatre.	No	No	
0807	Refurbish	Yes	This would not cost so much, but we would still have a very good theatre. The time limit will be shorter, so we don't have so long to wait	No	No	
0808	Refurbish	Yes	Cheaper and Faster option.	No	No	
0809	Build New		Refurbishing the existing building might produce more problems like finding faults not previously known or thought of. The finished product will be confined to the existing floor plan and may not provide as great an experience as a new theatre could. Building new means a state of the art theatre could be ours to enjoy. Hamilton and its surrounding areas miss out on far too many performances/shows due to lack of adequate facilities. While refurbishment will update the theatre, it will never be able to be brought up to 'new' standards as it is an old building and will always need some updating. Building new may cost more but I think it's worth it. Are surrounding districts able to be asked to contribute to spread the cost? After all, we will benefit too. Going to Rotorua for our family means a night's stay and we cannot afford that, so miss out on specifically the brilliant ballet seasons put on by RNZB.	No	No	
0810	Demolish		Most events should be able to be held in alternative venues, also parking around Founders theater is difficult. we have lots of options available. If the majority of events currently being held at Founders could not be changed to an alternative, then I would vote for the refurbishment option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0811	Demolish		The reason that we haven't had some of the major professional touring companies, particularly the New Zealand Ballet Company, is that there is not much space in the wings. The side stage area and the fly tower needs to be bigger. The front of house is drab, not of a good design and the toilet facilities are pathetic for a theatre of the size that it is even now. The stage itself needs to be more flexible for different types of productions.	No	No	
0812	Build New		This would secure a theatre for Hamilton for the years to come with state of the art equipment attracting many quality shows to Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0813	Build New		Hamilton as a city of over 150,000 must have a theatre that can hold concerts, ballet etc of a standard that is expected in the main cities of Wellington and Auckland. The Founders was not good enough so I resent that the only option you have given is that it be replaced by the same! The stage was too small for ballet and a complete opera or orchestra. The seating could be increased as well and the public areas made more interesting with areas available for other activities. We use the founders for ethnic occasions, school concerts etc and no other facility provides the right ambiance for this. Every city needs a town hall and the Founders has always been used for this. We must replace it with something better. People in the arts have shown their commitment by taking on Clarence St, Meteor and Riverlea. There is a vibrant arts community it is a pity that those making the decisions will only spend on sport facilities. Compare the amount spent on subsidising sports halls, grounds and Seddon and Rugby Park. There is a historic bias that must be changed so sports don't take all the money. Why must the theatres suffer because of the V8 fiasco. None of the arts community wanted it and made their opinions known and were ignored and now the loss it made will be carried by the arts if many on the council have their way. Refurbishing is throwing money away on a tired not well designed building. Demolishing must not be an option if there is not something better to replace it.	No	No	
0814	Refurbish	No	The cost is less. If refurbished well, it should be as good as new. Less time to complete at 2-3 years vs 5-6 years for new. The theatre brings people into the city, so the shorter time the better to be without one. It won't be earning anything during the downtime, so shorter the better. As a ratepayer I would be happy to have the \$28 paid through my rates for an extra 2 years. Maximum safe carparking should also be considered.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0815	Refurbish	Yes	This is the most cost-effective way of keeping the theatre - and we need to have this facility in the region.	No	No	
0816	Build New		Hamilton is large enough to support an international size theatre. I believe the stage within the Founders Theatre is not an international size and the only way to achieve this is to demolish the current theatre and start again. A lot of my childhood memories are held at the current Founders Theatre, both on stage, back stage and in the auditorium ... my father collapsed backstage during a performance and sadly passed away in the early hours of the following morning ... my final memories of him are held at The Founders Theatre. However, I think it is time for Hamilton to become part of the international stage arena and have a brand new theatre to compliment the wide range of talented artists within our city and so our audiences can enjoy world class productions.	No	No	
0817	Refurbish	Yes	cheapest and keeps some of Hamilton's history instead of demolishing it	No	No	
0818	Build New		There is a crisis in classical music which can only be resolved by large community attendances at symphonic venues. The Hamilton public have shown they endorse this. My preferred site is outgoing Forlongs site in Frankton Village.	No	Yes	
0819	Refurbish	Yes	Less costly.	No	No	
0820	Refurbish	Yes	So the theatre will be up and running quicker.	No	No	
0821	Refurbish	No	See section 2 point 9.	No	No	
0822	Refurbish	Yes	I think Hamilton city has enough debt now so another \$20 million would be enough extra. The parking is good where it is now.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0823	Build New		Hamilton is a major city in NZ, is growing exponentially and has in recent years lifted its image to that of a very interesting and delightful place to reside. Our population as a city is a diverse community who have always held the arts and culture as an important part of Hamilton life. When local and visiting shows are held, they are always well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. Hamiltonians do not enjoy having to travel to Auckland for the shows which bypass Hamilton, and this would be the norm if we don't have our own theatre. We have an ever increasing population and are lucky to be a prosperous city in the heart of a rich farming area, and it would be a disaster to be relegated to a boring 'cow town', the image Hamilton used to suffer. While \$50 million is a lot of money, HCC has spent vast amounts in recent years on upgrading the Cricket Ground and Rugby Park, let alone the wicked waste of money on the disastrous V8 Car Racing events, and I believe a new Theatre is a complete and total necessity. A theatre such as envisaged, built on the existing site, will greatly enhance the city and will be used and enjoyed by a huge proportion of the Hamilton and Waikato population.	No	No	
0824	Refurbish	No	I just feel that the present theatre has served us well and with the refurbishment it would come up very nice at a much lower costing . Also a much better timeframe.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0825	Refurbish	No	I love going to shows there and I love them! It would be sad for it to be closed and demolished because there wouldn't be a great venue. The shows there have made great memories for me. i would not like to build new because it would take six years, and i cannot wait that long for musicals! Refurbish means new wiring, new everything! It only takes 2-3 years! i would love it to be the same old theatre as it was before so my future children can enjoy it for generations to come. Thankyou!	Yes	No	

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Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0826	Refurbish	No	I feel we have a theatre which is adequate and as a rate payer I am not happy about further debt to build a new theatre. The tbuilding has a design that is an example of the architecture of the time and it has a pleasant character of its own. Refurbishment covers the immediate needs to get the theatre operating again and this will give us a facility for the arts quicker than should the community opt for a new build. The longer Hamilton is without a facility such as the Founders the region will miss out on many groups visiting.	No	No	
0827	Refurbish	No	well it is not really my preferred option the way it is proposed (but it is certainly better than the other two options). I think the commentators in the debate so far have lost focus on some key areas. 1 The founders is a perfectly adequate theatre as it is (subject to need for repairs which I am certain should not cost any where near what is proposed). we have had some excellent performances there over the years. we do not need to have a perfect theatre. We should work with what we have. Go to many of the theatres in London's west end. Many are small, dingy, certainly antiquated and without many mod cons at all.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			But those theatres have sell out shows. that is what makes the theatre and the arts so wonderful. I have heard people say the theatre is a disgrace because there is not hot water in the womens toilet. that is ridiculous. do we really need to spend upwards of \$20m because we have no hot water. Go to Bunnings and get a \$299 electric califont to put on the tap line if it really is an issue. It would be nice to think (as is the case in most European cities) that we have a theatre that ages with the city. We do not need modern. I have spoken to many lately who have enjoyed performances at the Founders. they all say the seats are adequately comfortable. They were neither too hot nor too cold. They had good viewing positions and they could hear what was going on. And the performances were generally superb. so what more do we need (forget about wants). 2 there is not an endless supply of money to meet a spoilt demand for more. we do not need more. sure get it safe but on a basis that you are spending my money so don't be extravagant. And do not loose the quaintness, quirkiness and theatrical qualities that an aged and worn theatre can bring to the arts 3 this exercise should not be about someone leaving a legacy. This city paid very much for the theatre it has. we do not need to go through a very expensive exercise just so some narcissistic people can say "I made that happen. I ensured the City has this wonderful new theatre for future generations". (they of course never say "I also left this huge debt to burden future generations").			
0828	Build New		If Hamilton can afford a beautiful stadium for sports events surely Hamilton can afford a suitable venue forcultural events.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0829	Demolish		I feel we could utilize other venues better. Admittedly other venues such as the Claudlands center may need some mods.but with say 2-3 million, this center can be made to function as well as the present Founders theatre. Or the council can lease , hire the university's Gallagher arts center. For a city the size of Hamilton I don't see a need for a dedicated art performance Theatre.	No	No	
0830	Refurbish	Yes	For the reasons listed above in what would happen if it was closed and demolished	No	No	
0831	Refurbish	No	My husband and I love the theatre and feel that other venues in Hamilton do not lend themselves to the type of show best suited to this wonderful theatre. It would, I feel, be a real shame to demolish it.	No	No	
0832	Refurbish	No	It is a good little theatre and is ideal for music and the performing arts	No	No	
0833	Refurbish	No	Given the 200% debt and subsequent repayment, Option 1 - REFURBISHMENT has the shortest completion timeframe and cost. This will provide the arts community with more performance options and we (Hamilton) will get the economic and refined cultural benefit without having to travel to Auckland. In addition, there is nothing that hosts cultural and classical shows for those of us with a more sophisticated appetite and appreciation of quality and significant entertainment and live performance. Thank you for involving those of us passionate about Founder's significant survival!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0834	Build New		We have now obtained some amazing facilities in Hamilton e.g Velodrome , Claudelands events centre and Mystery creek events centre. We need to attract more visitors to hamilton as the "Tron" has always been looked upon as a city to by pass by tourists. It is much for accessible than Auckland{ as long as the airport stays open!} so lets get a new theatre to encourage overseas performances etc.	No	No	
0835	Build New		In order to continue to attract and deliver high quality shows and attract visitors to the city, the city needs to have a theatre that meets the requirements of modern performing arts. Do it once and do it right!	No	No	
0836	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0837	Refurbish	Yes	This is feasible in a resonable time. We need the facility for so many functions NZSO etc. This is surely the most cost effective option. The 50 mil riverside option is a lovely pipe dream but by the time it's done is likely to cost much more. There will be even more bleating than over the rugby stadium or Claudlands. And let's have NO MORE V8's!!	No	No	
0838	Build New		I would prefer to build a brand new theatre but in the CBD location overlooking the Waikato River. The Muni pools location would be ideal as it is close to the entertainment and restaurant precinct.	No	No	
0839	Build New		I would like to see the founders demolished. Hamilton is a growing city and needs a new, larger and improved facilty with good parking in a new location. that way we would get more major events and would truely be looking to the future	No	No	
0840	Refurbish	Yes	It will allow the District to host a variety of shows. Times are tough for many and Council is not a bottomless pit of money so this is a good compromise.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0841	Refurbish	No	A readily identifiable and reasonable attractive buliding/location well recognised by Waikato folk, and beyond. Good internal layoutand good acoustics. Claudelands can be used for 'bigger' less intimate shows.	No	No	
0842	Demolish		I am 70 year old who believes Hamilton and its surrounding region needs a facility to at least replace what we had in the Founders Theatre. My main concern is that the time taken to replace it is kept to a minimum. I believe that the greater region should contribute towards the cost of its replacement. It will be beneficial to its patronage that it is recognised as a desirable - even prestigious - facility to attend. Access should be simple for those who have to come from outside the city limits.	No	No	
0843	Build New		The Founders has many defects and is at the end of its design life. It is also in the wrong location - if we want to reinvigorate the CBD our town hall should be in it, not in a side street. A functioning town hall also needs parking facilities, especially for the elderly and disabled, which Founders notoriously lacks. A new build could be designed to incorporate parking facilities underneath the building, allowing patrons to get to shows safely and protected from the weather. The theatre itself has substandard backstage facilities, poor sight lines, bad acoustics, is too small for a city this size and has ghastly seating. I played in pit orchestras for Hamilton Operatic shows for several years in the 1980s and am personally acquainted with all of the above defects.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			The stage is inadequate for the NZ ballet, the acoustics are bad for any kind of performance, the entry to the theatre itself is cramped and unpleasant, and various attempts to improve the place over the years have not succeeded. I would very much doubt the capacity to stick to a \$20 million budget and produce anything worth having. The most reliable solution is to start again and return the current land to the green space it was always intended to be: Founders' Theatre stands on part of Hamilton's decimated Green Belt. Put the new version in Victoria Street - there are a lot of empty spaces that could be put to good use. The obvious one is the embarrassing hole where Les Mills used to be, on which building is indefinitely delayed by the developer until a suitable tenant can be found. This, perhaps with purchase of a property alongside, would be big enough to accommodate an underground parking facility and a state-of-the-art new theatre. A lot has been learned about acoustic design since the Founders' was built in the 1960s - the outstanding success and reputation of the Gallagher Auditorium at the Academy of Performing Arts is testament to that. Perhaps the same designers could be used again. Considering the expensive dead ends the council has gone down before, I can appreciate the caution over expenditure on a new facility. However, this is not the V8s, nor is it a stadium or an events centre, with limited applications and dubious bookings. It's quite plain what this needs to be: a purpose-built theatre with a functioning fly tower, capable of staging visiting theatrical productions and hosting orchestras and ballet companies. For a city this size to not have a theatre with these capabilities is a disgrace, and providing one will bring a lot more events to the city. If correctly placed and adequately designed, it should reinvigorate the north end of Victoria St and give people very good reason to come to the CBD on a regular basis.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0844	Build New		I would like Founders to be 1. at a new site as; - parking not good, not near a parking building/needs dedicated parking for disability and older/unsure drivers - would like new design (have never liked the 1960's design) - needs up to date theatre technology - needs excellent back of stage facilities 2. New design suitable for; - NZSO - NZ Ballet - musical productions - plays/etc I want a world class venue.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0845	Build New		Entertainment venues should look architecturally "flashy" so to stimulate patron excitement. For me going to an oversized "barn" to watch a show does not thrill me at all...also not a good look for a major city. So..start again from the ground up.. Venue Site: Has to have logistic potential..e.g to be close to major transport networks,bus,rail, major roads, close to other venues..Central city around Fairybank sounds nice but has logistic problems, however Brisbane is a river city success story that Hamilton should try to follow..It has a Convention and Arts Centre in central city.They solved their logistic problem by taking the venue to the people rather than taking the people to the venue ..creating South Bank. cafe's, appartments and accommodating the population around the venue ..Hamilton could also have a Brisbane type "South Bank"creating an urban green living there's a hint of it already around Fairybank area....Lets start with a venue with a future vision of extending it (the Brisbane model) Alternatively..create a venue around the Tertiary Education Area...maybe Avalon Campus area, Central or University area so to be in sync with Arts school educational areas...	No	No	
0846	Build New		Potential to develop into a greater performing art centre with possible links to other art outcomes within the creative sector in the Waikato and beyond.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0847	Refurbish	Yes	I have chosen to support the refurbishment of Founders Theatre as the cost is lower than a total re-build. I think it is incomprehensible to consider demolishing the Theatre and not replace. For a city that is the fourth largest in NZ, to not have a facility for the shows that are held there would be detrimental to Hamilton. There are so many events and pastimes that we need to travel out of town to as it is. There are huge benefits in attending a smaller theatre than using Claudelands. The atmosphere at Founders when it is a full house is fantastic. As it says on the Founders Theatre website "....and is one of the best-known and most successful venues in New Zealand". I am originally not from the Waikato, and one thing I always heard about (apart from the rugby) is Founders Theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0848	Build New		Many caveats on this preferred option of build new, but essentially if we are to have any sort of performance hall it should be an iconic building that forms the core public space of of our city and surrounded by cafes and restaurants. There is no need to demolish the existing building - rent it out to someone for a while. Don't bother replacing it unless its going to be worth a performer leaving Paris, London or Italy for a concert. Definitely don't ruin it by having a \$50M budget - do it properly whether it means \$2M or \$100M! Source the bulk of funding outside rates through charitable trusts or pre-sales tickets (advance purchase of say 100 tickets to any show) rather than rates unless the funding rate payers are going to get seriously subsidized tickets. The building needs to be designed around its acoustic needs to provide a range of performance spaces from intimate to mass hysteria. To be worthy of becoming an icon it needs to be Innovative or have perfect acoustics and ideal seating and views in and out to die for. The current location is a neither here nor there and completely isolated from our cafe culture. A design contest including location selection is a must, and integrating it into the culture of the city is vital - it needs to be "visible" and constantly in our consciousness. For example, Riverbank, Gardens, or Lakeside location or near the trig point on Cobham drive (or the old pool or over the rowing shed area). Personally, I'd love to see it built over the river as a green bridge (or at the wall and demolish and replace the council building while you are about it). So many options that a visionary could attach and entire city around However, if we are to build one, the design and engineering it needs to be taken well out of the hands of the people responsible for the appalling debacle that is Claudelands. Facilities like this need to be led by the nearly crazy not by "successful businessmen".	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0849	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0850	Refurbish	Yes	cost mainly. Hamilton needs a theatre.	No	No	
0851	Refurbish	Yes	need to have this updated facility for arts culture etc.Although if there are additional funds available then an extra 5-600 seats would turn this into a really top class facility	No	No	
0852	Build New		A new purpose designed building will be able to fully incorporate potential for the future, including some multi purpose options plus more appropriate technical options to cater to larger incoming shows. A new building would give Hamilton the option of building the best most technically advanced theatre in NZ to showcase what is available which would make it a more attractive option to incoming events. If the current building is found to be earthquake prone then a new building design will more adequately manage this fail point.	No	No	
0853	Refurbish	Yes	The cost is less than the new build option and will be less disruptive in terms of time. It is important that a theatre is retained and I doubt that reverting the present site to reserve after demolition would work well in that area.	No	No	
0854	Build New		If Hamilton is to retain any semblance of significance in New Zealand it needs to have a proper cultural centre, without this it is simply Cowtown soon to be overtaken by Tauranga as the most significant city in the central North Island and a place for people to avoid.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0855	Refurbish	Yes	I think that the Founders Theatre is the best theatre in Hamilton at present because it has easy to access seating in the front half of the theatre, it has comfortable permanent seats which Claudelands and Clarence Street do not have. I feel also that the Founders is a theatre which gives a sense of occasion, where you can dress up and sit in comfortable seats. The parking is good as there are plenty of roads around the theatre. I am not in favour of building a new theatre along the riverbank because the siting of that would be restrictive for parking. I do not like parking in the parking buildings. I do have good memories of the Founders for Graduations and local Operatic Society shows. However I am not sure if the theatre should be refurbished, or rebuilt on the same site.	No	No	
0856	Build New		1. There is no comparable venue in the Waikato region. 2. As a city, Hamilton needs a theatre to accommodate the Hamiltonians needs, and it has economic & cultural benefits in hosting some events. 3. Refurbishment can only temporarily resolve the issue, without long term benefits.	No	No	
0857	Demolish		It is too costly to refurbish. Currently Founders is an underused facility and so is Claudelands. It would be more cost effective to use Claudlands as a theatre venue. This is a good quality and well catered facility.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0858	Refurbish	No	There is room in a city like Hamilton to have a refurbished Founders Theatre and the option of a performing arts centre. Lack of long term maintenance of the Founders has been ignored for many years. It's location is good and it retains its cultural status despite the long term choice not to upgrade. A new performing arts centre at the riverbank has been designed and costed at least twice in the last twenty five years- at least once at the cost of the locals who sought this. It is about time the people of Hamilton who enjoy the arts and pay rates are supported with a range of facilities [old and new]- and that local arts groups are not left to find their own funds and buildings. The Founders Theatre is an important part of the heritage of Hamilton- designed by one of Hamilton's famous Modernist architectural firms.	No	No	
0859	Refurbish	Yes	I would prefer referbishment or a new theatre built because I think it's important for the Hamilton area to have a theatre that overseas (and home) performance companies would be happy doing shows in. I really enjoy going to the theatre for plays and ballets (among other types of shows) and I don't really think there's another venue in town that would be suitable for those types of performances, which would mean that Hamilton would get passed over for those shows. That would be incredibly disappointing and would severely detract from Hamilton's arts and culture scene. I chose referbishment because it's the cheapest option of the two, and therefore, probably more economically viable. But I would definitely be for building a new theatre too. I would also suggest that Hamilton City Council add a donation button on their website, SPECIFICALLY tor the new/referbished theatre, so that people who live just outside the city council boundary could contribute if they wanted to. Or people who were able to give larger sums of money could do that too.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0860	Build New		The whole complex appears to be out of date and not suitable for a progressive city. Parking is a real issue so a new site with appropriate parking is necessary.	No	No	
0861	Build New		Our city needs a purpose built facility that is good for now and well into the future. It could be better located perhaps by the river around other arts facilities eg Museum and ArtsPost. Purpose built also allows the opportunity to make it multi-functional, and which could attract events which we have never had. Make it something which could be an attraction in its own right as a smart, visionary and beautiful structure. Funding - we need to think wider than just Hamilton residents as it would be a regional resource, can we tap into national grants Our growing city needs something which it can be proud of and which puts the vibrant Hamilton arts scene on the national and international map	No	No	
0862	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
0863	Refurbish	Yes	This Theatre was built by Founders (my family included) - huge donations. It is a charming space friendly, excellent for orchestras- Choirs and get it right for ballet quick smart. It is in a safe area, good parking. Would be happy with the cost of the build being capped at \$30 million, only if the Founders was not left to rot! Depending of course where new theatre is to be.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0864	Refurbish	Not Answered	We have been attending performances at Founders Theatre since our return to the city in 1994. It is imperative we keep what we already have - Founders is only 50 years old and should not be replaced but refurbished now beginning immediately. I prefer refurbishment rather than a new theatre which will mean we will be waiting years before the new(?) building is completed, and some of us may not be around by then.	No	No	
0865	Refurbish	Not Answered	My preference is to renovate please!	No	No	
0866	Refurbish	Not Answered	Founders Theatre Refurbish. I would like to vote for this option.	No	No	
0867	Refurbish	Yes	Affordable and most attainable in not too distant future.	No	No	
0868	Build New		I think the theatre would do better if sitting more in the heart of the city. Why not have it out close to the museum? Replace the defunct pools and the Celebrating Age centre with a state-of-the-art venue, surrounded by the Museum, Arts Post, The Meteor, the river, and close to the bustling entertainment end of town.	No	No	
0869	Build New		Best of YOUR options. But a new, larger, up to date theatre to be built close by. The 'old' to be updated for current other uses - offices etc.	No	No	
0870	Refurbish	No	I believe that Founders Theatre is important to the community; as such, demolition only was simply never considered. However, in the decision between refurbishment or rebuilding, I believe that the additional cost, plus the additional amount of time the theatre would be unavailable to be used outweighs the futureproofing benefits of the rebuilding.	No	No	
0871	Build New		It will future proof the theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0872	Build New		I believe the old theatre was generally outdated. We could fix it to ensure that it is safe, but building a new theatre would be likely to spark a lot more interest in the arts in hamilton, as well as attract a larger amount of acts and performances. Overall I believe the option to close and demolish is not at all worth considering.	No	Yes	
0873	Refurbish	Yes	The cost of the refurbishment option is more modest than a full rebuild. Additionally a refurbishment will be quicker, so the theatre will not be out of action for as long.	No	No	
0874	Build New		I think Hamilton should take this opportunity that has been offered us, to re look at what Hamilton needs for the arts. The existing Founders theatre has never been adequate due to the poor acoustics. One of our leading local orchestra's, 'The Trust Waikato Orchestra' and choirs, don't like performing there, because of this. The performing arts centre at the university, (although a lovely facility) is too small for major events. The Claudlands events Centre is not suitable for the likes of orchestra's choir's and productions. By building a state of the arts theatre in the Southern end of Victoria Street, it would bring much needed business and life back into the centre of Hamilton. Parking sounds to be insufficient for a theatre in the south end of Victoria Street and therefor a parking building, should be incorporated into the design. There should also be bus stops, right outside the entrance, to encourage public transport and a jetty placed at the riverbank nearby, so folk can take river access to for from the events also.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0875	Build New		Then we could relocate the theater to Grantham Street and take advantage of the amenity of the Waikato River. An alternative site that could be considered is the Hamilton Gardens where there is ample space and is easily accessible for the patrons. Also, it could be purpose built using the most up-to-date acoustic designs. The pit musicians could be accommodated in a draft-free and safe environment.	No	No	
0876	Refurbish	No	The other two options are too expensive - rates are expensive enough and the money must come from somewhere	No	No	
0877	Demolish		I'm sure we were told at the time that the Claudelands Events centre was such a fantastic venue, important for Hamilton and would bring in loads of money to the locals. How many millions did that cost? And yet its not doing too well at the moment. The V8 event was to bring "millions" into the city. Which it didn't. Pull it down and put it into parking space and make some real money off it.	No	No	
0878	Build New		With our expanding population we deserve a theatre that can accommodate large touring companies. Building new means there are no building restriction on layout. Renovations always have hidden problems which escalate costs.	No	No	
0879	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0880	Refurbish	No	The existing Founders is well sited with ample parking in the surrounding streets and easy access within the CBD. The alternative sites that have been mooted have parking issues and may not be so easy to access for the older patrons. Whilst proximity to the entertainment precinct has been quoted as an advantage for the alternative sites I do not believe that this is a consideration for Founders patrons. I also support the refurbishment option on the basis of cost. In my opinion the Council's finances will be fully stretched coping with the growth and expansion of the city and it would not be prudent to engage in the expenditure for a new building. I also have concerns regarding the period of time the city would be without a theatre whilst a new one was designed, approved and built.	No	No	
0881	Refurbish	Yes	Practical compromise between new build and losing a theatre	No	No	
0882	Build New		Refurbishing the existing theatre as a theatre makes no sense because the building itself is too limiting for modern theatre productions and it is not suitable for music productions.	No	No	
0883	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs this specialised venue. So much history for anyone involved with the arts having performed there many times before myself. Basic structure & design are great so no need to tear down when you already have good base to work with.	No	No	
0884	Build New		Founders has reached its used by date in my opinion and we need a better facility with greater capacity and then we may get more performances coming here. BUT we need major sponsors to support it going ahead and not all on council rates.	No	No	
0885	Refurbish	Yes	I like the idea of keeping the theatre in town and the costs sway towards refurb. Thanks for letting us being involved in the decision making.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0886	Build New		The current building is not up to scratch. Hamilton as a major and growing city requires a purpose-built venue to cater for music and theatrical events. Dressing rooms and acoustics need to be of international standard. Such a venue should incorporate restaurant and bar facilities to generate income and develop a 24-7 buzz. Include exhibition space for artists (both local and visiting) and a gig stage where local musicians can entertain dining clientele. Hamilton alone has a huge and growing pool of talent. Create a place where both performers and audience want to spend their time. A buzzing cultural life does wonders for the social development of a community.	No	No	
0887	Demolish		Expand Claudlands event centre to cater for these events there is much more parking there is always an issue at founders	No	No	
0888	Refurbish	No	A theatre is still required. By refurbishing it, it will retain it's building blocks and history.	No	No	
0889	Build New		A few years ago (I suppose nearing 15) the council upgraded Founders - this had no significant impact on the capabilities of working backstage. By not rebuilding you are restricting yourself to the space there is now, and all the current issues of wing space, and operating areas, would still exist. By building new, there are greater options to build optimal areas that would cater for all parties that would be likely to use the venue. Another option in a rebuild, is including conference facilities that could cater for a range of different sized groups.	No	No	
0890	Build New		Hamilton is a major city without a suitable live performance space	No	No	
0891	Build New		We consider a refurbishment would only be a temporary fix and that in another 20 years we would be facing the same decision all over again.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0892	Build New		A purpose built theatre will enable a wide range of uses and be suitable for performers that cannot currently perform in Hamilton. However, I would not want to see the new theatre moved from current location unless it was still in the CBD. Would not want to see the theatre moved to The Base or Chartwell. CBD needs to retain the theatre.	No	No	
0893	Refurbish	No	Heritage. Its been around a long time and is a Hamilton icon. Fix up what is wrong with flying system. Improve the acoustics. Seismic strengthening may not be as much as suggested. Seating upgrade is not really needed. Entrance and foyer is sufficient as we are never really in there much before the performance. upgrading the bar is not going to see a return on that portion of the investment. In other words refurbishment may not be as expensive at first thought. Just hurry up and get the venue open again. We often come in from Morrinsville for shows.	No	No	
0894	Build New		A city of the size of Hamilton cannot not have facilities to cater for orchestras, ballet and shows! Be a joke to visitors. Hamilton is only going to grow and get bigger and better!! A step backwards if nothing is done and get modern I reckon by pulling down and starting new!! It will last 40+ years and still look modern!! The need will only increase and it will cost even more to build or even refurbish in the future so bite the bullet and do it now!! Thanks for allowing the public to have their say ☺	No	No	
0895	Build New		Hamilton is not the city it was when the Founders was built and in 50 years time it will not be the city it is today. It is for us to step up and build a theatre that will see us well into the future and serve future generations of this city. If you look at cities of smaller size in New Zealand you will see progressive thinking which can also have an attraction for tourists. The Gardens are fantastic because someone thought outside the square. Let's do it again.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0896	Build New		Build new now and do the job properly, it will never be cheaper. A furbished old theater is a refurbished old theater. The cost of \$50m seems a bit high and for once the council needs to have professional quantity surveyors engaged to each dollar spent is fully justified and teh ratepayers are getting value for their money.	No	No	
0897	Refurbish	Yes	Cheaper cost to ratepayers which would seem to remedy the existing issues	No	No	
0898	Refurbish	Yes	Very important for Hamilton's growth and appeal	No	No	
0899	Build New		This will give a purpose built facility for a growing city not limited by the current site. The cost is a secondary consideration compared with giving the catchment area an appropriate venue for theatre/ballet/concerts.	No	No	
0900	Demolish		So Claudelands Show grounds is used more often BUT - Claudelands showgrounds must beupgraded to allow for Theatre. Also, Trust Bank theatre too small / Riverlea too small - a bigger venue is needed for the big theatre shows - BUT Claudelands Must be ugraded to allow for that venue to be used for that purpose.	No	No	
0901	Refurbish	Yes	Keep it, but not cost so much. Even though I don't use it, I have family members who are keen to keep it, and use it.	No	No	
0902	Build New		It is importanat that we cater for the needs of Hamiltonians and surrounding districts - Auckland is the obvious alternative for these arts and not palatable to me. The building is outdated and tired, the obvious solution to me is build new. It'll never be cheaper!	No	No	
0903	Refurbish	No	It seems more realistic and workable, and takes less time than building a new theatre. Open to the new theatre option too though.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0904	Refurbish	No	We need the Founders for special events that other places cant cater for, its part of Hamilton's heritage. Demolishing it would be a complete waste of an iconic event center. New build is too expensive especially as its going to be a similar size. Refurbishment is the best option we still get to keep the Founders but at a more realistic price.	No	No	
0905	Refurbish	Yes	Less cost to ratepayers.	No	No	
0906	Refurbish	No	Building has heritage value and is needed as a facility in the city.	No	No	
0907	Build New		Working within the 50 year old design which has already been refurbished trying to bring it up to date is folly. Hamilton needs to be able to host productions eg. orchestras and ballets, with a theatre which has the accoustics (which includes dimensions) that meet current and future events. We need our young people to be able to perform (and practice) in an environment which is designed for performance. The central city has lost out to other areas with its shopping. We want a city which has everything centralised (more like Wellington than Auckland) rather than fragmented and uses the potential offered with the accommodation and restaurants. This might bring retailers back as well. The central city should be considered as supporting both the arts and sports. We now have sports covered with the cricket and rugby grounds and Claudelands showgrounds, its time to support the arts.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0908	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment retains & improves what we already have. Founders is well-known & sits on its own "island" . There's parking right around it, plus the many side streets emanating out from the nearby roundabout. The theatre is not far on foot from the Transport Centre & CBD....compare this with Claudelands Event Centre, distanced by the river crossing & O'Neill Street. Like anything we knock down, both figuratively & literally, we need to put the question: what do we replace it with? ...a new build would cost way more [from wherever that money is sourced], & demolition would leave the city with no comparable facility.	No	No	
0909	Refurbish	Yes	I think refurbishment would be a better option than new build because it costs the tax/rate payer less and still gives us what we need - the main issue with founders has been the stage size, the refurbishment includes a new larger stage - as long as its big enough for NZRoyal Ballet etc to come - the actual size of the auditorium is fine, we just need it to be a bit fresher, better entrance and facilities, and better dressing rooms and back of house production facilities - as we have Claudelands that can cater to the larger option of events - the only added thing I would like to comment on is parking - there really needs to be more parking close to Founders, the cricket grounds and the stadium - if this could be added to the refurbishment - perhaps get rid of the grassed area by founders and add a carpark of some sort underground or multi storey - other than this I think refurbishment is best option - a bigger stage will mean more shows - the size of auditorium is fine - having a restaurant as part of the facilities or a way better bigger food outlet would also be better for events held there.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0910	Refurbish	Yes	I believe that Hamilton needs a large theatre given the population which is growing exponentially. We have a major Arts focus in Hamilton and the ability to have larger shows and artists in Hamilton is imperative. I personally have been to many shows in the Founders and would like to think that I can again in the not too far distant future! With the three options the council has given, I believe that refurbishment would be the most cost effective (and recoverable) and hopefully not take as long as a complete rebuild which would be my second option. Not having a theatre at all is not an option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0911	Build New		i live in te awamutu but have property in hamilton. the founders was a disaster right from the beginning and you can't make a silk purse out of a sour's ear. it's been tried many times in the past. the sound is appalling, the air conditioning unsatisfactory, the seating is awful, the toilet facilities are obviously not adequate as i have been told there aren't enough female cubicles and they use the gents (if it wasn't council owned that wouldn't be allowed), there is far too much wasted space around the building that could be made use of much more appropriately (who cares about fountains and ponds etc where it is situated and that costs to maintain), so the whole design is totally unsatisfactory. i believe there's more to the closure than the public have been made aware of and there's a lot of window washing. to have it closed overnight when there were bookings means there's something pretty serious that has been found. hamilton is classed as a second situation and a lot of shows by-pass it. the costs of hiring are very hire and probably out of proportion to the space actually used. hamilton is a very significant city when it comes to entertainment but it has substandard venues. riverlea is extremely run down in every aspect now, the meteor is disgusting and clarence st is inferior. people from overseas see hamilton as a disappointment and the civic in auckland seems to pick up more waikato business than it should. so for the future of hamilton's entertainment, new is the only way to go but make sure you get correct advice and not architects who have no experience of such buildings. you can't have just anyone designing theatres. it requires someone with practical knowledge and experience. they are so different to every other building. look at the mess all the hamilton theatres are and have been since they started. i hope this is considered although i doubt it knowing what councils are like. they lack common sense and get 'idiot' consultants to advise at ridiculous commissions.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0912	Build New		A city of Hamilton's size should have a venue which can accommodate a wide variety of entertainment options for its citizens. Claudelands Events Centre caters for some of these, but Founders needs to fill in the gaps and be a venue we can feel proud of as a community. It makes the best economic sense to do it right from the outset by constructing a purpose-built, future-proofed venue, rather than trying to adapt one which hasn't been particularly functional for some time and which will continue to have limitations no matter what is done to it.	No	No	
0913	Refurbish	Yes	It is enjoyed by a very large cross-section of the Hamilton and wider communities, both on-stage as performers and as paying customers. It is a very adaptable venue that is able to host a variety of performers and shows, as opposed to the Claudelands arena which, even though it has a larger capacity, does not seem to be as adaptable as the Founders.	No	No	
0914	Refurbish	No	DO BOTH Refurbishment: Don't refurbish as a theatre, just make it a town hall. No seating (or stage) just a meeting place. That should cost less than the suggested \$20 million. It's so important to keep the space and all the art work. Build new: most importantly, build central!!! We don't want another Claudelands! Make it part of the inner city with the river. Build at the closed pool along the river. Combine it with other building already there (Meteor, Age Concern...) and build an Arts Centre. This would be the perfect space and would liven up our inner city!	Yes	No	

Submitter 914 Insert – 1 page long



Age Concern

Ferrybank Reception
& Conference Centre

Grantham St

Grantham St

Bridge St

Grantham St

Grantham St

Victoria St

Anzac Parade

Tisdall Terrace

The Meteor Theatre

Chim Choo Ree

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0915	Refurbish	No	60 million dollars is going to be too much of a burden on a small city's ratepayers. Mayors will only be here for one or two terms, many of the short term city fathers are too much inclined to make a name for themselves. If things turn to custard they just depart to leave others with their shortcomings. Founders is a proud icon of Hamilton and it seems to be a waste to tear it down. An upgrade and re-vamp will be the only suitable option for Hamilton at this stage without this being too much of a burden on rate payers and the theatre will have its life extended for another 25 - 30 years. Of course many would like to have the best of the best, these are the ones who will not contribute a cent and don't have to create the finances. Hamilton has more pressing issues to deal with rather than building palaces. 60 million will no doubt extend by at least another 40% on overruns and unforeseen expenditures.	No	No	
0916	Demolish		Did I read it right attendance figures have been falling? The current sight does not have enough easy parking. Most important is the continuing spending by HCC despite the increasing warnings from experts that a bubble burst crash will soon occur. The Founders Theatre should be rebuilt in ten years time at a new sight. This will give us time to design a theatre which is popular with the majority of residents and with the latest technology. If we wait we will hopefully not be continuing to use new subdivision money for the city centre spending. Also the state of the world economy might be safer. I recommend city councillors check out the areas where low income families live and ask the question how can the streets and parks in these areas can be improved for the health and well being of these ratepayers. Few would accept HCC's figures for costs - you have a reputation.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0917	Build New		Build new. Cost of a re build should be a regional one and not restricted to Hamilton City. Given the possibility of the present building failing on a seismic rating, refurbishment would be an unwise option to follow. Closing and demolishing not an option for a city the size of Hamilton and being a University town.	No	No	
0918	Refurbish	No	From the information received it appears that the Flying system Load bearing capacities are not known - these should be found out- it may not be a problem after all. Assume a structural engineer is sorting this out or you are viewing the original plans for these details. ("Obsolete technologies" can still do the job, and probably are still used in many theatres around the world.) Seismic strength not certain - find it out, again may not be a problem. Fire curtain- currently is certified - get it checked and certified for load bearing capacity. There seem to be too many unknown factors. No one should make a decision until these basic facts are sorted out. It has been assumed that it is unsafe but it may not be at all. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	No	No	
0919	Refurbish	No	The cost and and time involved to build new are my main reasons for choosing to refurbish. The plans outlined above appear to meet what is required to bring the current theatre up to date.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0920	Refurbish	Yes	As somebody who has attended events regularly over the past 20 years, I believe that the key changes that are needed are a vast improvement to the stage and the back of production facilities, better acoustics, more comfortable seats and the obvious requirements for seismic and other compliance needs for a building of the theatre's size and design. I am less keen on 'building' new and I would not favour a rebuild being shifted anyway as I can't see any advantages in being closer to the bars and bistros in south Victoria street. Whatever is decided other than the 'demolish' option, the cost is likely to exceed the projected cost eg., the upgrade to the Waikato Stadium.	No	No	
0921	Refurbish	Yes	Refurbishment would be my preference for for the Founders Theatre, it has wonderful memories for myself, my family and my late dad who use to take us to the wrestling in the late 1970s. Very fond memorable moments, my children have performed on that stage for Kapa haka, and more recently we have as a family continued to watch some magnificent plays in the Theatre. Financially the cost is affordable for the refurbishment and for the rate payers, so minimising cost would work better for the consumers.	No	No	
0922	Refurbish	No	Cost is less. Can't trust the Council to make wise decisions on spending and borrowing.	No	No	
0923	Refurbish	Yes	We certainly need the theatre to be up and operating as soon as possible. Between Building a new one and refurbishing the latter seems the more reasonable and practical option.	No	No	
0924	Build New		This option is closest to my preferred ideas on the theatre. As Hamilton continues to grow a venue with greater capacity seems to make sense and I feel that venue should be in the CBD	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0925	Build New		The Founders Theatre where it currently stands is out of the 'hub' of the city. A great city makes going to the theatre part of it's overall experience and part of the rich experience of visiting that city. Hamilton's nightlife is vibrant, and appealing, and I personally know many who travel from Auckland to enjoy the close proximity of all the restaurants and bars in Hamilton. A beautiful theatre would ideally be placed close to our great attraction - the river, and within walking distance to the bars and restaurants. Possibly somewhere around Ferrybank lounge -Museum area? A night out at the theatre will promote spending in bars, clubs, and restaurants. If a Hamilton theatre was able to take touring shows this would promote tourism, and make Hamilton a destination - staying overnight after the show would increase the spend on hotels/accommodation in the city. I am a professional singer and have sung all around the world (Japan, UK, Australia,USA) in Musical theatre productions and opera. I have also sung many many times in Founders theatre. Whilst I love the memories it holds, it is not suitable for today's shows and it limits the amazing productions we can get to come to Hamilton. The backstage area and facilities are poor, and the acoustic is difficult. Every wonderful theatre I have ever toured in /worked in/been to has been in the middle of the city to bring heart. Yes, it's expensive, but this is a legacy this council will give to Hamilton to finally put the really already wonderful city of Hamilton on the map culturally. The Nightlife, the Hamilton Gardens, the river and the New Founders Theatre!!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0926	Build New		We need a suitable arts venue but it needs to be somewhere with another function eg art gallery and cafe to support its daily use. I like the thought of a new theatre in South Hamilton possibly on Municipal pools site as there is good parking nearby which has always been an issue at Founders theatre.	No	No	
0927	Refurbish	Yes	I was a child living in Hamilton when it was built. I have seen and enjoyed many performances in the theatre. It is a building of its time - 1960's. As such it has historical and architectural value. It would be a shame to lose this icon of Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0928	Demolish		I am the President of The Waikato Potters Society and it is our wish that the Founders become an Art Gallery. This would require strengthening. I have spoken to a range of other Societies, and people in the arts in the Waikato. So far I have had approval from Waikato Potters, Arts for Health, Men's Shed ArtMakers and had discussions, but not iondepth with the Waikato Society of Arts. It is my vision that: 1. The Founders Theatre be earthquake strengthened 2. Be divided into areas suitable for classroom teaching and display of art 3 That there be a large display area where concerts could be held as per the Auckland Art Gallery 4 That the stage area is demolished. 5 That windows be put in for classrooms, but not in the gallery section 6. That Hamilton City is perhaps the only large city in New Zealand without a dedicated public Art Gallery 7. That interactive spaces be provided so that the public can watch art in progress 8. That provision is made for places like the Men's Shed to display work and operate, even if a separate area is built on the grounds which is soundproofed. 9 This collaborative approach involves many residents of Hamilton City through the various clubs as well as members in outlying areas. We would hazard a guess that it would be over 1,000 people and more if families were included. 10. The recent newspaper article which suggested the venue be used for a community centre fits partly with this submission, but we would like to point out that community houses are situated in most neighbourhoods as well as public libraries, but there is not Art Gallery. 11. That we need a theatre of the Founders size or bigger in Hamilton, perhaps more in the centre of town closer to restaurants.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0929	Refurbish	Yes	The difference in cost between refurbishing and new. The dangling carrot of having additional (I certainly hope) and improved womens' toilets!!	No	No	
0930	Build New		-	No	No	
0931	Refurbish	No	The building is an icon for the ear it was built. Cost - why spend \$50m when \$20m will upgrade it. It's situation in the city is ideal.	No	No	
0932	Refurbish	No	This is an ideal site, with refurbishment, there is no reason to demolish it. Our friends in Auckland cannot believe we can park 5 minutes from a venue.	No	No	
0933	Refurbish	Yes	Because the building is beautiful and with the cost of a complete rebuild, these additional costs will go straight to our rates bill. Claudelands is enough at this stage along with the V8's.	No	No	
0934	Refurbish	No	As a Client, I love the Founders. The backstage / dressing rooms / green room really need updating, improving, adding 2016 Tech better wifi etc. The auditorium is lovely, a great size with great seating, it could do with some upgraded air-conditioning but otherwise artists love playing there as is.	No	No	
0935	Demolish		Hi there one question I have what is wrong with the Claudelands event centre being utilised and used for similar events as the Founders Theatre. HCC-GF-160521-6POJ3-AWJ	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0936	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is the only theatre in Hamilton that can house large productions with full back drops, sets and flying facilities. If it closes what would happen to the artistic companies. There is never any problem spending money for sporting events so why not for cultural and artistic events. People travel to Hamilton as I travel to Auckland to watch the NZ Ballet and other large company entertainment, how much revenue could Hamilton cash in on with productions coming to Hamilton. Not only do restaurants, motels and bars benefit but we would be able to experience diverse shows that neither Claudelands or Clarence St could hold.	No	No	
0937	Refurbish	Yes	The acoustics are excellent. The orchestra pit must be made so the ballet can perform to live music. The sitting can be modernized like Aotea opera hall in Auckland. Lovely beech sitting with red upholstery. The building of a new theatre will cost double and some of the existing quote. We go to the theatre for all NZSO concerts, ballets and many different types of shows. I just want a venue in Hamilton. Terrified that we will not get one.	No	No	
0938	Build New		We need to invest in Hamilton arts as a strong element and works along side the Hamilton gardens and the Waikato river too draw in people. The idea to rebuild will allow for state of the art building that could cater for more needs than it currently does	No	No	
0939	Refurbish	No	Middle of the road cost. Less waste. Memories/history of Founders maintained.	No	No	
0940	Refurbish	Yes	Keep the history.. just make it more appealing to go to	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0941	Build New		Easier to plan a new build than fit current technology into an existing structure, also there could be additional hidden/unexpected costs with refurbishing. Would be great if council could find another site that has more parking to allow for future growth of Hamilton city.	No	No	
0942	Build New		More options to create a modern venue, not being limited by an existing structure.	No	No	
0943	Build New		If claudelands can't be altered to suit the needs, it would make sense to do it properly and create something custom made to suit the needs of our growing city. Just fixing it is like a band-aid, for less than double you might as well make it as good as you can given Hamilton is always changing. If it brings in bigger and better theatre, that's even better.	No	No	
0944	Demolish		It's a waste of money for anything else we have the Clarence street theater which is gorgeous	No	No	
0945	Refurbish	Yes	Makes the most sense. Ticks the most boxes. Best for financial reasons. Hamilton needs a respectable theatre. It fulfils a lot of different roles, not just to the arts community.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0946	Refurbish	Yes	Firstly, council should get the seismic report. You are asking rate payers for feed back and we haven't got all the facts? I question the two to three years to refurbish and also the 5 to 6 years for a new building. The longer the time frame the higher the cost. If the council funded the entire cost meeting the dept to revenue until 2022 would save us two years of interest charges compared to the build new plan. Car parking needs to be included in the cost structure. The culture aspects of the city need to be promoted, we need a theatre that will meet the cities demands and requirements for the next 50 years. A private public venture needs to be investigated. This would cut costs to the rate payers. Refurbishing will give a shorter time out of service and more importantly a shorter payback period. Building new would I feel would lead to a longer delay in where to site the theatre, car parking issues, costs, who pays, rate payers, private / council? Etc. Get the seismic survey, the issue may not be as bad as portrayed.	No	No	
0947	Refurbish	No	I have attended events at Claudelands Event Centre and it lacks the theatre ambiance certain productions need. I like to think that in 30-50 years time there will still be a place in the world for theatres and it would be a shame to lose Hamilton's main one now. History.	No	No	
0948	Refurbish	No	Because the Founders Theatre is an iconic Hamilton landmark that holds lots of special memories to me and it would be such a shame and a total waste to get rid of it. Hamilton needs to stop wrecking the centre of Hamilton as it is becoming a ghost town.	No	No	
0949	Build New		the city can afford to do this, return the land the theatre is on to the green belt, build a new theatre in town towards hood st or demolish age centre and swimming pool and build there, plenty of carparks that end of town	No	No	
0950	Refurbish	No	Because it is a lovely building and I would much rather see it stand and be refurbished than demolished - it holds too much history!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0951	Refurbish	Yes	I think its a great location it should have been fixed up years ago just do it and stop passing the buck.	No	No	
0952	Build New		This is my preferred option because we need something like founders theatre in Hamilton. The clearance street theatre is much smaller and can't fit as many people. The founders theatre had been a part of a lot of people's history and I'm sure a lot of other people would be sad to see it go. It'd be good to have a bigger better building for future acts to come to Hamilton. It'd also be a lot safer. Please, please don't just demolish it.	No	No	
0953	Refurbish	Yes	It is a part of Hamilton. It isn't the most expensive option and it's not getting rid of it. Without it so many students lose their option of arts and Hamilton loses so many opportunities for proformances.	No	No	
0954	Refurbish	Not Answered	Hamilton's population is projected to grow substantially in the coming decades. A new theatre would cater for that growth. I believe Hamilton misses out on many touring productions due to that lack of appropriate facilities. I would prefer the new building to be situated on the existing theatre site but on the basis that car parking was a major consideration for the design. If there is not room for sufficient car parks then an alternative site, perhaps in Hamilton East, would be an option. Hamilton East is becoming a progressive hub for the arts. The Hamilton Gardens could be a potential location.	No	No	
0955	Refurbish	No	It seems like a sensible option to keep an awesome they're iconic in Hamilton as well as getting the benefits of a functioning theatre at the most cost effective price	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0956	Refurbish	No	It is a cheaper option. The theatre will still be able to stay open and accomodate a better price range for cultural or arts communities needing to hire a facility, where hopefully the price range is still reasonable. (Not like claudlelands)	No	No	
0957	Demolish		We need to have a professional, modern, city serving and future oriented venue. \$50 million over a 20 year life span is an acceptable price to pay as a ratepayer for me.An investment we need to make and we need to just get on with it!	No	No	
0958	Build New		Bring more concerts and plays to Hamilton	No	No	
0959	Build New		"A new build would not be limited by a pre-existing floor plan and wall structures." I think having the freedom to build a state-of-the-art venue without limitations has a greater effect for the future of Hamilton as a destination for the region.	No	No	
0960	Refurbish	Yes	A lot of history there	No	No	
0961	Demolish		As the city slowly dies, there's no real need for another theatre to be built. We also already have another theatre that is barely being used and most events are occurring at the Claudelands arena. I believe the best thing to do to revitalize the city would be to demolish the theatre and build a parking lot for the workers in town as well as any customers that may come through - as for the price - this will need to kept affordable so as not to lose more punters to the base. I myself work in retail in Centre Place and have noticed a huge drop in foot traffic over the last three years - when asked why less customers choose the city, most have responded that it cost too much to park for any amount of time and that everything in town is over priced. Bring our customers back!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0962	Build New		I've been involved in the dance community locally and internationally for 16 years and in the last several years I have become an events organiser with the intention of creating exposure for arts and culture in New Zealand, especially here in Waikato. From my experience in Hamilton we have a lot of small venues for performing arts (whether purpose-built or not is another question) and several medium-sized venues eg Clarence, Meteor, School Halls, and only Founders and Claudelands to choose from for bigger events. For the majority of us Claudelands will never be in the equation because of it's ridiculous costs so a brand new Founders Theater remains to be the hope of our local arts and creative performers. Hopefully it would be attainable, accessible and branded in a very fresh and contemporary way. Every year, scores of NZ talent are recognised through various platforms, and I'm hoping we can make Founders a beacon of creativity for our region.	No	No	
0963	Refurbish	Yes	I have attended a lot of events at the founders and it is so cental as a Hamiltonian it would not be the same if i drove by and it would not be there. Having this venue given a up lift would attract more people to use the venue. The enviroment outside is a little exiciment before you get inside. Just an awesome venue	No	No	
0964	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs culture. We have claudlands to be a fancy building, founders can be culture.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0965	Build New		My earliest memories as a child are of me sitting on my mothers lap watching my father as he sang and danced his way across the stage during his time in Hamilton Operatic Society and then on to Music Makers, and some few years later as an adult having had my time on the same stage I feel that it is time for the old to have a face lift, well actually an overhaul would be a better term. It would be great for Hamilton to have a facility that would bring bigger touring groups into our community...also part of the "new and improved" I would suggest a larger parking facility...the current one is ridiculously small for the number of seats there are now. We need more than just rugby and cricket to come to Hamilton, bring on Circ de Sole, and other great works of the theater.	No	No	
0966	Build New		Needs a new look. The inside is outdated & the new look could bring in more people using this for preformances.	No	No	
0967	Build New		Will give us the chance to build a purpose built facility that will be the home of the arts.	No	No	
0968	Refurbish	Not Answered	It may well become a historical building in years to come. About time we looked at PRESERVING our history.	No	No	
0969	Build New		We have an amazing opportunity as a city to start afresh with a theatre that is possibly at a new site that is more connected to our hospitality sector in the city. I think it is a great opportunity to continue to bring the central part of our city alive.	No	No	
0970	Refurbish	No	It's ideal central location and car parking availability.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0971	Build New		The existing structure his obsolete and restricts the city from being able to host major touring events (that otherwise patrons would have to travel to Auckland or Rotorua to see). It would also mean that pre-existing production companies, such as the Hamilton Operatic Society, would be able to develop their shows further and through the use of more efficient and safer technologies, give Hamilton thespians the entertainment they deserve, and this would definitely boost our reputation as an arts community. I'm a young actor, myself and without the Founders Theatre, we don't have a city theatre. We are basically wiped off of the arts map.	No	Yes	
0972	Build New		This city MUST provide a cultural theatre. The present location is central, accessible and convenient to most patrols. A new build would not be excessively costly and would be an asset to Hamilton for many years to come. An opportunity exists to showcase the city internationally even more than the Claudelands event centre can do. Bring it on! Design new, build new!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0973	Refurbish	Not Answered	I would prefer the current building was refurbished PROPERLY this time. A decent architect should be able to move walls and floors around to make it properly fit for purpose. They do it all the time with houses. Actually I would love to see a really beautiful building that works for what it was designed for and last for centuries and not just years. You'll never get it for \$50 million though. We all know that. Be bold like Dunedin with their Forsyth Barr Stadium. Critics moaned, groaned but they wouldn't swap it for anything now. Hamilton is a beautiful city but is just a big cow town without decent facilities. I'm very afraid we'll pull down the existing structure then chicken out of spending money for a new building and we'll end up with nothing. Refurbish it if we can make it up to international best practice standards otherwise build new and to hang with the expense. People will moan but they'll get over it when we have international tours and the ballet back again. Whatever you do don't demolish it and leave us with nothing. Hamilton is too important for that.	No	No	
0974	Build New		-	No	No	
0975	Refurbish	Not Answered	Surely this can be done. Sharpen the pencils and do it.	No	No	
0976	Refurbish	Yes	It needs a refurbishment, NZ needs to retain its cultural venues, otherwise we seem pretty boring. \$50m is way too much!!	No	No	
0977	Refurbish	No	I believe it is better to fix up than tear down buildings as it retains local history/heritage.	No	No	
0978	Refurbish	Yes	To preserve some of what's there and save money using the existing recoverable sections.	No	Yes	
0979	Refurbish	Yes	Will save what is there and is cheaper.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0980	Refurbish	No	Cost and historical value to Hamilton in future and respect to those who organised and financed build cost.	No	No	
0981	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
0982	Build New		Hamilton needs to keep up with it's expanding population and provide a modern performing arts centre.	No	No	
0983	Build New		At first sight the refurbishment option seems good however, I do not believe that all the shortcomings could be resolved that way. In particular: the fly tower and other back stage facilities, audience seating, and air conditioning need to be up to date. For orchestral performances, there needs to be an easily erected soundshell to stop the sound from disappearing up the fly tower, as is done in the Aotea Centre.	No	No	
0984	Demolish		We still have the Claudelands Events Centre and Clarence Street Theatre which could be utilized for arts, culture and other touring productions - the Claudelands Events Centre could be utilized and promoted more. I think the \$50 million and \$20 million to build new or refurbish it would be too costly and would probably be better spent elsewhere. I think the money in particular could be spent on Hamilton's riverfront, Hamilton East and the city centre; the latter particularly in terms of inner city housing, using older heritage buildings and urban design.	No	No	
0985	Refurbish	Yes	I've always loved going to the Founders Theatre and I think it makes a lot of sense to upgrade the present theatre rather than knocking it down and rebuilding it. It's in a place handy to the city centre and in the evening there's plenty of parking in nearby streets.	No	No	
0986	Refurbish	Yes	Makes use of what is already there and maintains the history of the Founders theatre. Lesser of two evils option in terms of expenditure as well.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0987	Build New		Hamilton needs a modern venue that can be used as the city expands	No	No	
0988	Build New		Hamilton is a city now of 150,000 and is growing rapidly. It has a thriving music/arts scene and a substantial performamce venue is an essential requirement of the city to enable the arts to continue to thrive. The current theatres in the city are too small (eg Academy at Uni of Waikato is excellent but seating limit 330). The current Founders has served its time and should either be modernised - which would really be good money chasing bad - or demolished and new venue constructed ideally near the river (eg near the prime spot occupied by ANZ Bank!), as suggested by Russell Armitage and others. Many cities around the world of comparable or smaller size have modern purpose-built theatres and so this an opportunity to develop a fantastic venue. I come from a music background having been a performer with Hamilton Citizens Band on hundreds of occasions in and around Hamilton (1972-1987), several performances with TWSO (1980s), and as an administrator in co-founding and managing the United Youth orchestra for 10 years (202-2009).	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0989	Refurbish	No	This being the cheaper option, \$20 million, it is the best option because of comfort, parking and less debt to the ratepayer. A completely new theatre built on the same site and kept strictly within the \$50 million budget and included a restaurant and bar facilities could be an alternative. A new theatre built near the Waikato River, what would the real cost More than \$50 million, when you take into account more car parking space would need to be provided as parking is limited, due to the large number of restaurants and other businesses that operate in the area. This wouldn't be feasible unless the theatre was used on a regular basis. We need a theatre the size of Founders to encourage performing arts such as the ballet, opera and the likes to come to Hamilton, plus entertainers such as Isla Grant, Dennis Marsh and smaller bands. Claudlands Event Centre is too big for such events and hasn't the appropriate sound system and comfort for these.	No	No	
0990	Refurbish	No	shorter time frame to get the theater up and running again, also costs less.	No	No	
0991	Demolish		Hamilton now has a high class facility in the Claudlands Event Centre which could be utilised more. If it is not done already, and I am sure it is, this facility could be configured to cater for multiple smaller events as well as the larger arena-sized ones. With this complex available to a wide range of events, I do not want to support the spending of between \$20 and \$50 million dollars for alternative options.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0992	Refurbish	Not Answered	I have ticked this option as to me it seems the best option. Frankly I think it is disgusting that a city the size of Hamilton and the district it serves is without a city theatre of a size and stature to serve the population. I don't remember this much angst when the stadium was mooted. I have noticed that some shows have already by passed Hamilton. The other thing that as a rate payer really irks me is the fact that this asset was allowed to get to the state that it had to be closed. What were you thinking! I always get annoyed when I hear or read Hamilton being put down and called a hick town but if we dont have a good theatre are we not enabling that label.	No	No	
0993	Demolish		I haven't seen advertising for any event at founders theatre since Claudelands event centre was built. It wld be lovely to have a "proper" theatre in Hamilton but would it be utilised? Either way existing building would be demolished until decision is made on how to use the land. Please don't waste rate payers money in a refurbishment only to have to redo in another 30 years.	No	No	
0994	Refurbish	No	Because it is the cheapest of the first two options - I would not even consider the third.	No	No	
0995	Build New		-	No	No	
0996	Refurbish	No	It is symbolic of hamilton, closing it would deter huge buisness and shows, so many memories have been made there, many schools and organisations use the space annually so it is a tradition and it is much cheaper than building new! Building new would create something foreign and unrelateable, and demolishing would only add to the dying city center.	No	No	
0997	Refurbish	Yes	Because founders is part of our history (even though it's not historic) and if possible it makes sense to make the most of an existing asset rather than starting again.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
0998	Refurbish	Yes	More cost effective than building new, and having no theatre is a terrible option for the community.	No	No	
0999	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1000	Build New		We need a more modern and safe theatre. Refurbishing the existing one is only a temporary fix. Also building a new one would give the opportunity to make the site more attractive than it is at the moment	No	No	
1001	Build New		Going forward will be able to keep up with the demand of the growing city. Can host main events that only auckland or wellington get. Would be great to be in hamilton	No	No	
1002	Refurbish	Yes	Founders Theatre is lovely and just needs an upgrade to bring it up to standard. It would be so sad to lose this facility	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1003	Refurbish	No	The current Founders' Theatre has much going for it in terms of acoustic design and facilities; its main drawback is the location, but this does now seem to significantly affect patronage. Local dance groups, musicians, and touring performers will continue to use the current theatre in its current location, I believe, so a change in that regard will not affect bookings or attendance numbers. The refit proposal, with a \$20 million price tag, is much more palatable, and manageable, for regional & local ratepayers, in my opinion. There seems to be a clear case for retaining a theatre of this caliber and size, so, with money spent wisely, Hamilton and the greater region could retain a great cultural asset with a minimum spend and minimal down-time. Both of these factors are significant, in my opinion. In an ideal world, Hamilton would have built a comparable theatre nearer to the 'centre' of the CBD, but this, in my mind, would not necessarily encourage greater patronage, as it is a destination, not a 'spur of the moment' asset, as is Claudlands Event Centre, and Council critics have focussed on patronage numbers & revenue to argue against a large spend on refurbishment or a new build. As an inner-city resident, I can honestly say that it would not matter to me if the Founders' was by the river or in its current location; I would still attend and walk to performances, if the shows were of interest to me or my children. There are several drawbacks to a new-build, one of which is parking facilities, in another location; this problem will not go away until either Council, or private interests, make provision for transport to theatre events, or a Park-and-Ride system, perhaps with electric shuttles to the venue, or a mind-shift in theatre-goers, who could park a block away and walk to the theatre. Everyone wants to park at the door and HCC could engage and educate patrons in that regard.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			With some imaginative marketing & a modest budget, patrons could be encouraged to consider these options as part of their exclusion, and could include free gifts (simple & inexpensive: a merchandised cap, a pen, a badge) for bussing or taking a shuttle to a show, and this would be especially attractive for younger patrons. Thus it would also encourage parents or caregivers to think about these alternative options. If we consider that there could be a lower spend on an existing building, with fewer materials than a new-build, it would be an easy sell for Council to promote these aspects of the refurbishment option, whilst championing the green credentials of alternatives to front-door parking and building from the ground up. Given the history of the Founders' Theatre's funding and building by the community, then its being gifted to the City, we could also leverage the refurbishment option as being an appreciation of those who have gone before us, and who did so much for our benefit. We already have the makings of a very good venue in the Founders' Theatre; as a community we should try to get the best we can for the smallest amount of taxpayer money, in which case everyone will continue to benefit. Cheers!			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1004	Refurbish	Yes	The current site is perfect in being set in a picturesque setting and is not located between large commercial buildings. Street parking is plentiful provided there is not a conflict with an event at Seddon Park or Stadium Waikato. It was a close call between a rebuild and a new build but the \$50m cost of a new one will probably escalate to end up closer to \$75m and will just give the pessimists support to their criticism of the Claudelands Arena costs. The city and the region need these facilities otherwise we simply become a simple no-value community, and our future generations will miss out on the arts of musical, dance and drama. Cities around the world have built fabulous civic facilities, all probably had some public dissent at the time, but are now the wealthier for having built their stadiums and theatres.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1005	Build New		I was business development manager for the three theatres from 2006 to 2012 for HCC. We regularly lost bookings such as larger stage shows from the RNB and other major touring companies due to the stage size and other technical restrictions in the venue, despite having solid audiences for these types of performances. Founders has been an iconic part of Hamilton's history however it is simply put past its use by. The bathrooms are woeful, acoustics problematic, limited stage size, poor backstage facilities, access to refreshments and options within the space limited, foyer space doesn't match the capacity so for sold out shows impossible to manoeuvre, limited merchandise areas. Generally the atmosphere with it's dingy outdated style is woeful when compared with facilities in other centres. Claudelands is not designed for the likes of the NZSO who were holding 4 concerts annually and Clarence St, Meteor Theatre or the academy venues are generally not large enough for touring shows. Council has the potential to create a purpose built 1800 seat proscenium arch theatre for the city to reflect it's size as forth largest city and to meet the needs of its community. One can look back at history and see opportunities lost to have done so earlier, let's not make those same mistakes. Let's have an amazing purpose built venue in the heart of our city!	No	No	
1006	Demolish		Founders theatre has had its day - better to consolidate Claudelands as the central, preferred events for the waikato eg better location, parking, facilities, etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1007	Build New		As a follower of the Arts I enjoy concerts and have been to the Founders Theatre many times to events over the last few years. Hamilton should have a theatre we are proud of that attracts overseas artists. As a traveller who has been to theatres all over the world it is a disgrace to think we are disadvantaged to attend concerts of international standard because our theatre has not been maintained. Smaller cities than Hamilton do have theatres that are of a higher standard than the Founders Theatre. Having to cancel the stage show where artists like Malvina Major have been practicing for months is a total disgrace with wasted props and disappointment to those patrons that enjoy the Arts. The Claudelands Arena is not a Theatre and is not OK as a substitute. I have even thought of moving to accomodate my interests that my friends enjoy weekly.	No	No	
1008	Refurbish	No	Best for the city Moving it might be better overall but the COST is the limitation and the proposed location has parking issues. Not withstanding parking at the present location is not perfect	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1009	Refurbish	No	This building has been the heart and soul of my experience with the Arts in Hamilton. Everytime I have gone to an event, it has been well attended and the theatre has been either full or close to it. Refurbish is my preferred option. I am disappointed at the number of events that have had to be cancelled while the Founders is closed. The theatre is not far from bar's and restaurants, many are within a short walking or driving distance. People are happy to go to cricket games and then visit bars and restaurants. I don't see that travelling from the Founders into the central city is any different. We need a theatre in Hamilton, I don't want to travel to other cities to see ballets, band's and other arts entertainment. Of course the other option which was used by Hamilton before the Founders Theatre was built was the David O McKay building in Temple View which has the capacity to seat 2000. Like the LDS church, various Hamilton Council's have not budgeted for upgrading the Founders. I am really upset about bad decisions by professionals who should know better have led to the current dilemma. Save the Founders, refurbish it. The rebuild option is way too expensive and the city cannot afford it.	No	No	
1010	Build New		I was sad to hear Claudelands wasn't big enough to hold vector size concerts... and it should be! Claudeland's residents having been paying huge rates and we have second rate services- even the new subdivisions have character lighting and nice footpaths- we have nothing special. Build Hamilton a Vector or a Wellington Cake tin- not everyone wants to watch ruby or netball... music would be the thing I want to see and I am sick of driving to Auckland to see it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1011	Build New		A chance to start again and build it right for seismic reasons. Plus all the reasons outlined above, safety features and a chance to change things up and make it more beautiful. If love to go see another show there in a nice new building.	No	No	
1012	Demolish		I have been to many theatres in NZ. This theatre is very practical for the Waikato area. Seating and viewing is excellent. and the theatre is a good size for most productions for local performers and International musical concerts and performing arts. Location is central to city, and close to most hotels and motels. With the items recommended for refurbishment as detailed, this will be best option and cost of modifications resonanable to most ratepayers. I certainly will continue to use The Founders Theatre, and do hope it is back and running as soon as possible.	No	No	
1013	Build New		-	No	No	
1014	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1015	Refurbish	Yes	I prefer refurbishing the Theatre as it is a well known and respected venue here in Hamilton. My son has spent many hours working behind the scene at many shows at the theatre. He is very familiar with the workings of the back-of-house equipment. To loose this icon in our city would be a shame. Claudelands doesn't even compare.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1016	Refurbish	Yes	Claudlands is great for the larger capacity! For concerts and other things! Founders is heritage what i remember as a child had school productions there, and smaller stage shows etc even the fountains as a kid always looking to see if they were on. Dont remove a good iconic Hamilton theatre. And thats what it is a theatre not an events centre!!!!!! We have plenty of parks the lake is only around the corner we have a good skate park in Melville and bike park at the netball courts....and probably other places in Hamilton im not sure about we don't need to bring more of that to town. Town is losing a lot keep it and increase the car park if possible	No	No	
1017	Build New		Demolish existing theatre and build a new one in a better position. Hamilton is a vibrant city with an amazing number of talented musicians of all varieties as well as performers with other talents. We serve a very large area and deserve the very best.	No	No	
1018	Build New		Hamilton is growing quickly and it is imperative that the city has a good theatre especially given the city's focus on art and culture. Renovating Founders Theatre would put a lot of ratepayer money towards a building that will require further renovations in the medium term. This is a fantastic opportunity to build a theatre that will provide entertainment and revenue for the city for generations to come. It will attract quality shows that will bring people from around the Waikato and further afield. If a new site by the river can be found, that would be even better as it will be a major contribution towards the river development work.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1019	Build New		I do not believe the Founders can be adapted to a suitable standard to last for another 20+ years. We need to build new to plan ahead with more flexibility to suit the changing needs of a larger and more diverse population. I feel refurbishment is wasting resources. There is no doubt, however, that the City and the region needs a purpose built theatre.	No	No	
1020	Build New		Fresh start - get all the things you need	No	No	
1021	Build New		Fresh start for Founders theatre	No	No	
1022	Build New		Building knew will mean better options for founders theatre, perhaps we need to look at parking as well as there is seriously lack of car parking near the site.. This also means the knew build will be better maintained and can host more things...	No	No	
1023	Refurbish	No	I strongly believe a city of the size of Hamilton should have a decent theatre to serve not only the art communities but all residents of the city of the region. On 21 May, I attended an large evangelism event at the Claudelands Events Centre and found that if that event could be held at a theatre the outcome would be far better. I also like to suggest the refurbished theatre should have certain spaces and facilities better utilised, such as make up rooms can be conference rooms for hire. I also like to submit that the refurbishment project should be partly funded by bank loans and region rates as the project will benefit people of the wider Waikato region for many generations so future residents of the city and the region should also contribute.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1024	Build New		We have an increasing population which the current Founders is unable to cater for. A new custom made modern theater will be a long term asset to the community as well as catering for a host of national and international arts that currently bypass Hamilton. we currently have to travel to either Auckland or Wellington for major shows and often offshore to Australia. For a city of our size and growing we should have such a facility within the city boundaries for our children and grand children to enjoy.	No	No	
1025	Build New		Having lived in Hamilton for over 40 years, and having experienced the theatre both as a performer and spectator, I have come to the conclusion that the theatre is inadequate in all respects, notably uncomfortable seating, too small a foyer; bad acoustics, depressing décor, no orchestra pit to accommodate performances of ballet, musicals, opera, choral works. With regard to the latter, whilst a smaller orchestra, choir and soloists could be crammed on stage, you can't perform a musical for example, with an orchestra sitting on stage. The backstage facilities are inadequate and crammed, with the layout resembling a rabbit warren and green rooms being too small and storage facilities just about non-existing. Finally, the building itself is simply ugly (as so many buildings in Hamilton) and there are provincial towns which have better theatres than Hamilton. It would be nice if Hamilton had a theatre it could be proud of.	No	No	
1026	Demolish		Because it is a cheaper option to building a new theatre! It would be a great shame to see the theatre be demolished as I think Claudelands is not a theatre for international performances such as ballet. The Meteor and Riverlea theatres are very small. The Founders theatre no doubt brings people to Hamilton from the wider areas for world class performances and therefore it would be such a shame to see Hamilton city lose that!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1027	Build New		The city needs a good theater of national and international standard. I don't think the present one achieves this. Rebuilding and with better car parking space is looking to the future for Hamilton and the District	No	No	
1028	Refurbish	No	Founders is friendly theatre and a great venue for large events of all types. We have attended shows, Ballet and symphony performances. It is easily accessible from Matamata and parking is never an issue. To demolish would not make sense. To build a new centre would be not be an economic choice is my view.	No	No	
1029	Refurbish	No	We cannot be without this venue for the NZSO, ballet, local musical productions and small entertainment performances. It is ideally situated away from the congestion of the CBD. It has ample parking. To build a new theatre say near the 'cultural centre' of Hamilton that is, Victoria St South would cause huge parking problems. Retirees are the dominant patrons to cultural events and if they had to walk from the Knox Street parking building to Victoria St on a wet winter night I believe they would stay home. With our aging population many people use walking sticks, zimmer frames and wheelchairs. The shorter the distance to a venue the better. To lose the name Founders Theatre would be a slap in the face to our forefathers. I would also miss the Ralph Hotere mural.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1030	Build New		This is a great opportunity to develop a state of the art performance centre using the modern technology and architectural advances at our disposal. This is an investment for the longterm future which will ensure that The Arts will have continuing exposure and support in our community. Having been to the Pop Up Globe Theatre in Auckland I was so taken by the concept of wrap around theatre favoured by Shakespeare himself. It would make financial sense and would be fabulous to have a permanent Globe Theatre as part of the new structure making Hamilton the Shakespeare Centre of New Zealand. There would be guaranteed ongoing patrons (school children at the very least) and a place for world reknowned Shakepeare actors to perform in authentic surroundings. As a member of Cantando I have performed in the old Founders and it was awful. The acoustics were dreadful and the atmosphere was grey and dated. I am ashamed of Hamilton's contribution to the arts if the Founders Theatre was all it had to offer. The Lido Cinema has it right as does the Performance Centre at the uni. It's a great pity that the Events Centre for all that it cost, does not have the right design for theatre. Bulldoze the Building and let's start anew AND GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1031	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is an iconic early 1960s building and is a very good example of classic architecture of that time. At that time the Founders of Hamilton Association envisaged a theatre to be a memorial for the founders of the city and as such raised 25,000 pounds through public donations towards the project. We should uphold the vision that Association had, and consider the history of this building and go with the refurbishment option. In New Zealand we seem to be all too hasty in demolishing older buildings and destroying our history. Let us not make this mistake in Hamilton with the Founders Theatre. The estimated cost of \$20 million is a hefty one and as the refurbishment would take two to three years, we could expect that this figure will probably increase substantially during that time. Still it is a much cheaper and quicker option than the hefty \$50 million estimated price tag for a replacement, which could conceivably end up costing double or more that in the five – six years it would take to complete the build. Can our city really be without a performing arts venue for that length of time? I don't believe so. This city has a history of overspending on projects and although options one and two would not impact on rates, it does have an impact on the City's debt position. The funding for the Claudelands Event Centre I understand was financed totally from borrowing. This facility runs at an enormous loss each year. This must not happen with the Founders Theatre project and the Council contribution must therefore be capped. Community fundraising (such as the Founders of Hamilton Association members did) and funding from other sources such as other Waikato Councils, should be thoroughly explored to contribute the balance of funds required.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			Founders Theatre is a significant venue for audiences from Hamilton and the wider Waikato region. Closing and demolishing is definitely not an option in a city which has prided itself on providing a suitable performing arts venue capable of hosting a wide range of local, national and international performances. Refurbishment to a modern high standard will allow a greater variety of shows to be performed and will provide a valuable asset for the city well into the future.			
1032	Refurbish	No	I chose refurbishment because Hamilton already has the Claudelands Event Centre that is capable of hosting large events. Claudelands is overly expensive for those running smaller events to consider, so Founders would be more ideal or suited for that. It just needs to be updated and refurbished, while still keeping its historical look. As it sits at the moment, it's quite cold and old and some things outdated.	No	No	
1033	Build New		Hamilton needs a purpose-built premier arts venue and it needs to be downtown. Good on you for looking at the options, but really this is a no brainer.	No	No	
1034	Refurbish	Yes	Because it would cost less & surely be quicker to do than a completely new building. To have to wait 5 years before anything is begun is absurd..	No	No	
1035	Build New		The theatre can be built to modern requirements. Refurbishment will never get "Best Practise"	No	No	
1036	Build New		Hamilton needs a modern theatre to host touring shows, such as The Ten Tenors (cancelled because Founders Theatre had been closed) Hamilton needs to help Hamilton Operatic and other organisations to present professional shows. It should be built on the present site because of ease of parking. Building on the river bank would present parking problems.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1037	Refurbish	Yes	You stated that the seating area was not going to be increased if a new one was built, so refurbishment would be the option I would choose. If it was going to a lot bigger as far as seating then a new one would be the best. But keeping in mind the outlay for a new one is considerably more. The other point which needs to be considered is where in Hamilton could we have our orchestra and choirs sing?	No	No	
1038	Build New		It is more equitable to spend 50 million on a new theatre than to refurbish an old one at 20m; likely to be safer and cheaper to maintain.	No	No	
1039	Build New		We need a Theatre where Ballets can be performed with a bigger stage, better lighting, better seating. putting anything else in its place we won't be able to have this type of performances in Hamilton, Mill St Theatre is too small, Claudelands is just a sports facility.	No	No	
1040	Demolish		Take the opportunity to build a purpose built theatre while you have the chance and constantly maintain as opposed to constantly having to patch things up.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1041	Refurbish	Yes	Lesser Time Frame for build, as facility will be out of action for less time. We are concerned that the attraction and retention of young Hamilton educated theatrical talent will be jeopardised if the decision/build time is too long. Size of auditorium and number of seats we consider adequate for Hamilton as a Lyric theatre. We have found present site to be OK for accessibility for us. We are keen for Hamilton to retain a "Lyric" theatre with an up-to-date & adequate staging facilities with good acoustics, and comfortable seats. Costs, City will stay closer within it's debt ratios if refurbishment is chosen. We have attended meetings & read the support material available & consider the refurbishment option to be the best one.	No	No	
1042	Demolish		Founders Theatre is in a great central location and is a part of the city's history.. It can seat a large crowd when needed, in an intimate setting. It would be great to be able to divide the seating area in two, close off part of the seating for smaller local orchestral and choral events that don't attract 1200 audience.	No	No	
1043	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1044	Build New		Regardless of whether the Founders is rebuilt it will never have the same feel as a new one . We are supposed to be one of the largest cities but can't even have a decent theatre. The dressing rooms are tired at Founders as well as all the other areas but there is no mention of the complete theatre being done. Last time upgrades were done they were never done properly so lets stop trying to put on band-aids and build a decent theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1045	Refurbish	No	I believe the site is ideal. I prefer the less expensive option The time to refurbish is less than rebuild Too much time and money is lost in reaching agreement over rebuild detail A rebuild is bound to be under estimated cost-wise Too many hedonists involved in a rebuild	No	No	
1046	Refurbish	Not Answered	It is my belief that when the theatre was built completed and open it was all paid for by public contribution and funds from other local athrowities therefore making it "freehold " so to speak so why has it not been maintained to a good standard ? It is now closed because some " wizkid" decided it did not suit his particular need so lets pick on the flies as being the problem people will believe him and say how awful tear it down. Having performed in the theatre many times over the years it does need a bit of a overhaul out the back but the ongoing revenue over the years should have been used to keep it up to standard so time to sit down and do things properly stop using smoke and mirrors to cloud the real facts stop building little empires and serve your rate payers in the correct manner tell the whole truth and let the people decide not just what you want then to know.	No	No	
1047	Build New		This is our chance to create an iconic building. It could also include and art gallery. Ideally it would be near the museum and the river. Another possibility could be the site of the former Farmers Store, which is currently empty and central. But the riverside would be best. I have the image of Melbourne in mind it has its concert hall, art gallery and museum side by side on the edge of theYarra River.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1048	Build New		We need a theatre that will allow a wide range of national and international 'arts' to be performed in an appropriate, world class setting, that will lead us into the future - a building with a comfortable environment, good seating, good acoustics, adequate size, full sized orchestra pit. Currently some performances go to New Plymouth but do not come to Hamilton because our facilities have been inadequate. This is ludicrous, Hamilton is NZ's 4th largest city and is rapidly growing! This facility needs to be easily expandable to fit capacity audiences but also to be made appropriate and available for more intimate performances. Ideally the planning should include other adjoining smaller theatres and an Art gallery, (then maybe our so called museum could become one. Currently is neither a museum nor an Art gallery. A gallery like Christchurch, or even New Plymouth would be ideal) these can be added at a later date but need to be planned into the initial design.	No	No	
1049	Demolish		This is the better priced option and would hopefully be completed in a shorter time.....the sooner a good venue is up and running again, the better. Hamilton should be able to host all types and sizes of events and a good theatre is the hub of any city with a thriving arts scene. The Founders Theatre is part of the city's identity and every effort should be made to retain it.	No	No	
1050	Refurbish	Yes	1/important to retain a theatre in Hamilton that can accommodate a symphony orchestra and stage theatrical productions at the same time, also stage choral events and symphony orchestra, etc 2/ cheaper of the two options to retain above facilities. 3/ seat approx. 1000 people - difficult to fill larger venues with local productions 4/intimate surroundings	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1051	Build New		I think you could make it focal point in the city. Put in on the river and make it a safe place to go	No	No	
1052	Refurbish	No	More cost effective. Shorter closure time. Less disruption to the loss of shows.	No	No	
1053	Refurbish	Yes	There is no other venue that would be able to host the types of performances available at Founders. It is also the most economical option.	No	No	
1054	Build New		I think it is high time that a city as large as Hamilton has a first class venue for the Arts. The present theatre has never been totally satisfactory and i think a new building on the present site would be the best option.	No	No	
1055	Refurbish	Yes	The cost to refurbish is great, and even greater to rebuild. Founder's theatre has done Hamilton well for many years, and would probably be a great venue for many more years, with just a refurbishment. Why spend more than we need to?	No	No	
1056	Refurbish	No	I like the building and brings back fond memories of many events I have attended. Is quaint with character.	No	No	
1057	Build New		Time to start a fresh and do it right this time.	No	No	
1058	Build New		The demolition does not provide Hamilton with a comparable theatre/venue - a city without such a facility is sad. The refurbishment would constrain the reconstruction to what is presently in place, and refurbishments notoriously meet with unexpected complications and costs. The build new option allows the city to reconsider its needs and build something up-to-date and futuristic in perspective, all without increasing greatly the debt to the city. The extra burden to the present will add much to the future facilities.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1059	Demolish		Use claudlands. But you probably can't as hamilton do things only in half the first time	No	No	
1060	Build New		The present site is a pleasant site and serves the community well. Parking is adequate around the building. The points outlined above are all important. The city needs to be able to host major touring productions. We are a growing city and we need a theatre to match the size of a prosperous growing city. We have three gigantic stadiums and no major arts and cultural venue. Even though its a major investment it will enhance our reputation for future generations.	No	No	
1061	Refurbish	No	This building is special to Hamilton. If is the best venue for multiple events. I would like to see Founders saved. It is the cheapest and best option to keep a much needed venue operating.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1062	Build New		We have great opportunity to provide a world-class performance venue that will cater for the future needs of the rapidly-growing population in and around Hamilton, and attract more visitors to our city. There are several important criteria that should be addressed in the new design, including: 1. increased seating capacity, say 2,500, in anticipation of population growth during the life of the facility. 2. excellent acoustics throughout the main auditorium. 3. facilities and spaces to cater for the needs of all kinds of performances. 4. an architecturally stunning building, if this can be achieved without prohibitive cost. This is less critical than the criteria 1, 2, and 3 above. Use of the existing Founders site would make sense if it is large enough, and should help to minimise any planning delays in getting the new theatre up and running. It is only 10 minutes walk from Centre Place and has abundant on-street parking available nearby, particularly in evenings. It is not desirable to relocate nearer to the river, bars, restaurants etc as some have suggested. The theatre will have its own bar/ hospitality facilities. A night out at the Founders is a special occasion for most people and certainly would not benefit from having other bars or restaurants in close proximity. Relocation would also add unnecessary cost and delay to the project. I am concerned that a \$50m budget may not be sufficient to finish the job properly. This project should not be done on the cheap, at the risk of ending up with a sub-standard facility.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			We have only one opportunity to get this done right within our lifetimes. Future generations will also benefit from the new theatre, and should help pay the cost. For this reason, the theatre should be designed with future population growth in mind, and funded over a minimum 30-year period rather than the 20-years proposed in the consultation document. External funding and sponsorship options should also be pursued. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.			
1063	Build New		No point renovating	No	No	
1064	Build New		Although a shame to lose such a beautiful theatre space, the complex is dated and needs a huge amount of work to make it meet modern safety standards. Better to demolish and rebuild on the same site, this will also be a chance to create a space that can accommodate an even broader range of shows and provide a better experience for the performers and audience alike.	No	No	
1065	Demolish		We have Claudlands, refurbish or revamp to make theatre productions at a large venue, up to date but not working to capacity.	No	No	
1066	Refurbish	Yes	We cannot be without a major performing venue for the years it will take to make all the complex decisions and then build a new centre. If all the ideas presented at the forums, meetings and in the written feedback are "listened" to and as many as possible put into action we can have a venue that will meet the needs of the performing arts in Hamilton and wider NZ.	No	No	
1067	Build New		Because I have a lot of fond memories of that place and would like our next generation to experience or make their own memories.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1068	Build New		Hamilton needs an arts theatre of significant size to accommodate large productions, ballets etc. The current site is preferable because it is well-known, has parking out of the CBD and has the grounds to increase the existing size.	No	No	
1069	Refurbish	No	There is a heritage factor at stake. Citizens of Hamilton provided most the funding for the existing building, hence the title Founders Theatre. To retain that name it is essential to retain as much as possible of the original building. I agree with the six steps above, but would also make an appeal for more parking within the precinct. There is plenty of room for another 100 car parks which is currently in grass. This would need to be converted to a hard surface.	No	No	
1070	Refurbish	No	I grew up having all my performances, prize givings and the like at founders theatre, like my dad before me. I believe it is a piece of hamiltons heritage that shouldn't be taken away.	No	No	
1071	Build New		The Founders Theatre is unique in servicing large scale creative and musical productions in a way no other local theatre does. Founders Theatre can be further improved through re-building it to be more fit-for-purpose. I also think that the location of the Theatre is inadequate, it is located to far away from the city centre and dissuades theatre goers from visiting local businesses before and after events. I see the rebuilding option as a great opportunity to move the theatre so it greater benefits local businesses, the local economy and the creative sector.	No	No	
1072	Refurbish	Not Answered	We have that stupid Claudlands Event Centre, Why have 2 centres when we only need one, or turn the founders into housing he homeless of hamilton. More practical and useful.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1073	Refurbish	No	I have attended many performances at Founders Theatre. I believe it is a Hamilton icon, and with the proposed upgrading will meet the needs of the city for hopefully another 50 years. We now have the facility at Claudelands as well as the facility at Mystery Creek and I think Founders is ideally situated, nice to look at with the fountains etc and close to the heart of Hamilton. I believe it would be a shame to demolish the theatre but it could certainly do with a fresh look and the other improvements needed to make it safe and useful for the people of Hamilton and surrounding areas.	No	No	
1074	Build New		The acoustic is not very good, the dressing rooms are pretty cramped, and it is a little "faded" somehow. It doesn't perhaps allow for increasingly technical productions. The site is fine, the footprint could be increased.	No	No	
1075	Build New		I feel that a lot of emphasis in Hamilton has always been put on sport. We encourage the arts in our youth but without a community that supports the arts we are losing these talented people. By having a theatre like Founders we can cater for the art scene and stop flow of people exiting Hamilton to live closer to bigger theatres with more opportunities. Not everyone is into sports.	No	No	
1076	Refurbish	No	I've attended rock concerts, symphony orchestra concerts, ballet and other events in the theatre and like the intimate audience experience. It is just the right size and friends are very easy to spot and hook up with during intervals. I agree with the refurbishment options and have always found parking. The seating is far superior for concerts than the Claudelands facility which I think are not senior citizen friendly unlike Founders.	No	No	
1077	Demolish		Spend money on infrastructure and apartments in city center only way to revitalize the city center is to increase the people living in the city like Sydney	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1078	Build New		Invest in the future. We are Hamilton.	No	No	
1079	Build New		We need a theatre as the other venues we have just aren't as appropriate. This is an opportunity to start afresh with a brand new building (a far more attractive, ideal one) which can be build to better specifications. Plus carparking should be included in the planning as that is important.	No	No	
1080	Demolish		I have a sentimental attachment to the Founders Theatre and its green environment. I can remember when it was built and being taken to concerts, shows and ballet. I was never all that impressed with the interior design though - the old Embassy theatre where the shows used to be seemed more exciting with its extra level. I like the way the Founders theatre sits silently amidst all that green space with big trees - slightly aloof from all the traffic that goes gliding past it. I was sad when the V8 races broke that silence and tore out the big tree at the Rostrevor round-about (never replaced I noticed) and sliced through the other big round-about which doesn't seem so balanced now. But I think we have to be realistic with our buildings when it comes to safety/earthquakes etc. I'd rather we spent money on strong and aesthetic new buildings in good environments, than trying to prop up old ones at greater expense no matter how nice they looked. But in Hamilton's case we need to get on top of our debt as soon as we can while we have the opportunity. I love going to concerts at the beautiful arts centre at the University. For those shows that can't come here Auckland is not too far away and ever more accessible with the new roads being built. I think we need to face up to Hamilton becoming ever more Auckland-centric and invest in that if we can. Make it easier to get to Auckland and vice versa. It would be great to be able to hop on the train in Hamilton and get into the Auckland CBD to go and see a show!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1081	Refurbish	Yes	It is a good balance between the need to retain the theatre without excessive spending.	No	No	
1082	Demolish		None An alternative option, one that has worked successfully for the Meteor, Clarence Street and Riverlea Theatres would be to gift Founders Theatre to the creative sector. The creative sector could have the facility exactly as they want it with no negotiation(s)/compromise with Council.	No	No	
1083	Demolish		None Gift it to the 'arts community'	No	No	
1084	Refurbish	No	No need to abandon building and site - great location for the theatre. Building is a memorial/historic building. Don't remove another historic building - reuse what we have. Don't know what the structural integrity of the building is yet - the seismic report may help in making a final decision. Access and parking is fine for the theatre. Already Council has funds (some) in its 10 year plan to undertake refurbishing - stay with what's planned - not another big ticket item. Item 6 is just an out for Council - stick with managing the major facility.	No	Yes	
1085	Build New		Because building new means an up-to-date theatre looking to the future, not one that is adapted or 'improved' to get it "close" to what is needed. Place it more central to the CBD. Ideally a new complex could house a theatre and a separate concert chamber. But don't demolish the Founders Theatre. Put it to other uses.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1086	Build New		I believe that the Council should demolish the Founders' Theatre and build a new one on a new site which would allow better parking. The old theatre has been wonderful but it is time to replace it with a larger and more modern one.	No	No	
1087	Build New		The venue is soulless. It has a utilitarian feel to it. Oh for a Regent Theatre like Palmerston North. A new venue, at the foot of Victoria Street where the unused swimming pool is, would be ideal. This location would also be handy to restaurants making it a real night out for theatre patrons.	No	No	
1088	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a facility to cater for a Founders sized audience . We can not afford to spend at least \$50 million dollars on a new building as ratepayers are having to pay for the Claudelands facility at present .	No	No	
1089	Demolish		-	No	No	
1090	Refurbish	No	We need the founders theatre and refurbishing is less money than rebuilding and will gain the same result	No	No	
1091	Build New		First of all, "congratulations" to the HCC for letting things get to this point! The old theatre is old and limited in what it can offer - seeing as there is an option to rebuild, we may as well.	No	No	
1092	Build New		Hamilton must have a performing arts centre to preserve and foster the future of the wonderful talent that performs from local, national and international groups. Rebuild will offer so many wonderful options for future performances.	No	No	
1093	Refurbish	No	Have a lot of memories here being a dancer and having amazing friends as dancers and they grew up performing here and will always have memories here	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1094	Build New		Having worked for HCC on many projects around the city, both as an employee and now a contractor/consultant and having recently surveyed near the ferry bank, what about a new built by the riverbank on Grantham street maybe tie it in with a hotel complex as a cost share and with a back ground of the river it's a win/win that whole block from the age concern to the riverbank could be used if needed stop the road or built over it using a tunnel it would really give you a down town to be proud of, we may even have to get rid of the founders ,Clarence street theatre and the meteor using any money raise in creating a world class centre, all these buildings are old and the city has out grown them, it's perfect timing and we keep talking about the river let's build it there, Regards John Davis Waikato reading services ltd John.davis@waikatoroadingservices.com	No	No	
1095	Refurbish	No	It is a cheaper option to provide Hamilton with a venue for shows that tour New Zealand that are currently by passing our city. It is part of our city's heritage and we need to maintain our buildings that are a link with our past. It is one of a few modernist buildings in our city and too many of Hamilton's older buildings have been demolished in the name of progress. It is more environmentally sustainable to conserve and improve what still has use and lead by example with good stewardship; taking care of things so that they will continue to be useful. A lot of people come from outside of our city to attend shows and this is great opportunity to attract visitors to our city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1096	Refurbish	No	Because Hamilton needs a theatre NOW not eight or ten years down the track when the costs will have sky-rocketed. \$20K is affordable and doable now..	No	No	
1097	Refurbish	Yes	I wouldn't want to see the theater go altogether. I think it's a fantastic location, with better parking options than Clarence st theater. I went to a lot of shows there in my youth and love the atmosphere. I would love for my kids to experience the theater.	No	No	
1098	Build New		I'd like to see more scope for performers and companies to come to Hamilton. It's a shame to not see Hamilton appearing on the listings for events anymore. But there were limitations to the old building, not to mention how ugly it was. I'd like to see the theatre get a fresh start, but something more old style would help to give the town its character back. I'm tired of these horrid art deco buildings which architects use to win prizes but then walk away from. Hamilton is losing its sense of history and this could be an opportunity to add some back in terms of style. Apart from the fountain outside, the theatre had no visual appeal. It needs to be bigger and tastefully designed. I visited Palmerston North's theatre recently for a graduation and inside it was absolutely stunning. We need something bigger but in that classic design.	No	No	
1099	Build New		Hamilton Is a growing city and a valid option for large touring performances. We need a theatre to represent this	No	No	
1100	Refurbish	No	Memories	No	No	
1101	Refurbish	Yes	It is a cheaper option and the building already exists and only needs upgrading.	No	No	
1102	Refurbish	No	The best alternative.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1103	Refurbish	No	Refurbish as first option ONLY IF it really is able to be done for under \$25 million IF NOT then I think you should seriously consider building a new theatre in GARDEN PLACE it offers an ideal flat, stable building site with established easy access by foot, bus or private vehicle and has both parking & restaurants close by.	No	No	
1104	Demolish		Parking is poor more events to claudlands which is losing money cost nice park in ts place	No	No	
1105	Refurbish	No	I think the costs for building new is unnecessary at this time and will put too much pressure on the Council's finances and its ability to meet all its obligations to ratepayers but at the same time I dont think we should close and demolish.. I have lived in the Waikato for most of my life and Hamilton is the heart of the Waikato .. it is part of our identity and history .. and that for me is reason enough to keep it.	No	No	
1106	Refurbish	No	1) Founders Theatre is significant to Hamiltonians and is part of our heritage. Although not a beautiful piece of architecture it is representative of its time, and should be preserved. 2) We need a high quality performing arts venue, and to refurbish is significantly cheaper than a new build.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1107	Demolish		Primarily, because the number of users would represent a relatively small number of people in the community. Those users would tend to be in the main frequent users representing performing arts and serial concert goers. The tax burden should not fall to less affluent families trying to improve their lot in life. Those who support retaining the Founders Theatre should do so on a user pay basis, ie admission fees, along with fundraising for a facility that only they would use.	No	No	
1108	Refurbish	No	My reason to refurbish the Founders Theatre - cosmetically it is a nice looking building and is situated in a great location - it is a very good for the Community Theatre and over the years I have been to a lot of school productions and live shows. We should not demolish every old building - refurbish it and keep it in the era it was built in. Financially it is the better option.	No	No	
1109	Build New		It is outdated. Accoustics terrible seating uncomfortable. Might get better acts and shows if better larger theatre.	No	No	
1110	Refurbish	Yes	It would be a shame to lose the theatre as it can host some great performances. And it is much more financially viable to refurbish rather than rebuild. If you rebuild it will be too expensive to host any local shows or talent	No	No	
1111	Build New		Expand size and modernize	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1112	Build New		Important to get larger touring groups needs met like the NZ Ballet company. They haven't been coming to Hamilton due to stage and backstage not meeting their needs. I would like to see more Ballet in Hamilton. Better to get it right without constraints of existing building footprint. Hamilton needs a venue more suited for our local performers also. Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra and Cantando Choir continue to plan to perform together. They need a space big enough to fit all members on stage and acoustics to best show the vocal and instrumental sound produced. I am a member of Cantando Choir. Hamilton is a major city in NZ and should have a performing arts building to reflect this.	No	No	
1113	Build New		Modern, compliant, forward thinking, scalable, purpose built	No	No	
1114	Refurbish	No	Less cost to the ratepayers.	No	No	
1115	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1116	Demolish		There are too many events centres in Hamilton. By demolishing the theater the income from selling the land can be used to fund improvements to other venues. Additionally selling the site with q consent to build a high rise apartment building will help to achieve the goals of the city centre plan. Particularly to increase cbd resident numbers.	No	No	
1117	Refurbish	No	The Founders theatre is the only main venue for various performances. Not only will travelling shows bypass Hamilton if we shut down the Founders or spend years bulldozing it and rebuilding it for no reason, local plays, musicals, and dance shows from local companies have no venue for their performances. It is a staple of Hamilton, and I myself have had over 14 years of dance school shows at the Founders, and would hate to see it rebuilt or knocked down as it is part of my childhood. Not only me, but thousands of people and families have memories in this theatre, and would love for it to stay.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1118	Refurbish	No	The theatre has been a superb city asset and can be again following refurbishment. I have enjoyed concerts and other performances there for 30+ years. Some time ago we were present at an NZSO concert when it was raining and water was dripping onto the stage. For me this was a clear sign that the maintenance of the building was not up to the necessary standard. A refurbishment programme needs to ensure that suitable standards of construction are achieved	No	No	
1119	Build New		Am asset that has the potential to enrich the lives of future generations if built and designed correctly to accommodate future requirements	No	No	
1120	Refurbish	No	I think it will be cheaper & I like the old theater	No	No	
1121	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre and the current site is ideal. A lot of shows avoid coming to Hamilton because we don't have the facilities is to suit them.	No	No	
1122	Demolish		-	No	No	
1123	Demolish		-	No	No	
1124	Refurbish	No	Because it is a Hamilton icon and a nice place to go to shows. Claudelands is to big, sound is not the same. If the council had kept up with annual maintenance throughout the years this would not have got to this stage. Keep the founders. Why pay 30 million when 20 is going to cover the refurbishment?	No	No	
1125	Build New		We need a larger venue NOT claudelands event centre but a different venue (smaller than that but larger than Clarence st). Otherwise we will miss our of shows that will bypass hamilton which means taking revenue and people out of our city and spending in another. Currently founders is very dated and needs to be bought in line with today's digital world and local talents	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1126	Refurbish	No	Because the Founders Theatre was built for the people of Hamilton by the founding families of Hamilton (hence it's name) and therefore should be retained for the people of Hamilton. It is not up to the Council to close and demolish it, or build a new one. So much energy has gone into this building, please restore it and use it!	No	No	
1127	Refurbish	No	Refurbish as it is the cheaper option to a rebuild. Founders is a Hamilton Icon and if the council had upkept all the maintenance over the years we would still be able to go to shows there and not have to go to Claudelands which is not a theatre, or have our shows cancelled.	No	No	
1128	Demolish		There needs to be a total departure from the idea of building something similar. Demolishing it completely will free everyone up to start conceptualizing an entirely new vision for our city now and in the future. We need to get away from the idea that good enough is enough - as evidenced in the existing building and other civic buildings around the city.	No	No	
1129	Refurbish	No	Because it has been around for a long time	No	No	
1130	Refurbish	No	This is cost effective and we can keep the theater for future events.....which is very important 🙏🙏	No	No	
1131	Refurbish	No	Demolish is not an option - the structure has too high a value to the city Build new is also not an option - the city already has too high a debt level, without adding any more than necessary, just to serve the interests of a small proportion of the population Refurbishment is the ONLY option the city can afford, especially if it proves out that earthquake strengthening is NOT required, in this area of low earthquake risk.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1132	Refurbish	Yes	I attended the meeting on 25 May and appreciated hearing in detail what we would gain from the refurbishment. Financially the city can manage to find \$20 million. The theatre would meet the city's needs for 10 - 20 years. Work could start immediately so that we would not miss ballet and concerts for potentially five years. Parking is important and there is space on the existing site. There should be long term planning for a new theatre in 15 - 20 years time.	No	No	
1133	Refurbish	Yes	Most preferred option would be refurbish due to the costs on rate payers ... Second option would be to demolish and rebuild, if going to rebuild I personally would prefer the theatre rebuilt on the same spot with the possibility of more parking being added somewhere close to the theatre.	No	No	
1134	Build New		This is a once in a generation opportunity for a visionary refresh of the City's premier performing arts venue AND the central city as a whole. :: The City MUST have a fit-for-purpose performing arts venue. Whilst this obviously benefits the people that would use such a facility, it is even more so about the strongly positive and even essential influence on the fabric of the city. The users are wide and diverse - families seeing their kids' dance performance, attending a rock concert, performing in community music groups, attending graduation ceremonies, hosting conferences - so the ripples spread through the whole community and add vitality to the whole City. It is tempting but utterly wrong to restrict analysis of 'benefit' and 'cost' to the narrow lens of 'user-pays'. :: I believe the new building offers a once-only opportunity to energise the central city and connect it with the river.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1135	Build New		Founders Theatre has been an important part of my life, as I love musical theatre. To completely demolish it would be heartbreaking, but I understand that it is in need of an upgrade.	No	No	
1136	Refurbish	No	founders is a Historic site donations made by many women's organisations and many of Hamiltons past founders and we need a Building like founders in the central city as a memorial to our past hamiltonions	No	No	
1137	Build New		Because I believe that the City of Hamilton needs a fully functioning theatre that will accomodate all the different genres of theatre. It would enable people from a large area in the middle of the North Island to see theatre. It would also provide revenue for Hamilton, as in shopping, hospitality etc. I also think the site needs to be central in the City.	No	No	
1138	Build New		It is an asset that the city really needs so bring the theatre into the 21st century.	No	No	
1139	Demolish		-	No	No	
1140	Build New		Because the Founders Theatre has been fantastic in it's time, but it now has the opportunity to be so much more. This is an opportunity that does not come up very often and we have the chance to create a splendid facility for theatre in Hamilton. The debt is a concern but will also balance out with a strong asset.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1141	Build New		While refurbishing Founders might seem financially sensible, it would miss an opportunity: to create something really special for Hamilton. Founders theatre means something to Hamiltonians, but the building is very dated, and the amount that would need to be spent on earthquake strengthening could go instead to creating something more vibrant for the city. A purpose-built facility could gain national and perhaps even international attention, like buildings in New Plymouth, Nelson and even Kawakawa. Hamilton desperately needs a more creative icon that people can associate with the city. A new building would give additional opportunities within the cost estimate, such as expanding the purpose of the building to include an art gallery, another facility that Hamilton needs.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1142	Build New		Hamilton deserves a proper venue as it matures into NZ's 4th largest city. The venue should be in the southern part of the CBD to link with bars and cafes, . This would give audiences a total experience, bring more activity into the CBD and help anchor the southern end of the city as an arts precinct. Funding a new theatre will be top of mind for council but contributions from other councils, community funders, selling the Founders land, and use of debt to reflect the inter-generational benefit from a new theatre does not make it too difficult. If scoped properly, a new theatre at the southern end of town can achieve the things that the Ferrybank proposal is due to deliver - and more. HCC should reconsider how to combine these two proposals. Refurbishing Founders will never give the theatre great acoustics. I realise Hamilton would be without a 1200 seat venue for longer than if Founders were refurbished but the short term pain would be with the long-term gain for the city, the groups who use the venue and audiences. Demolishing Founders and not replacing it is a silly thing to even suggest. Hamilton would not be taken seriously without a mid-size proper concert venue. Other venues are either too small or, in the case of Claudelands, too big and too multi-purpose to be useful for most arts events. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a step change for the city - don't blow it with short-termist thinking.	No	No	
1143	Refurbish	No	1. Retains the current theatre which has been an important part of Hamilton's cultural life for over half a century. 2. Keeps costs to a reasonable level. 3. Allows for the theatre to become operational again within a shorter timespan than if the theatre is demolished and rebuilt.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1144	Refurbish	No	Considerable ratepayer resources were invested by the citizens of Hamilton in the past to build and maintain the Founders Theatre. I am sure these people expected the theatre to last more than 50 years. It is also not an environmentally sustainable decision to demolish what is still a useable building. Presumably, most of the demolition waste will end up in the landfill. The theatre has served the community well. The Claudelands Events centre is not suitable for quite a number of events that have smaller audiences that are more reflective of Hamilton's population size.	No	No	
1145	Build New		Better chance of hosting touring events like you guys stated	No	No	
1146	Build New		In NO way would it be a good idea to just lose the theatre altogether. I have great memories of both watching and performing at founders, and think it is a great experience that more people, especailly young people, should get the opportunity to have. If money is going to be spent on something, it always best to future proof, and get the most up to date technology and systems that are available so that you don't need to upgrade for a longer period of time. Building new would give the opportunity to seek expert advice from a wide range of people to make a state of the art theatre that enables a lot more opportunities than what we have at the moment. This will only be worth it if you are willing to take the time to listen to people that actually know what they are doing, and aren't afraid to spend a little bit of money to do the job properly, rather than skim out because people that don't know what they are talking about believe that we don't need this anymore!	No	No	
1147	Demolish		-	No	No	
1148	Demolish		Alternatives too expensive to ratepayer.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1149	Refurbish	Yes	I think this is the best option because by re-buliding it is more expensive and it would mean demolishing and by demolishing this beautiful theatre means alot for me because i have had many great memories and times at this theatre and so has most of hamilton. whatever you do don't demolish it!!!	No	No	
1150	Build New		-	No	No	
1151	Demolish		Less to add to to City debt.	No	No	
1152	Refurbish	Yes	I don't think it should be closed as it's an attraction to the Hamilton CBD. At the moment people avoid Hamilton and visit alternative options for entertainment such as the base or different towns, so by removing the building completely is a negative for Hamiltons tourist and the entertainment sectors. I think if the refurbishment option is chosen they should also upgrade the toilet facilities as they're are outdated and dirty at times. If they close and demolished the theater it's driving locals and visitors out of town for entertainment and shows alike. Modernising the existing building could be an option unless it's too old and costly, then they may have to build a whole new theater instead.	No	No	
1153	Refurbish	Yes	I am a first home buyer and struggling to buy a house because land prices have increased significantly. I'd rather see the millions of dollars go into infrastructure so that the council finally open up more land for development so that I can actually afford to buy a house in Hamilton. If development is in the South then this will restore the balance to the city meaning the CBD is finally central again, this will help to revitalise the CBD. I'm sure the money contributed to Hamilton City economy from international acts playing in Hamilton isn't that significant anyway. Many business in Hamilton didn't see much out of the V8s.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1154	Refurbish	Yes	The theatre is a Hamilton icon and should remain so. Heritage is more important than building a swanky new theatre. We have the Claudelands Event Centre anyway. Please refurbish this grand old building and make it a Hamilton statement!	No	No	
1155	Demolish		Too costly.	No	No	
1156	Demolish		Other venues within easy access.	No	No	
1157	Demolish		Council and its projects are already too much of a burden on the ratepayer.	No	No	
1158	Refurbish	Yes	The location is ideal for all our theatrical events. Refurbishment to the current theatre and having this in the current location would keep it central. This would benefit our hospitality industry as this would be walking distance to restaurants and accommodation.	No	No	
1159	Refurbish	Yes	We need a decent theater in a city the size of Hamilton. Demolishing it would be a step back for the city. Building a new one would cost an extra 30 million and we would lose some heritage in the process. A refurbishment is a good compromise.	No	No	
1160	Build New		I think that claudelands new event centre should be used to cater for anything that funders used to	No	No	
1161	Build New		-	No	No	
1162	Demolish		I think it is the best option because it is cost effective and practical.	No	No	
1163	Refurbish	Yes	Maintains history, cheaper while still providing a venue for many larger shows	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1164	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is a good sized venue and there is no other facility within Hamilton of that size. Whilst rebuilding a new theatre maybe an ideal option I personally believe that our city has already incurred enough debt and we need to learn to live within our means. Some of us poorer rate payers are struggling!!	No	No	
1165	Demolish		Refurbish or Build New are too expensive - no need to add further to city debt.	No	No	
1166	Demolish		-	No	Yes	
1167	Refurbish	No	I have seen far too many older buildings disappear for no good reason other than its has been deemed easier to replace them. Founders theatre is an iconic piece of Hamilton's recent history. I think it should remain as such.	No	No	
1168	Build New		As the paper said the current building has outdated technology like the flying systems. Hamilton is an up and coming city and a great venue that we can have international touring events in would be great. Also with a refurbishment, like it said, we are limited to the existing walls but with building a new one we can make it even more iconic then ever before. Hamilton needs a place where we can have great shows like the ballet or musicals and places like claudlands is not built for that. Give this city a place where we can have some culture	No	No	
1169	Build New		As a city we need to be future focused and building a new theatre will provide a resource the city can be proud of for many years to come. The current theatre does not have any redeeming or historic features worth saving and requires such significant upgrade that starting with a clean slate would be a better investment over time.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1170	Build New		I believe a theatre is an important part of a city of our size. While I haven't attended anything there in the past few years - it reflects the age and stage of my child more than anything else. It would be good to see the theatre added to the complex at Claudelands to utilise existing infrastructure there. Alternatively, somewhere at the south end of the city or on Victoria Street CBD area would be better to tie in with restaurants, transport options and inner city parking buildings. It would also add to the vibrancy of this area in the city.	No	No	
1171	Refurbish	Yes	I think Hamilton needs a theatre of this type to attract top performers. Unfortunately Claudelands didn't get it quite right.	No	No	
1172	Refurbish	No	Cost effective Keeps performance art available to our community Centrally located Preserves our heritage also note houses existing gift of artwork	No	No	
1173	Refurbish	Yes	Claudelands caters for the larger events (i.e. major productions, concerts and shows such as Ice Age). Refurbishment will allow Founders to reopen in the shortest timeframe. The building is iconic. There could be an opportunity to increase the carparking available though.	No	No	
1174	Build New		It would save us from having to go through this process again in the near future, if something like this happened again.	No	No	
1175	Build New		It is past it's use by date and is not suitable for modern shows no room backstage for casts or large sets and the parking is a nightmare especially if you are disabled	No	No	
1176	Demolish		No other acceptable option offered.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1177	Build New		Looking to the future I think to build new will allow for ongoing developments in technology, music and show business and make for something that will provide the Waikato with a building that will meet the cultural needs for many years to come. Claudelands Events Centre meets another kind of need and can't offer the same service.	No	No	
1178	Build New		By rebuilding founders theatre, I think it would result in a new a refurbished place for Hamilton to share their love of the arts.	No	No	
1179	Build New		Demolishing the Founders Theatre and rebuilding a completely new theatre is what I believed should be done as Hamilton lacks in theatres due to the closure and we are in desperate need to have a high quality theatre available for use. We are a community that are heavily involved in the arts and to not have a decent enough venue to be able to perform and share performances to the public really lets the city down, so to build new would improve the support of Hamiltons arts events.	No	Yes	
1180	Refurbish	Not Answered	By rebuilding a new theatre it allows Hamilton's motto to stay true, "city of the future". I believe that we should knock the current theatre down and go through of building a new one because Hamilton itself does not have many venues for big productions to be held so by having the theatre back but new and improved would benefit Hamilton's social status a lot rather than not having one at all. If we were to just refurbish the building I feel as though the current theatre is too small and the theatre would need a restructure. So the best option is to rebuild.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1181	Build New		The current theatre has reached the end of its useful life apparently so why restrict future developments to this theatre. A new theatre would give an optimum life venue for the years ahead. We have been connected to a major dance school in Hamilton for almost 30 years and it would be a shame to see dance schools have no venue for their yearly concerts which are so vital to the enjoyment and nurturing of dance students and the arts as a whole. We have also attended many shows/performances over the years and it is a shame to see the city miss out on these shows with no suitable venue available. Its not always possible for people to travel the distance to Auckland for major shows that are not appropriate for Claudelands or other smaller venues in Hamilton	No	No	
1182	Build New		Will give you the option to build a new state of the art building. A new building will ensure it meets todays building code and you would not need to try and fit in to a bulding that is no longer fit for purpose. Would also give you the oppertunity to future proof the building.	No	No	
1183	Refurbish	No	It would not take too long It would be the cheapest option We would know almost exactly what we would be getting The present site is a pleasant one I am not aware that parking is a huge problem at the present site I do not trust building estimates and am sure a new build would suffer a very large over-run in costs To cover those costs the new rentals would be too high, I am aware that schools have been unable to afford the rent of even the now closed theatre.	No	No	
1184	Build New		Current theatre is pokey, old and not future proof	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1185	Build New		Building from scratch you know exactly what you are getting and can utilise latest technologies more easily. The currently building is not 'particularly attractive' or 'special'. Go for new. The existing size is good as caters for different groups that other venues.	No	No	
1186	Refurbish	Yes	This is a moderate cost and providing no further problems are found with the current structure it could be funded by the moneys set aside and a modest loan which could be managed without increasing rates by an exorbitant amount.	No	No	
1187	Refurbish	Yes	1. Minimum refurbishment as a temporary practice stage facility only for up to five years, in order to keep the performing arts community together, accommodated and challenged, while 2. Land is being procured and a new facility is constructed in the 'central' CBD area, using a 'Public Private Partnership' funding model with a 25 year 'life', with a reduced financial loading on Council. Will also benefit the future growth plans of the CBD [Refer to separate submission form - to follow]	No	Yes	
1188	Refurbish	Yes	I think the cost of a new theatre may have been underestimated by council staff - it could potentially be double the amount quoted. I don't think we're in a position as a city to afford that at present; my preference is to refit Founders Theatre for \$25-30 million so it does the job for the next few decades until the city's theatre-going population has grown enough to justify a new facility. It is better to refurbish the existing building, which still has good bones and an excellent central city position, than face a largely unknown cost, which I suspect would bear on its own. (I think it is highly unlikely that any of the adjacent Waikato councils will help fund this.)	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1189	Build New		I would suggest a rebuild To see the theatre needs into the future RNZ ballet have not come to the theatre in years due to size and background issues and perhaps other groups too? Design and build to make Hamilton a place to enjoy a range of arts for a long time to come. Refurbish would only be short term patching. Needs now in the art sector for performance are different to 30-50 yrs.	No	No	
1190	Refurbish	No	Theatre would be ready for use sooner. Less cost, second option would end up costing Much more.	No	No	
1191	Refurbish	No	Founders can become great again. Much cheaper option.	No	No	
1192	Refurbish	Yes	I enjoy attending the shows at Founders with easy location and the good layout of the theatre.	No	No	
1193	Demolish		The Theatre's design is poor and the seating uncomfortable, and if it is decided to rebuild any new facility should be designed to perform a multitude of functions.	No	No	
1194	Build New		The present theatre has been "patched" but is still inadequate for modern theatrical productions.	No	No	
1195	Demolish		Alternative venues should be used to host events.	No	No	
1196	Demolish		The cost figures Chief Executive presented to Council and those on the consultation and submission documents differ. Refurbish \$20.4 vs \$20 million and \$48-\$52 million vs \$50 million. Doesn't give those funding the cost much confidence.	No	No	
1197	Demolish		Don't waste \$20 million when we have Claudelands Event Centre being under utilised.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1198	Demolish		Waste of money when we have Claudelands.	No	No	
1199	Refurbish	No	The city cannot afford a new theatre as there is too much spending needed on infrastructure.	No	No	
1200	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is fantastic theatre. Refurbishment is the way to go. Maintain what we have. We spend enough on rates we don't need the Council to contribute \$30 million. It's not needed.	No	No	
1201	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is located on a prime space. Close to all CBD facilities, hotels, motels, restaurants, bars and the transport centre.	No	No	
1202	Refurbish	No	This was built for the people of Waikato and funds were given by the people who raised the money by holding Balls etc. Founders mean just that. Look it up if you don't understand. Show some respect for those who help to make Hamilton.	No	No	
1203	Build New		I prefer refurbishing, but sounds like it is too antiquated a system to do. Build a new theatre up-to-date on the same site.	No	No	
1204	Refurbish	Yes	Mainly because we desperately need a decent Theatre and demolishing and rebuilding would take SO long because of the cost. However, ideally a brand new Theatre would be best and use the Founders building for something else.	No	No	
1205	Build New		It is a great site and we just need to bring the theatre up to date. By rebuilding, the theatre can be built to the specs that you want not what you think will fit in etc. Building in site is the best option and should not be built on the river bank because that will just further increase costs.	No	No	
1206	Demolish		We have other theaters in Hamilton that could be used also we have built Claude lands arena	No	No	
1207	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1208	Refurbish	No	Because Hamilton needs a theatre and it needs it sooner rather than later. Founders is a decent venue in a great location with plenty of parking, it's just a little tired. I don't have enough knowledge to know what 'major' touring productions we have missed out on but if a refurbished theatre can host the likes of the RNZB then I think it's a good option. If the refurbish option loses then I'd be ok with the option in number 6 if the new theatre was in the same location. But the wait time is too long. There's not enough parking downtown where I've heard some would like a new theatre. The industrial/commercial areas close to Founders seem to be growing. The northern end of the CBD close to it is also becoming more residential. It just seems to make sense that it remains where it is on the town belt. Plus I saw my first concert there and graduated there and attended all sorts of other things there so, history.	No	No	
1209	Build New		It is unthinkable that Hamilton City and the considerable surrounding population would not have a substantial and state of the art theatre. A contemporary theatre is only possible through a re-build. A new theatre will cost much more than 50 million dollars and so it should. This is a strong economic region and finance must be borrowed to get the job done. The new theatre should not be built in the same place. Rather, it should be built somewhere in the southern part of the Victoria St - river precinct. It would be close to other entertainment (cafes, restaurants, etc) and the museum and new development of the riverbank area. The site of the current swimming pool is ideal. I sincerely hope that Council is not persuaded by people who want to take a miserly stand on a new theatre. There is a rare opportunity to build a complex that will serve the city and region for several decades. Refurbishing the current theatre would be a grave mistake. It would be a "mish-mash" and in the wrong place.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1210	Build New		Needs updating	No	No	
1211	Refurbish	Yes	Provides a community facility of appropriate scale and size, at reasonable cost	No	No	
1212	Build New		The theatre has for 50 years it would be better to have a new one	No	No	
1213	Build New		It would to have a new one because the the founders so old	No	No	
1214	Refurbish	Yes	I have my end of year dance shows every year and it would be really disappointing if we could couldn't do them at founders theatre anymore.	No	No	
1215	Demolish		1. The need to make changes has come almost out of the blue - and a sudden decision to spend millions of dollars should not happen unless it is part of a long term plan. 2. The city has been desperate to close various theatres due to the loss they were costing the council - so to suddenly spend up to \$50 million seems crazy. 3. The city needs a long term plan for entertainment facilities - and that must include non-HCC facilities - such as the Field days site and any other facility. 4. Surely its a lesson that needs to learned from - the cost of the Claudelands facility - even though its well reviewed - its still a big cost to the ratepayer	No	No	
1216	Build New		Hamilton is due for a decent size theatre to keep up with demand like in Auckland! Build it bigger Bring the big Broadway shows to Hamilton to increase tourism	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1217	Build New		Now, right now is the time to plan for the future by building a larger theatre on either existing or other site. NO FUTURE TIME IS BETTER FOR THIS THAN NOW. Adequate parking, preferably underground should be included. Theatre going public have already missed large performances such as the NZ Ballet for several years.	No	No	
1218	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1219	Refurbish	No	Ridiculous to spend \$50 million on the new one.	No	No	
1220	Refurbish	No	The existing theatre is strategically in the best possible position for such a building. Any new position would be unlikely to have the easy parking and access that the existing site does. Certainly the south end of Victoria Street would be impossible for parking.	No	No	
1221	Demolish		Because we have plenty of event centres and I don't see many people going there now anyway so re-doing it doesn't make sense .	No	No	
1222	Demolish		We have other venues that can accommodate	No	No	
1223	Build New		We should build a "destination theatre" which is an architectural marvel, where people will come from far and wide to see shows, and experience the new theatre. Think Sydney Opera House.	No	No	
1224	Build New		I think the theater is dislocated from the central entertainment area of the city and would be better located somewhere like Ferrybank where it can link to other amenities.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1225	Build New		I think it's the option that would bring most benefit and the best bang for buck. It would attract touring performances and a wide range of events, providing Founders the opportunity to operate at both a community and commercial level. It also opens up opportunities to explore other sites to have a theatre which could contribute towards achieving other outcomes for the city such as the Central City Transformation Plan, the Hamilton Plan and the River Plan. The location of a theatre in proximity to hotels and hospitality could play a major part in attracting people to the city and the subsequent economic benefits. World of Wearable Arts in Wellington, as an example, is a whole citywide experience and brings a lot of cash to the area when it's on. That's the sort of level that Hamilton could also operate on with the right vision and leadership to take that vision through to realisation.	No	No	
1226	Demolish		Hamilton has enough in the way of theatres. There is better way to spend council money.	No	No	
1227	Refurbish	Yes	It's an iconic building which many people relate to. On top of that, building new means waiting for five or six years in which time shows will have already been bypassing the city because of no appropriate venue.	No	No	
1228	Refurbish	Yes	I strongly believe we need to have a decent sized theatre in Hamilton, however I can see ratepayers not liking the \$50m budget for a new one, so a refurb would suffice. I love going to things at the theatre so will be saddened if we don't have one.	No	No	
1229	Refurbish	No	From what I have read, the refurbishment covers the points which need fixing or improving. It would be quicker. The current location is quite central.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1230	Build New		time has moved on and what looked and was a great theatre is no longer the case in 2016 While i have designed, performed or worked on a lot of fantastic shows in the Founders (and have fantastic memories of shows in this space from early Split Enz, buck a head shows with Dragon Rocking Horse, Kenny Rodgers and the First Edition) the Founders on the NZ touring scene is the least friendly to deliver a show in. Yes the flying system has doe a long time been a problem. the distance between lighting bars and show cloths can be a problem. The distance from the pro to the front row can lead to a disconnect with the stage and the audience. The stage opening is not big and larger performance lay outs are tight. Wings are tight but that is workable. pit if you are working on a musical or opera is way to small Front of house lighting positon's are tight and there is no circle front shots the colour of the floor is hard to work with when every other venue floor is black the front of house while being done up is not the best for the audience to use. you only need to walk onto the stage at Sky Theatre, ASB theater Auckland Live, Napier theater, St James Wellington, Bruce Mason, Issac Theater CHCH and you will understand the difference. If the roof cant hold weight then its time to upgrade. If the stage opening is too small then it is also time to upgrade. If the wings are too tight then more room in the wings means upgrade. The front of house seats are the best part of the room maybe bomb the stage and front of house foyer area and build a new stage area and front of house thee is plenty of room at the Founders current location to add width and depth	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1231	Demolish		I don't support any of the above options due to their limitations. My main concern is that any refurbishment or rebuild is done in consultation with the Royal New Zealand Ballet Company which has not brought any of its major productions to Hamilton for several years now. The infrastructure of the Founders Theatre was incapable of supporting the staging, size and structural needs of major ballets, so that the nearest theatre capable of accommodating the Royal New Zealand Ballet is at Rotorua. The RNZB is willing and ready to be consulted as to their requirements in order to reinstate Hamilton as a desired venue for staging major ballets. The Napier Municipal Theatre consulted the RNZB when the theatre was upgraded a few years ago so that the ballet company is now able to stage major ballets in Napier. My request is that any rebuild is done in consultation with, and addresses of the requirements of the RNZB.	No	No	
1232	Refurbish	No	Cost effective whilst retaining the theatre.	No	No	
1233	Refurbish	Yes	It is essential to have a venue this size to allow culturally significant performances such as NZ Symphony Orchestra and major shows to be staged in Hamilton. Claudelands is not suitable for such events due to adverse acoustics and limited stage facilities. Other local venues are too small for the NZSO with insufficient ambience for a 100-member orchestra.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1234	Build New		Hamilton is growing and can have the vision to be a major centre outside of Auckland. As such it deserves a venue capable of supporting the Arts. A larger population will be even better able to provide audiences to support large productions. Auckland is too far to travel for concerts, theatre, etc. A new venue could have a great auditorium and also a network of other performance and rehearsal spaces, of varying and flexible sizes, which could be used every day by local groups, to meet, rehearse and perform.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1235	Refurbish	No	The refurbishment allows for the theatre to be bought back up to standard without breaking the bank. It allows us to create a space that we're proud to say is in Hamilton and can fulfill a range of uses, from dance and musical theatre to orchestral performances to spoken word events for struggling kids. All of this in a 2-3 year timeline and for less than half the cost of constructing a new theatre. Yes, using our old theatre will constrict us somewhat from a design perspective, the parking will still be an issue and during those 2-3 years many shows still won't have a home that fits what they need but when the construction finishes, the dust settles and the curtain lifts on a new season of performances it will enrich the lives of people from all over the Waikato in a way that we just can't do without a theatre of this scale. Hamilton needs Founders Theatre, not a new building 5 or 6 years down the track, not even though it'd come with all the bells and whistles but the theatre that we've grown up performing in, the theatre our parents went to when they were younger to watch the ballet. While it may not be heritage, it's a part of our history, and to throw that away would be a tragic waste of a building that still has a lot of life in it yet if we're willing to invest in cleaning her back up.	No	No	
1236	Build New		Having a new dedicated theatre based on those in Europe and built to that standard would enable us to host numerous more events than are currently possible in the theatre as the stagehouse is often too small for things like the ballet	No	No	
1237	Build New		While I am torn with saving the old theatre and all its history by refurbishing, I believe building new is our best option as it gives us a clean slate to start with, and gives us further options for both the new structure and those events which we could host.	No	No	
1238	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1239	Refurbish	Yes	The arts need to be encouraged and founders theatre is the largest theatre in hamilton. It brings in larger acts and holds greater audiences.	No	No	
1240	Refurbish	Yes	Because this is the most cost effective manner of retaining this important venue. Refurbishment of the Founder's theatre is the very least the council can do, and the present state of the theatre is a testament to the fact that this theatre has seen less than its minimal amount of funding.	No	No	
1241	Build New		The potential and marketability of the building could be greatly increased.	No	No	
1242	Build New		The theatre should be large enough and well equipped enough to be able to accommodate any production. It should be built to a high standard, so that no new building or building work is required in the foreseeable future.	No	No	
1243	Build New		-	No	No	
1244	Build New		-	No	No	
1245	Build New		I believe that Hamilton needs a theatre and why not take the opportunity to build something modern and beautiful for the future generations.	No	No	
1246	Build New		No constraints of pre-existing floor plan or location. Could be a great opportunity for the city to attract more shows/productions	No	No	
1247	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is possibly the one true icon in Hamilton. It has been there all of my life; I have attended performances there, taken part in performances at the theatre. It would be a true crime to destroy it.	No	No	
1248	Refurbish	Yes	This would give us the benefits of having the founders theatre without a full rebuild price.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1249	Build New		A new build is a wonderful opportunity for Hamilton if we want to be seen as a progressive city and not a cow town lets get on with it. in the past we have been Bypassed by overseas groups because of our poor facilities. It will never be as cheap as it is today. If our forefathers had not bitten the bullet and got on with the hard decisions we would not have had the city we have today If we rebuild we still have an old building it will be paid for by current and future generations please stop doing the scare tactic of the costs .there are other sources of finance other than ratepayers to help with this project A lesson should be learnt you cannot keep taking out you must continually maintain your assets.	No	No	
1250	Build New		A new theatre could include new technology etc that is now used in most shows. We are not restricted by the existing floor plan and could perhaps include 1-2 smaller theatres as part of the complex. Could perhaps also include underground parking on the site A patch up job of the existing theatre would be just that - a patch up - which we would regret in the future. Claudlands is not suitable for many shows so major travelling events are passing Hamilton by.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1251	Demolish		The Founders was a barely suitable theatre in the 70s and 80s when I lived in Hamilton, but it no longer suits the needs of arts practitioners in the city. A new performing arts space with quality lyric theatre that is suitable for orchestral, choral, musical theatre and other community/professional events is essential to put Hamilton as a top venue for live performance. All the other major NZ cities of similar size have venues that suit this (i.e. the Town Halls in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin leave Hamilton behind, plus the Christchurch Town Hall will soon be returned to it's former glory). In my opinion, it's time to move the whole performing arts space to a site near the Waikato Museum - lots of restaurants, the potential for a community arts hub. Yes, it will be expensive, but worth it in the long run.	No	No	
1252	Build New		Hamilton needs somewhere that is purpose built to host wonderful events and shows. Without a theatre we are potentially going to lose a lot of our character. We already don't have a lot going on, we need founders and we need a theatre.	No	No	
1253	Demolish		Refurbishment and Build New would add to the already high city debt. Pointless question 6 below what is the purpose?	No	No	
1254	Build New		It can be purpose built. The refurb bill will be way more than the estimate.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1255	Refurbish	Yes	Refurbish, it's a lot cheaper then rebuilding. I have been to founders theatre on a number of occasions and think it's important we have this type of venue that's publicly owned. Demolish is obviously the cheapest but in the long term we would be loosing an asset that has more value then just the financial form, it's not really there to just gain a profit but to offer opportunities and experiences to the public. Having public social entertainment facilities has also been shown to help raise moral and reduce crime in communities. Yes if it is demolished chances are a private company will fill the gap but a private company will be profit driven and people already moan about some show prices. Now imagine paying to see the same thing through a profit driven establishment!	No	No	
1256	Refurbish	Not Answered	Building provides another long term venue for the city to host productions. More companies would book founders if it was a better bigger venue... We are so being the times!! Come on Hamilton City Council we need to make our city more attractive to visitors, this is one way!!! Spend the money!!	No	No	
1257	Refurbish	Yes	Founders theatre is a huge part of Hamilton's art history, and i believe we need to establish a performance theatre of this capacity no matter what. It would let down Hamilton and Waikato's art's sector should we not have this amazing facility. By re-furbishing it, it will guarantee that the theatre is protected, and that we can keep an aspect of founders alive.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1258	Refurbish	No	If refurbished it would be up-to-date, safe, and functional again and it would still be 'Founders Theatre', which by today's standards is quite small and thus a nice intimate atmosphere and ambiance. It would hopefully retain some of it's original character (as opposed to some 'new age' cheap nasty cake-tin design, and of course it's location is very close to the CBD. The performing arts which have normally performed there are never 'mainstream' big gigs/rock/pop concerts, the fact it would get a bigger stage would already attract bigger productions/ballets. Big rock concerts can go to Claudelands etc. Also if it was to be a whole new theatre some moneybags corporate would sink money into it in return for having their name plastered all over it (The Royal NZ Ballet now performing at the Heinz-Watties / Sanitarium / Price Waterhouse Cooper Theatre, or worse yet John Key Theatre! yay -not)	No	No	
1259	Build New		Hamilton is a great city, and with the growth projections we have, substantial investment should be made in the city, by the people, for the people (ie increased or targeted rates). Arts and theatre is a very important part of Hamilton life, and we need a theatre to be proud of, that will meet expectations of both performers and attendees.	No	No	
1260	Refurbish	Yes	We need a performing arts centre in one of the largest cities in the country!	No	No	
1261	Refurbish	Yes	The city needs a proper performing theatre but I don't want to see the ratepayers hit more than they have to	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1262	Build New		The current theatre is not a "heritage building". I believe if we refurbish we will end up having to update again soon anyway so immediately rebuilding another would be better to future plan for population growth and technological advances. I believe a new build should occur, in the central city - along the river, preferably at Ferrybank to bring arts/culture into the city for vibrancy. It would fit in with the CCTP and River Plan.	No	No	
1263	Refurbish	Yes	I think ratepayers would be happier with this cost outlay rather than \$50m.	No	No	
1264	Refurbish	No	Retain the Founders Theatre because at the moment B / C is just a waste of money in fact that theatre is just alright how it looks. We are not Australian we are Aotearoa NZ.	No	Yes	
1265	Demolish		Past its use by date. Other venues in Hamilton could replace it. Those millions \$\$\$ saved could improve Minogue Netball parking.	No	No	
1266	Refurbish	No	#2 Building new doesn't go far enough! IF building a new facility, it should be of a larger multi purpose complex for the arts with multiple venues that will take us far into the future and be vital for decades to come. #3 No - we need a venue this size in Hamilton and without it, the entire community will suffer.	No	No	
1267	Refurbish	Not Answered	It's suitability for medium - large scale performances.	No	No	
1268	Refurbish	No	I like the building and am dismayed at it closing when so much money was found, so quickly, for Velodrome and V8's.	No	No	
1269	Build New		-	No	No	
1270	Refurbish	Yes	Cheapest option which retains major cultural space for the community.	No	No	
1271	Build New		I lived in Fox St for 13 years. My father and I plastered this theatre. It is a shame but like me everything ages.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1272	Demolish		- Cost effective - of no architectural value. - Modify Claudelands Event centre to cater to smaller productions etc.	No	No	
1273	Refurbish	Yes	There is a great deal of history at the Theatre which I believe is important to Hamilton.	No	No	
1274	Build New		Locate new theatre near the arts district of Hamilton - near the museum, restaurants, cafes etc.	No	No	
1275	Build New		By the River create a cultural precinct in south of city.	No	No	
1276	Build New		Re-build it next to the river because we need a new modern theatre so we can have dinner and a show.	No	No	
1277	Refurbish	No	Great memories of seeing shows and being on stage at Founders. Would love to see it bought back to life again.	No	No	
1278	Refurbish	Yes	The current usage doesn't justify spending \$50 mill on a new theatre. Learn from mistakes, ie Waikato Rugby stadium is idle 90% of the time!!!	No	No	
1279	Demolish		We have the Claudelands Event Centre that is underutilised and we (taxpayers) have paid too much for buildings that aren't fully utilised.	No	No	
1280	Build New		The city would get a much better facility for the future by building new.	No	No	
1281	Demolish		Cost cost effective.	No	No	
1282	Build New		The Hamilton community would get a much better facility that will take it into the future.	No	No	
1283	Refurbish	Yes	Founders theatre has been round for years demolishing it would be devastating to the community	No	No	
1284	Demolish		Provided that a good sound commercial case can be put for option (1).	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1285	Build New		The existing theatre is poorly designed and ugly. Furthermore, its location is in the wrong place. A new theatre should be located in the heart of the CBD close to restaurants and pub venues. This may go some way to creating a more vibrant CBD instead of the dreary town centre we have at present.	No	No	
1286	Refurbish	Yes	I solely believe if it was modernised more, things to hold there like shows with spaces rented out for sale of food etc.	No	No	
1287	Refurbish	No	Because we definitely shouldn't just do away with a theatre, it helps build the culture and atmosphere of Hamilton. Considering you are reluctant to spend money anyway I thought the cheapest of the remaining two options would be most viable.	No	No	
1288	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a good theatre venue. Refurbishment would retain the history of the building and would have it ready in a shorter time frame.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1289	Refurbish	Not Answered	Refurbishment is the preferred option but can only be subject to pricing the above matters in detail especially the seismic issue. I confess to being staggered that the Council have no idea on this seismic matter. The above matters also have to be considered in the context of essential or nice to have. Again much seems to be put forward in an ad hoc manner i.e. why is the original cause for closing the theatre now expanded into a full scale refurbishment. Why not price the problem to repair before expanding the brief for refurbishment. In time, one can see that the theatre may be out grown but to trigger a new theatre with the requirement for a new flying system. Really. One matter I do know is that the Claudelands complex is not a venue for such acts as the Comedy Convoy that I attended on Friday night after it had been shifted from Founders. Any theatre type event would not work in Claudelands. If it transpires a new theatre is required, this should not be contemplated in haste, as now appears. Do basic necessary work on Founders and give breathing space to consider long term options. My answer to Q6 is you cannot make a decision on an arbitrary capped figure. One would need to know more precisely the new cost options to be able to compare. I would have thought the Council would contemplate all funding avenues whichever course was followed.	No	Yes	
1290	Demolish		cheapest	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1291	Build New		Hamilton needs a large purpose built theatre which caters for events and productions of national and international quality - particularly so locals do not have to travel to Auckland for these. Claudelands offers a great facility for sporting events, conferences and concerts but does not offer the classy intimate environment that you need from productions such as orchestra performances which you get from visiting Founders Theatre. From previous visits to Founders I have found the foyer area to be way too small and there are not enough toilets. Parking can also be a challenge although there are plenty of parks if you are prepared to walk a distance. Although \$50million is a significant investment I believe this is a better option as you can cap your build costs and budget accordingly and also create a purpose build theatre that addresses all the challenges Founders has posed in the past. My concern with refurbishment is that once you start you may unearth issues no anticipated and incur extra costs along with being limited by the existing structure.	No	No	
1292	Demolish		-	No	No	
1293	Build New		Founders is an outdated building which was not meeting needs in several aspects. Poor foyer spaces, bathrooms below standard, auditorium poor acoustic and dull, wedge shape meant upper rows too far from stage, inadequate dressing room space and outdated stage systems. I do not support spending money on fixing this as the footprint of the building dictates that some of these problems would not be solved. Hamilton deserves a venue that takes into account the best in new theatre design and can meet better the requirements of local and touring groups including NZSO, NZBallet, NZ Opera, choirs and music theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1294	Refurbish	Yes	Need a theatre but don't need to spend more than necessary.	No	No	
1295	Build New		currently many performances such as orchestras and Ballet by pass us. The stage area is not big enough.	No	No	
1296	Build New		The building is outdated and it's time for a fresh new look for the City!	No	No	
1297	Build New		-	No	No	
1298	Refurbish	Yes	Makes sense to do it . Demolishing seems a waste	No	No	
1299	Refurbish	Yes	If it was determined that the building did not need earthquake strengthening, and all the points above were carried out at less than \$20 m,I think that would be the logical option. If it does need to be earthquake strengthened, then that would probably cost far more than the budget, and the logical option then,would be to build new. This could also include a greatly expanded car parking area,or building ,on the same site	No	No	
1300	Demolish		Something we can live without - from Council 10 year plan.	No	No	
1301	Build New		-	No	No	
1302	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1303	Build New		I like the idea of building new. While the Founders is in the city centre, the worst part about attending events there is the lack of parking. If built in the same location, more parking would be great - even underground. But outside the city centre would be better - plenty of room for a bigger more flexible theatre and lots of parking.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1304	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment offers us a more immediate solution in a briefer time frame and is less costly to the public. We need a venue like Founders and refurbishing offers this. The style and character of Founders has a lovely ambience, lovely to keep something of History alive. Building new timeframe of 5/6 years means many Major events bypass our City for too long a time frame or do we as the public have to sit on those awful seats in Claudelands	No	No	
1305	Refurbish	No	the city needs a seated inside venue of 100 to 1500 seats. There is Claudelands but that has a larger capacity and has long set up lead times for events. The Founders is a venue that the city needs. We have leased the smaller venues to outside organisations but for the benefit of arts, concerts, productions and other cultural events we need the Founders to exist. The second option would be to build new but where will the 50 million come from? if the new theatre is possible and it had multiple use options then I would also be comfortable with this. Not having a place like the Founders is not an option	No	No	
1306	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1307	Refurbish	Not Answered	Would be nice to see a new build...but this city simply can't afford it. Its much needed....If you want more people to go to the theatre to enjoy shows ...then don't make the tickets too expensive? Bit of a catch 22 really?	No	No	
1308	Build New		Put it by the river, "river city" with a main attraction so far from the river?	No	No	
1309	Demolish		Too expensive.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1310	Build New		Apart from the problems raised in the reports,the capacity of the auditorium is too small for a city of the present population,let alone of one continuing to grow. The location of the theatre could be problematic if Seddon Park and FMG Stadium along with the theatre all hosted events at the same time. For those productions requiring the cast to enter through the rear of the auditorium,the only way to get to the entry point from backstage,is around the outside of the theatre,not ideal during bad weather.	No	No	
1311	Demolish		Let's not put a "band aid" on the Founders Theatre, it will always be just an out-dated old 1960-70s old building. Instead, in the centre of Hamilton we have a magnificent building, overlooking the river with parking underneath. I am not aware who currently owns this building but surely the old Post Office (opposite Garden Place) with its lovely dome would have to be considered for our new theatre. If the current tenant, Sky City, own the building they might consider a joint venture with the Council to create a new theatre. They currently operate a theatre in Auckland so this would be within their core business. How special to enjoy your "half time" glass of wine while looking over the river with the trees lit up with coloured lights. We have very few heritage buildings in Hamilton so let's make this one a New Zealand icon by turning it into a beautiful theatre instead of the current gambling and 10 pin bowling for which it is currently used.	No	No	
1312	Refurbish	Not Answered	Feedback attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 1312 Insert – 1 page long

CEO
Hamilton City Council,
Dear Sir,

re Founders Theatre

I am a senior citizen without a computer, but want to have my say on the question of the future of the Founders Theatre.

Refurbish the Founders Theatre ASAP please. The building needs to remain where it is because of the available parking. Anywhere else other than next to the Claudelands Event Centre would be a disaster.

Theatre performances bring people into the city to stay, which won't happen with the cafes and boardwalks at the Ferry Bank. Spend the money on the theatre please, and get the job done quickly.

Yours Sincerely
Doreen Wood (Mrs)

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1313	Refurbish	Yes	I believe that the theatre itself is a perfectly good size for Hamilton and is in a good location in the city. If there is any development that needs doing it should be around its parking if anything.	No	No	
1314	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is a historical treasure to Hamiltonian's, I would like to attend a show there someday, but in order for that to happen it needs to stay open.	No	No	
1315	Build New		A new Theatre would give the city the latest and fullest design for future use. Also bring more shows, music etc as the population and visitors numbers increase.	No	No	
1316	Build New		This unplanned closure of Founders Theatre offers a real opportunity to build a modern and attractive Arts Centre, which would comprise a state-of-the-art 1000 seater concert hall - for symphonic, choral and other live acoustic performances, and also a similar audience sized dramatic theatre for plays. The two separate spaces would be in the same building, but each having different functions and therefore requiring different technical specifications. A multi-purpose, single hall venue would be the wrong decision.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			This new Arts Centre must also be an attractive place for audiences, positioned centrally in the city (ideally by the river) and could offer restaurants, cafes and other retail outlets within. All would generate income. Good examples around the world include Birmingham's Symphony Hall and London's South Bank Centre in the UK and the Sydney Opera House (which includes much more than just the 'opera house'). Rather than demolish Founders Theatre, why not simply carry out sufficient works to enable it to be used as administrative and rehearsal space for the growing music performance community in our city - Opus Orchestra, Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra, United Youth Orchestra, Cantando Choir, Hamilton Civic Choir.....? Other spaces in the building could be rented out as office space, and would thus provide income rather than just cost to the ratepayer. Rather like in the 1960's when Founders Theatre was built, we should be planning for the next 50 - 60 years, not just preserving the status quo. A purpose built Arts Centre would be an investment for the future for our growing city, providing a real incentive for people and business to come here. Such a major project would benefit not only Hamilton, but also provide an artistic and business hub for the region. This is an ideal opportunity for a mix of local, national and business funding within a public/private partnership. Hamilton should take this opportunity to plan for suitable performance spaces to engage with its community and arts organisations for now and the future.			
1317	Build New		The Theatre is passed its use by date! The location is also wrong. Build at the Hamilton Gardens.	No	No	
1318	Refurbish	Yes	Increases likelihood of greater/bigger shows with less financial impact than building a new theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1319	Build New		Because we are a great city and need something better.	No	No	
1320	Demolish		Cost - make do with other venues like Clarence and Claudelands (this venue will face closure if not utilised in future as a result of ongoing expenses to run).	No	No	
1321	Refurbish	Yes	The building has whakapapa and Mauri. It is not just an erected building of materials. Its value is one of historical significance to Tangata Whenua, Pakeha and towns folk of Hamilton. The Council are always quick to waste money as opposed to considering Mauri, kaitiakitangaship, conserving resources and maintaining respect for those people involved in the initial development of our city upon which Founders Theatre was a substantial building when built.	No	Yes	
1322	Refurbish	No	It just needs to be modernised to keep up with whats happening around town.	No	No	
1323	Build New		The site is good and a new one could utilise the site in a different way with rows of trees and green space outside.	No	No	
1324	Build New		Hamilton needs a decent theatre. It's not a small city.	No	No	
1325	Refurbish	Not Answered	Best use of funds to refurbish, modernise and make safe what we already have.	No	No	
1326	Build New		Make a new wonderful auditorium similar size on present site, or by river.	No	No	
1327	Refurbish	No	Hamilton MUST have a theatre suitable for music, dance and drama, and as soon as possible. The refurbishment option would be completed, and at a lower cost, well before a new theatre could be built.	No	No	
1328	Demolish		Clear the space for a complete new start.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1329	Build New		A new building for the future, over looking our beautiful river if possible.	No	No	
1330	Build New		I think that we should build a new theatre - the theatre is a loved icon in Hamilton, and I have grown up doing school productions, dance performances and orchestral performances there. It would be a shame for the city to loose such an amazing venue. I would be happy with a new or refurbished theatre, but I think it would be an absolutely waste and shame for the theatre to be demolished. It would be a throw in the face, coming from a musical background - it would mean the end of arts and musical theatre in Hamilton which would be devastating. I feel as though Claudelands has been built for other purposes and can only accomodate specific events from Founders - it would likely mean the end of dance performances, school productions, musicals and orchestral performances.	No	No	
1331	Build New		Having a world class theatre is a must for cities. I think if they are going to spednd 20 million to refurb, they wil lneed to spend more money in the future to upgrade, so might as well do a really good upgrade now.	No	No	
1332	Refurbish	Yes	I have seen many Huntly brick homes transformed by clever visionary architects and feel the Founders could well be transformed in the aspects of safety, usefulness and aesthetically..	No	No	
1333	Refurbish	No	Much better situated for parking and away from the nightlife congestion.	No	No	
1334	Refurbish	Yes	This is my preferred option because this refurbishment plan is more sustainable and costs less than the other two options below.	No	Yes	
1335	Build New		The floor is not good enough for premier dancers. The acoustics need to be considered and better seating for all !	No	No	
1336	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1337	Refurbish	Not Answered	Refurbish to just to be able to continue to use it. Then fund raise/put aside monies for a new theatre that will suit Hamilton audience for the new 50 years.	No	No	
1338	Refurbish	No	Because it is great to have the theatre and it is cheaper to renovate rather than demolish.	No	No	
1339	Refurbish	No	My daughter perform dancing for our Chinese traditional mid-Autumn festival. I want to see it again.	No	No	
1340	Refurbish	Yes	I enjoy going to NZSO concerts and dance performances at this lovely theatre. Nowhere else in Hamilton can hold such events which means we can't lose Founders Theatre.	No	No	
1341	Refurbish	Yes	The place has history. No real alternatives if demolished.	No	No	
1342	Demolish		We can travel to Auckland.	No	No	
1343	Build New		Hamilton is an expanding city . It needs modern state of the art facilities to support the Arts in the community.It needs a theatre that will serve the city and the wider Waikato region for decades to come.	No	No	
1344	Build New		Because building new would (hopefully) attract major productions who would otherwise bypass Hamilton. The current seating arrangement is not all that fantastic. When building something new there is an opportunity to design a seating plan that allows everyone an unobstructed view of the stage. A new location could be selected to allow for better parking but would need reasonable easy access for out of town visitors.	No	No	
1345	Demolish		This is part of Hamiltons history and a great revered landmark	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1346	Build New		I have been at Founders many times, as both an attendee of a performance as well as a performer. I think that the floor plan could be much improved. It does not look like a high quality theatre inside anymore. There is also the earthquake safety issue. I think that a complete rebuild creates more options as to the capability of the theatre, the features, and the types of performances we get.	No	No	
1347	Build New		It's an opportunity to future proof for generations to come. Start with a clean slate and dream big! We absolutely need a purpose built, high quality theatre (not a multi purpose facility like claudelands). Reconsider, location, parking, how to integrate with bars, restaurants etc	No	No	
1348	Build New		A city of the future requires a facility for the future.	No	No	
1349	Build New		If your gonna spend the money do it so it lasts the longest with the biggest benifits	No	No	
1350	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs to maintain a reasonable sized theatre but it does not have the current financial position to build a new theatre. Also by maintaining founders the city will be maintaining part of its history which is an important part of any development in my opinion.	No	No	
1351	Refurbish	No	There is no other theatre in Hamilton that combines this good sized stage/seating while still being personal and classy. I really enjoy it and go there very often for performances. Please refurbish it. Cheers	No	No	
1352	Refurbish	No	This is a no brainer. We only need to do the upgrades as is necessary to satisfy O.S.H. regulations \$20 million seems rather excessive.	No	No	
1353	Build New		New is always good because we could get the best and latest technology,however the time frame is of some concern.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1354	Build New		Founder Theatre was never fit for purpose. So even with the rebuilt stage house it will only ever meet 80% of each hirers need. A new theatre would not be constricted to the old auditorium frame. No one in there right mind builds a venue of 1200 seats on one level. The viewing from the back of the auditorium while being unobstructed is very far away and thus makes for poor viewing. If our city is going to continue growing we need to ask if 1200 seat is enough in 5 years 10 years and 20 year. I would suggest it is not... This also gives us the opportunity to combine the build with other projects. Theatre is about viewer experience a facility like founders in the outskirts of the cbd was only ever going to be able to provide one part of a good night out. I would suggest building by the river in the south end of town now makes sense. I would suggest combining it with a least 1 privately run restaurant and cafe. It would also suggest combining the build with a public art gallery. This is very much need for the health and vibrancy of the city.	No	No	
1355	Build New		A new theatre with better, improved assets; seat placements; acoustics; decorations; etc could prove better in the long run.	No	No	
1356	Demolish		-	No	No	
1357	Demolish		-	No	No	
1358	Refurbish	Yes	Every city needs a theatre. I'm picking this one because it's a middle ground option. I personally enjoy performance arts and it'll be a said day to not have a home to attend the artists doing what they do best.	No	No	
1359	Refurbish	No	It is part of hamiltons history and heritage. So many memories and it is an ikon of HAMILTON.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1360	Build New		A new theatres could be designed to include smaller performance spaces and potential rehearsal space as well that could be used independently from the show using the stage space. It would also means modern technology could be incorporated into the theatre.	No	No	
1361	Build New		I moved to Hamilton 14 years ago and was led to believe it was a rugby mad hick town. What a joy to discover the depth and breadth of arts interests here. I discovered a significant number of ratepayers are involved in the arts as participants, performers and audience. Hamilton is often bypassed or is treated to downsized performances because of the lack of appropriate theatre facilities. To hold our heads high as a city to be proud of (and generally speaking I am proud to call myself a Hamiltonian) it is time we invested in proper professional performing arts facilities. The Founders has lasted the standard 50 years allowed for a public building. The time to replace it with theatre facilities in line with modern technology, acoustics, and performer and audience needs well met has arrived. As our city continues to expand, so will the demand for a purpose-built theatre.	No	No	
1362	Demolish		Invest in other buildings - i.e. Claudlands!!!! Adapt it so it can be used plays etc!! win - win	No	No	
1363	Refurbish	No	I think the Founders theatre should be kept as it is a Hamilton icon. A theatre of that size is needed for the city.	No	No	
1364	Refurbish	Yes	I love the founders theatre & really like the location. Cheaper to refurbish but if you decide to rebuild please keep it at this location.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1365	Demolish		Knock it down and invest in sporting facilities for our children and youth. Minogue Park caters thousands of children most weekend yet is in an archaic state. Rest Hills Grounds are a third world sporting facility that is the home Hamilton/Waikato Rugby League/Softball. Hamilton is falling further and further behind other cities in regards to sporting venues that cater towards the community.	No	No	
1366	Build New		We are grow. A refurb will be outgrown soon and not be as good.	No	No	
1367	Build New		Demolish and rebuild closer to the cbd. Clear a heap of the unused buildings in the cbd and build a future proof modern and unique facility in the middle of town next to restaurants and bars for theatre patrons to utilise prior and after shows. We need to think of opportunities of how we bring the vibrancy back into the centre of town	No	No	
1368	Build New		I definitely think the Waikato needs a facility such as this and would prefer the best for a long term investment in the future of our region. If it is deemed too expensive I would much prefer option 1 than to demolish and do nothing.	No	No	
1369	Build New		rebuild on the present site I have attended a lot of shows at the Founders and would like to in future. Just do something about car parking . Wec are Nz's 4th biggest city we should have a theatre and on the same site	No	No	
1370	Refurbish	Yes	It's been so much of Hamilton for years, architecturally pleasing. Why pull down our history.	No	No	
1371	Refurbish	Yes	Cheaper - however rebuilding in a different site would be my recommendation	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1372	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs a theatre suitable for stage productions - so demolition not an option. If we refurbish, there is \$20 million gone on a facility still not really adequate and with a very limited life. Put that money into something much better and longer term. Cities, e.g. Sydney and Melbourne, have arts centres that incorporate up to three different types of theatres housed within the one facility. With this in mind, would be possible to add to Claudelands Events Centre by adding a proper theatre to that facility and therefore get greater use from the infrastructure already in place? Thanks for the opportunity to have a say.	No	No	
1373	Refurbish	No	There is character with the existing theatre, and by refurbishing that can still remain. There is no need to rebuild or pull down, I would suggest a parking area would be hugely beneficial too, as it is very often an issue there, many times I have had to walk some distance, and for the elderly Patrons within the community and beyond it is not ideal. We need a theatre like founders, it's what our community want, and arnt we the ones that matter, and those that enjoy the many shows etc that have been there in the past it would be nice to no we have been heard , .	No	No	
1374	Build New		Hamilton is a major city and we often miss out on tours, ballets, shows etc. We definitely need a theatre for our local talent - and if we were to refurbish, the opportunity to expand would come much later in the future. Take the opportunity now to create something new, more suited to the growing city and future proof for future generations.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1375	Build New		Means that with proper consultation with the performing arts community, and appropriate size venue/s can be established, with the latest technology versatility, and flexibility to cater for today's arts community, and the future. With a bit of thinking the venue can be future proofed where such an issue dose not happen in the future. However this can only be done with the right people at the helm. Cheapest tender often means short cuts are taken, so with proper inspection during the build process, the right products and infrastructure is installed ensuring that no short cuts are taken!	No	No	
1376	Refurbish	No	I think the establishment is such a great staple in the arts community and so beneficial for our society.	No	Yes	
1377	Refurbish	No	I feel Founders fits a niche size live location in Hamilton. Larger events are well catered for at Claudelands. Founders is also an icon for Hamilton and should be kept but modernised, including an external facelift.	No	No	
1378	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1379	Refurbish	Yes	In the long term a new build would be ideal but I feel the city cannot afford this at present. I would not want to see other projects, such as the River Plan, jeopardised.	No	No	
1380	Build New		The city needs the performing arts and a venue to be proud of for them.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1381	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is on a perfect site for a cultural centre/theatre. It is within easy walking distance from CBD and easily accessible from entrances on roundabout. It is an attractive site for a building of this type. That aside this is the most cost effective option, still retains a very suitable venue to attract top ballets and orchestras as well as all the other wonderful entertainers that come to our City. Seems a very good size for the needs, and with the improvements proposed would be an excellent and necessary amenity for our growing and maturing city, I have become increasingly proud of Hamilton which is really working to provide for and reflect all aspects of our society.	No	No	
1382	Build New		I feel that you could do it within 40 million, however a new theatre with parking in mind is a necessary action, Hamilton talents such as bands or the performing arts groups will go elsewhere. There should be no contribution from charitable donations as they can go towards better causes. But I feel that unless you plan to build a multiple level parking garage you will need a much bigger piece of land to accommodate parking for the growing events for future generations.	No	No	
1383	Demolish		We already got Claudelands Arena and Meteor. Something more exciting would be much more advantageous. We already got something in Hamilton City delivering a purpose of concert etc, it's futile to have 2 and have competition. It's better to have 2 different things.	No	No	
1384	Build New		It would be great to see it closer to the CBD. That would allow people going to the theatre to have dinner in town before and a drink after. Near the river would be best.	No	Yes	
1385	Refurbish	No	Because the Founders Theatre is iconic and will continue to provide a good venue if updated. I feel the city is not in a position to afford a new building and we are too quick to demolish buildings in this country.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1386	Demolish		Because we have a perfectly new building called claudlands event centre, why waste money on a new building when we should be utilizing the one we already have. Use it to its full potential. It's stupid to waste money on something we don't need.	No	No	
1387	Refurbish	No	Seems most sensible. I doubt a new theatre could be built for \$50m and it would be a shame for Hamilton not to have a venue of this calibre.	No	No	
1388	Refurbish	Yes	Its important to have a theatre for art loving people. Especially for all the dance school who use this facility to showcase all the young dancers productions	No	No	
1389	Refurbish	No	After reading the three options in that you sent out i think that to Refurbish the theatre is the most logical one. It is the cheapest and should be finished first. With the alterations that will be done it will be almost identical to a new one.	No	No	
1390	Demolish		-	No	No	
1391	Refurbish	No	Lovely theatre which has plenty of life in it	No	No	
1392	Build New		I think building new opens more possibilities regarding today's entertaining and performing requirements, rather than using the existing footprint of Founders Theatre. It may cost more but if it is covered within 2 years of the refurbishment option then, to me, the money side of things is a 'no brainer'. To me, four years between 2020 and 2024 for a completely new option is a small price to pay compared to not having a world class performing venue Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1393	Build New		Build new is my preferred option because while I was upset and annoyed that council had left the venue in an unsafe manner for an extended period of time I am now over that. I now see the closure of founders and a once in a generation opportunity for the city and wider community. I feel that if council has the vision and it courageous enough the region could see a world class facility replace founders. I feel that the opportunity needs to be grasped to future proof the arts in Hamilton. In an new build I would love to see a 1800-2000 seat theatre with a smaller black box (approximately half the size of meteor) built in the same facility. I feel that if a black box and possibly a function space was built within the new facility there is potential to use the venue for smaller conferencing than claudlands and part of the income from the alternate use could be used to pay down some of the additional debt that would be incurred by choosing to rebuild the facility.	No	No	
1394	Build New		-	No	No	
1395	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs a decent purpose built theatre. Founders has served the city well over the years and is probably the minimum size needed for our city. The structure of the building seems sound and I feel the location is fine - there is land there to expand if needed. Therefore it seems to make sense to keep it where it is, unless the land could be sold for development to make enough money to offset new building costs and/or money to build alternative land. A suggested site at the south end of Victoria st may work but that it is already a congested area. While fiscal responsibility is important, we have to see this as a long term investment and be prepared to pay for it. Refurbishment therefore makes the most sense at present but this should be done in such a way that expansion and updating can also future proof the theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1396	Refurbish	No	This theatre hold many special memories and I'd hate to see it go completely and change totally!! I say refurbish the exsisting one and save some dollars and our history!	No	No	
1397	Build New		Fresh start. Modern Building built to latest acoustic specifications. Provides a venue for the local and wider community of Waikato. Performers know they will have the very best and latest and most modern specific built venue at their desposal. This will lead to more promoters wanting to utilise Hamilton as a venue.	No	No	
1398	Refurbish	Yes	Down time should be shorter for refurb Not willing to see that amount if increase in rates for a new option	No	No	
1399	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1400	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1401	Refurbish	No	We should not be paying \$50 million. We need to have a theatre of this size in Hamilton	No	No	
1402	Refurbish	No	Cost for new build is too much. City requires theatre of this size.	No	No	
1403	Build New		Hn is growing in size but at the same time also needs to mature as a cultural centre for the central north island. We should be planning for a future when the city would be expected to pride a full range of facilities for a wide variety of touring performances. To support this future, the city needs to take the opportunity to build a premium, beautiful, significantly innovative theatre facility down NEAR THE RIVER to embody the commitment that has started to be shown in the councils River Plan.	No	No	
1404	Refurbish	No	The theatre itself is still in good condition, and can be refurbished at a reasonable cost. There is no need to build a new theatre when Founders Theatre (once refurbished) will meet the needs of Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1405	Refurbish	No	It would be a shame for Hamilton to lose this facility, however I have not seen sufficient evidence to pay 50 million rather than 20 million. Though I question the validity of the 50 million figure	No	No	
1406	Refurbish	Yes	This is an amazing facility that helps strengthen our community through the coming together of people, attracting new people to Hamilton, and providing an avenue for our own musicians to perform for others and for others to be blessed.	No	No	
1407	Build New		Because Hamilton needs a good sized theatre with a fly tower to do shows at. There are so many passionate theatre people in Hamilton it would be a shame to see them lose the best venue for putting on big productions in this city	No	No	
1408	Refurbish	No	This seems to be a quicker option than all the others - we must get a theatre up and running again as soon as possible otherwise Hamilton will be bypassed for cultural events.	No	No	
1409	Build New		Hamilton needs and deserves a quality venue. The Founders Theatre is old and dated in design. I would like to see a new theatre built.	No	No	
1410	Refurbish	No	Having seen the additions already to the theatre, such as lift, and new flip up seats, I feel to refurbish is the best option. The theatre does need the foyer expanded and to put in new toilets makes sense. A new green room and fly tower and expanded stage and back area would be great to have too. As a former volunteer usher in the old theatre, before it was altered to it's present state, I feel this would definitely be the best option to take. Why waste the money already spent by putting in another lot of seats when these were done not that long ago. This theatre has also had good acoustics, and I've noticed this when singing in it, in a chorale sing off.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1411	Build New		Building new will mean a modern facility for the city and although your consultation information does not address this, I would expect a new facility would have a longer life than if it were refurbished. Provides an opportunity to do something really special for Hamilton, keep it central and build on the city centre. Has there been any consideration for a new location?? Linking the facility better to other attractive facilities (ie. museum, hospitality hub, river, etc) in Hamilton would be sooo cool for this city. I reckon a theatre near the museum/river precinct could really build on a creative hub in the city centre. A new theatre (as opposed to refurbish) should be attractive to touring productions. So long as we do not invest in something that is competing with other facilities in Hamilton (meteor, clarence st (these are both located conveniently to Hamilton hospo area and the river but not so good for parking), or Claudelands).	No	No	
1412	Refurbish	No	1. This theatre is already a good venue in so many ways and deserves to be saved 2. There is plenty of room behind the theatre to extend the backstage area. Also, if the fly tower is to be worked on then the stage can be widened at the same time. 3. There are no other venues in the city which are suitable or adequate for the NZSO, large repertory productions, the ballet or even as a "town hall" 4. I DO NOT TRUST the Council to honour any promises to build a new facility in a timely fashion (if ever) should this one be demolished. I would prefer that we extend this theatre rather than risk untrustworthy self serving politicians from reneging on promises at a later date	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1413	Refurbish	No	I do not believe Hamilton needs a bigger glossier theatre. The improvements outlined in the options document would provide a perfectly adequate theatre for a city the size of Hamilton. By the time the expressway is completed all the Auckland theatres and entertainments will be about an hour's travel away. We do not need to spend a great deal of money on building a new better brighter theatre when what we have got will be quite adequate for many years to come once it has been upgraded...	No	No	
1414	Refurbish	No	This is the most cost effective option. Demolish leaves us without, to rebuild would be extremely costly, but would only achieve as much. It is vitally important that Hamilton has a theatre this size. Live performances from orchestras, for example would be lost in a location as large as Claudlands.	No	No	
1415	Build New		Purpose built, something for Hamilton to be proud of, engaging and attracting more performances to Hamilton. Building a stronger sense of community and place to showcase Hamilton as a key North Island entertainment attraction.	No	No	
1416	Build New		Build new, with an eye to the future.	No	No	
1417	Build New		Any option will cost a substantial amount of money so it is best in my opinion to build a multi purpose building that will suit the needs of major shows as well as smaller local community groups. A new building would have much better acoustics.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1418	Refurbish	No	There are many cities and towns around New Zealand where a new build has been attempted and not completed. Refurbishment examples can be found around New Zealand and these are completed projects. (like St James theatre) A refurbishment is the best available option for Hamilton to retain the theatre and complete the project. Very little money has been put in to updating and modifying the theatre over the many years I have lived in Hamilton and gone to the theatre. It is time money is put back in to the theatre and brought the community asset up to the standard it should be. This will attract further acts and performances that we have missed out on in the past.	No	No	
1419	Demolish		Can love without.	No	No	
1420	Demolish		Too expensive to refurbish and a new build is fantasy.	No	No	
1421	Demolish		Only a nice to have - Not core business.	No	No	
1422	Demolish		More need for infrastructure new and replacement of Old.	No	No	
1423	Refurbish	Yes	Location is well known - is fairly central and not far from transport centre and some accommodation if needed. Hamilton needs to retain a theatre of this nature to attract events to the city. I have been to a number of events there. I would not travel to Auckland or out of region to see a show	No	No	
1424	Demolish		Current debt too high. No need to add more borrowing (debt) for a nice to have frequented by a minority of Hamilton ratepayer.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1425	Demolish		It a Regional facility then why only Hamilton ratepayer funding?	No	No	
1426	Demolish		A Regional facility funded by Hamilton only. Give it away. In a user pay environment the arts sector can walk the talk instead of getting a free ride.	No	No	
1427	Demolish		Too expensive - Other venues close at hand Aucland Rototuna and Tauranga.	No	No	
1428	Demolish		Too expensive. University to build theatre as part of marae. Other venues close Rototuna Tauranga Aucland.	No	No	
1429	Build New		Hamilton needs a function centre for cultural events. While I think refurbishment is far better over demolition with no replacement, I believe that building new is what is needed. HCC needs to build a modern centre which will be a Hamilton heritage function function able to used over the next generations and able to house the many and varied groups which need modern and state of the art facilities. Investing in culture and encouraging all people to experience the wonderful experience of live entertainment is vital for the "soul" of our community. Much is lost, both now and into the future, if nothing is done. I am thankful to be given an opportunity to have a say.	No	No	
1430	Demolish		More need for infrastructure replacement and new rather than a 'nice to have'. No need to further add the the burgeoning debt. Other avenues close by for shows/entertainment Tauranga, Rotorua Auckland.	No	No	
1431	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1432	Demolish		Not a must have - could live without it Other cities have facilities a short travelling time/distance away.	No	No	
1433	Refurbish	Not Answered	I believe that the Founders Theatre should be renovated as listed with the fly system renewed, the addition of extra foyer space, new seating etc and certainly not pulled down. The Theatre is in a satisfactory position and later another new theatre could be built next to it as has also been suggested. The fact that this could be completed in a time frame of two or three years is much better so that shows such as the Royal N.Z. Ballet can come to Hamilton and Hamilton not be left out from such shows for many years. Parking would be a huge problem if another theatre was planned for central Victoria St. and the costs with providing parking below a new Theatre building would be well out of Hamilton's budget. The time frame for such a building makes it of little interest also. I believe that the site of the Founders Theatre was well chosen and the time has come to renovate.	No	No	
1434	Demolish		It is the middle ground. Please keep Hamilton arts thriving!	No	No	
1435	Refurbish	Yes	The refurbished theatre will meet of needs of Hamilton for the next 30 years.	No	No	
1436	Build New		I think Hamilton has grown as a city and we should have a high quality theatre in order to attract quality artists. Also, a refurbishment would undoubtedly end up costing a lot more than \$20m.	No	No	
1437	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1438	Refurbish	Yes	I would love a new theatre but can the city afford it - No ! Therefore - the Founders Memorial Theatre was built by public money in memory of the war. It is a good example of design of that time (remove all the added fancy poles etc) retain a heritage architect to restore and improve the building which once was a prize winning example of its time - 1960's.	No	No	
1439	Build New		A new theatre should have all the mod cons needed to make this a 100% multi theatre. The plans are drawn up, they must think for the future as well.	No	No	
1440	Build New		A new build would not be limited by a pre-existing floor plan and wall structures. This means there is more flexibility to build a new flying system with a greater load bearing capacity that meets the needs of the future generations. In addition it would make it possible to remedy any and all faults with the existing building.	No	No	
1441	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is an important asset to Hamilton and I have attended many varied events there. I believe refurbishment is the best option as it retains the theatre without imposing too heavy a financial burden on the city.	No	No	
1442	Refurbish	Yes	A city of our size should have a good theatre option. Refurbishing seems to be the most economical option to achieve this.	No	No	
1443	Refurbish	No	The seating capacity of Founders is maple for the type of productions that will use it. Refurbishment will provide modern back stagerfacilities and improved visitor experience at the least cost. The present site is very suitable. Complaints about parking are a red herring. There is adequate on street parking in the vicinity.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1444	Refurbish	Yes	A theatre such as Founders theatre is very much needed for the community. A larger stage will allow more RNZB shows to come to Hamilton. While a brand new theatre would be good 5-6yrs is too long to wait.	No	No	
1445	Refurbish	Yes	Maximize use of existing infrastructure eg Parking and preserve handy location near arterial routes	No	No	
1446	Refurbish	No	Less expensive than rebuild and will happen in a shorter time frame. Also I prefer the theatre to be kept in the same location.	No	No	
1447	Build New		Difficult when refurbishing something existing to create something that meets the needs without 'compromise'. Its also the chance to create a multi use venue to align with Claudelands	No	No	
1448	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1449	Build New		Last time I was in the theatre it looked a little tired. Building a completely new theatre gives the council an opportunity to look at where is the best location for a new theatre. I think somewhere near the southern end of Victoria street, close to restaurants and parking buildings would be ideal.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1450	Refurbish	No	The existing theatre is part of Hamilton's history. A refurbishment will provide the community with an updated, modern facility, all housed within the building which was fully funded by the community back in the 1950s. With the benefit of hindsight and working experience over several decades, there will be the ability to improve the interior of the building to make it more user-friendly, both backstage and front of house. For those groups who regularly use the theatre, the time-frame of 2-3 years is far more palatable than a time-frame of 5-6 years for a complete rebuild, especially as the rebuild is to be on a "like for like" basis and there would be no advantage from a size point of view. In my view the existing theatre is well placed in Tristram Street - I wouldn't like to see it moved to the CBD. From a financial viewpoint, a spend of \$20m is far preferable, with the balance of \$30m odd going to other projects in the community.	No	No	
1451	Build New		I think a new founders theatre should be rebuilt on a new location on or very near to the river front as part of the council plan to open up the city to the riverfront.	No	No	
1452	Demolish		Duplication with Waikato University entering the fray by also building a theatre. Give it away to the arts sector.	No	No	
1453	Demolish		Duplication with University planned theatre.	No	No	
1454	Demolish		No longer required with the University to build a new theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1455	Build New		When spending in the millions, I think it would be better to have a theatre fit for the future, rather than just a theatre that is ok for now. However I think \$50 million sounds like a conservative figure for a new theatre. It would also be good if a new theatre could be a multi-use building, maybe a hub to support other arts endeavors too. I also ticked that I haven't been to the theatre in the last three years. The current state of the theatre is definitely a reason why. I have been to shows/events there in the past, and even though it may host some good shows, its general run-down state is a deterrent and detracts from the experience.	No	No	
1456	Build New		Refurbishment will cost more than than the predicted price as the existing structure is decades old and will likely end up a complete rebuild. Building new will also mean that a new site can be chosen if required, closer to the centre of town, edge or even over the river perhaps?	No	No	
1457	Build New		The Founders has never been satisfactory, and rather than another tinkering to try to improve it, it would be better to start again with a better-designed and up-to-date theatre. Need not be rebuilt on the present site, which is not ideal from a parking point of view. The latest idea of the university building a new theatre is worth bringing into the equation - rather than have two new theatres, maybe merge the ideas and the funding to have the new one at Hillcrest Road?	No	No	
1458	Demolish		Pointless now, with University to build a new theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1459	Build New		If we build new, we can move the location. A new theatre would go great in the south end of Victoria street, Riverside - possibly in the current location of the municipal pools - near to the museum, parking, and local eateries. People could come into town, park in the parking building on Knox street, grab a bite to eat, and then go see a show at the new Theatre, all within walking distance. It would make for a complete night out, as opposed to the current location which doesn't have much proximity to anything, other than the sports fields and the strip clubs. The current location could then be re-used as sports field, etc. Could also make an area along the river from the currently in development, Victoria on the River, to connect the two, and open up the side of the river, kind of similar to the Southbank Parklands in Brisbane.	No	No	
1460	Build New		-	No	No	
1461	Refurbish	No	History. Founders is now an icon in Hamilton and it would be a shame to lose it. Founders also has a welcoming and comfortable feeling about it and I hope it won't change. I have just visited the recently refurbished Aotea Centre in Auckland and it seems very stark and unwelcoming, I hope this doesn't happen to our Theatre, whether it being the refurbished Founders or a new Theatre, any Theatre needs to have a homely feel where people are happy to venture too.	No	No	
1462	Refurbish	Yes	It seems to be the most sensible use of public money.	No	No	
1463	Demolish		Little pointless continuing with Founders with the University to build a new theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1464	Refurbish	No	Demolish and rebuild too expensive. Closing - would be a great loss of a very familiar venue. An iconic Hamilton building. Refurbish only realistic option. I have many fond memories of events attended there.	No	No	
1465	Build New		We either need to refurbish the theatre or build a new one, we shouldn't close it. Out of those two available options, we should spend a bit more money now to build a new theatre (on the existing site I might add), rather than spend a little bit now and then have to replace it again later. It also allows us to build a facility which can meet the demands of today's productions and those of future years and doesn't constrain the build to the floor plan of the existing theatre. Once the new theatre is built, the council needs to do more to entice more productions and high quality productions to Founders to help build attendance figures. Having a new theatre which better caters for these productions will go a long way in bringing more to the city.	No	No	
1466	Refurbish	Yes	I'm concerned that the estimated cost will end up being a lot more in reality and also the extra time involved for a new theatre to be built.	No	No	
1467	Build New		The benefits of building a new theatre would mean that Hamilton could attract more professional touring shows and become a theatre hub. As theatre technologies have evolved over the years much of what Founders has to offer would need to be refurbished or renewed anyway. Local theatre companies and dance schools could benefit from this as well as local schools who often are travelling to Auckland to see professional theatre performances.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1468	Build New		We need a theatre that is suitable to hold large scale productions. For many years now (for example) we have been bypassed by RNZB for all but their smarts shows as we haven't been able to fit them. Even Blenheim and Palmerston North have theatres that are capable of this. We are a vibrant community and deserve a facility that allows all facets of our communities culture to be represented and demonstrated. The new facility should be grand enough to host graduations, suitable for orchestral performances and have the capacity to hold the many drama and dance school performances. It should be sized for the future, to build a legacy on the foundations of our founders, but with a view to the generations who will follow in our footsteps.	No	No	
1469	Build New		Having been on the stage and behind the curtain this occasion presents a great opportunity provide a more fitting venue to attract even more world class performances to hamilton.	No	No	
1470	Refurbish	No	I have always been proud of Founders theatre I like the design and where it is situated I have only been in the audience and been very comfortable there I see the the refurbishment as part of ongoing maintenance Fix what is necessary to comply with current building standards Changes to the entrance,foyer, bar, and toilets can be done later Hamilton should cherish older buildings like this The name Founders Theatre reminds us of the foresight of Hamilton's earlier residents	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1471	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is a wonderful municipal building, and so many other cities around the country have retained their older theatres (think Napier, New Plymouth etc) and done them up to be modern in terms of structuarally safe and with the amenities needed, but still kept the charm of the era they were built in. We keep knocking down our old heritage buildings and that is so sad to see. Cities like Napier are a draw card because they retain and restore their older buildings, and i wish we did this here. Founders Theatre has a charm about it, and i hope that can be retained.	No	No	
1472	Demolish		University to build a new theatre - renders Founders surplus. Let arts community take it over.	No	No	
1473	Build New		The existing venue is completely unsuitable for the sort of presentations and productions that exist now and for the rest of this century. You need to be visionary and prepare for future use.	No	No	
1474	Build New		I am split between refurbishment and building new however I am swayed slightly by the long term thinking of how it would impact Hamilton as a city. I would like to see Hamilton be a hub for the arts in New Zealand and beyond. I don't believe our past or size should limit us in anyway. We have a world class university and polytechnic as well as many artists/performers of many disciplines. The council has been doing a great job at beautifying our city but this would be incomplete without enabling the expression of art through performance. I think this new or refurbished theatre would kickstart a new chapter for Hamilton and I don't see there being a huge financial downfall with only 4 years difference in meaning the target set for 2020.	No	Yes	
1475	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1476	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1477	Build New		The current theatre is old, it needs a lot of mainenance/refurbishment to be up to worthy standard. I think that demolishing and rebuilding will mean you have the opportunity to design a really functional and usable space for what it needs to do. It can be modern and not have to curtail the plans for what is currently in place. The new theatre could either be in the same location or another location closer to other amenities that would be useful to be close by. I think that any new theatre should consider parking as part of the building being done. I think there should be lots of input from people who would use the theatre (ie performers etc) as to what it needs in terms of gear, space, sound quality etc so that it is actually useable for what it wants to achieve	No	No	
1478	Build New		Because the theatre needs better tech. The theatre is outdated and lacks modern, usable facilities. A refurbish is a waste of time and energy, if we are going to rebuild anyway, do it properly the first time.	No	No	
1479	Refurbish	No	Basically cost, and the usual blowouts.... If the bones are solid, don't waste resources. Do a good, future-flexible job. Use some of the wonderful available talent we have in Hamilton to preserve the value of the past and invest in the future. Get people involved from all walks.	No	No	
1480	Build New		We need a theatre, and a good one that is on par with auckland and wellington. So that rules out no theatre, what a horrible town it would be if that were the case. refurbishing it wouldn't guarantee that there will be no more problems, so building a new one makes sure that we can eliminate the foreseeable problems. Also founders is over 60, and was made to last 50. A new theatre is best for everyone I think	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1481	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment is the only option as the city cannot afford to go for an extended period without any suitable performance venue. While Founders is not the ideal venue for many events it is far better than none. In an ideal world the refurbishment should be at a minimum to bring the theatre back on stream, and then a dedicated performance venue could be built to meet the future demands of the artistic community. e.g. concert hall, opera house, etc.,	No	No	
1482	Refurbish	No	I prefer the refurbishment option because this would give us all we need on the same scale or a bit larger with safety and more comfort for patrons of the performing arts as well as those performing and helping there. ' Founders Theatre ' is iconic to Hamilton Central and we owe it to all who love this theatre and have enjoyed going there, to refurbish it to modern standards , still named ' Founders Theatre ' and proudly standing in City Central. I am sentimental about this theatre. I was a child when first attending in school productions and also with my family and friends seated in the audience to enjoy and be enthralled with with live shows. A refurbishment will save many thousands of dollars and retain the original footprint . I am strongly in favour of refurbishment.	No	No	
1483	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment represents the options that best utilises what we already have. The existing issues with the venue could be remedied successfully for a modest sum relative to the alternative of building new. I also struggle to see an alternatvie site that is available, owned by Council or at least potentially available for purchahse, and that would be a better fit.	No	No	
1484	Build New		The present all-purpose building suits nothing. The city deserves a concert hall (no fly tower) with good acoustics, also usable for conferences, graduation etc, but NOT for musicals.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1485	Demolish		Definitely not to close- demolish. It is a Memorial Theatre after all. I have linked Refurbishment and the New Build together - the basis of my submission.	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 1485 Insert – 1 page long

The Founders Theatre - a vision for the future

The shock closure of the theatre, unforeseen and unfortunate does give us the opportunity to look to the future.

Let us plan a new and larger theatre designed to stand alongside our existing one.

To do this would necessitate the immediate repair of the Founders to a safe and usable state.

This in turn would buy us time to research, plan and fund raise to build the new theatre and particularly one with up-to-date acoustics.

Eventually the Founders could become the Town Hall we've never had.

Hamilton built the Founders Theatre a mere 50 years ago.

As New Zealand's 4th largest city, it is time to demonstrate our forward thinking and leave a legacy to our city such as the one which has been left for us.

Gary Fraunderfer

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1486	Refurbish	Not Answered	Hamilton doesn't seem to boast numbers of significant buildings. Where would you find another site today of this convenience? I have enjoyed Founders so many times in its history of embracing our lovely city.	No	No	
1487	Demolish		I feel Claudlands is under used. Prefer to have this upgraded to suit all performances and turn Founders area into more city parking	No	No	
1488	Refurbish	No	It is the cheapest option other than demolition the Founders theatre is available asset and I don't want to see it demolished.	No	No	
1489	Refurbish	No	Building new is 2 1/2 times dearer than refurbishment. Present entrance/foyer rather cheap/"bitty"-looking. I feel a smaller venue is more intimate and friendly and that it's better to be "full", with more performances, than a larger venue half full.	No	No	
1490	Refurbish	Yes	The city debt is high enough now.	No	No	
1491	Refurbish	Not Answered	To allow time to design and fund raise for a new facility.	No	No	
1492	Refurbish	Yes	The Council do not have the funds to build a new one. The debt is too high already. The parking and location is suitable where it is.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1493	Build New		Hamilton and its environs are growing quickly and is the now fourth-largest city in New Zealand. We are a university city and have a sophisticated segment of our population that expects quality facilities for both national and international performances. The quality of the performing arts facilities is paramount to attracting quality artists and groups, and I believe we must have a world-class venue to achieve this. Founders Theatre was state of the art when it was built but does not meet current expectations of our citizens - seating, acoustics, comfort and facilities from an audience perspective simply do not measure up. I have a much more enjoyable experience in any of the local movie theatres! Any refurbishment would be restricted to the current auditorium floor plan. I feel that would preclude much of the creativity that a new facility would encourage. Finally, I would support a targeted charge on my rates bill, similar to the Hamilton Gardens charge, to support a new theatre to replace Founders.	No	No	
1494	Demolish		Since it opened the acoustic has been bad plus it took valuable Park land for a white elephant. Claudlands arena would be better utilised as a local venue. I attended one of the opening events at Founders and have lived in Hamilton for nearly 70 years but can see no reason to either keep the building or refurbish it. A total waste of rate payers money	No	No	
1495	Build New		Founders appears to have historical issues and whilst renovating appears to be cheaper option there will probably be cost blow outs due to finding additional issues.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1496	Refurbish	No	Seems the quickest and most sure option of getting Founders 'back in action'.	No	No	
1497	Refurbish	No	We cannot wait for the many years it would take to build a new theatre completely. Many performing groups would be severely hampered and may die. I fully support the refurbishment of the Theatre. I suggest building on to it another theatre with the facilities more required for choirs and orchestras. also build on a full sized restaurant and bar. Rehearsal areas, that could be used at the same time as the theatre is in use and much more parking space. This could be done over years while the Founders is still in use and could be a great Arts centre.	No	No	
1498	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1499	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders's Theatre is an icon of Hamilton City, it is unthinkable to have it demolished. It reflects the vision our forefathers had for our city back when Hamilton was considered a "hick town" full of country bumpkins and redneck petrol heads. The Founders's Theatre, even in its state of disrepair is a class act that other venues in Hamilton have not been able to emulate. Our forebearers went for quality not quantity and comfort rather than capacity please do not throw out that which they acheived.	No	No	
1500	Refurbish	Yes	Cheapest	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1501	Refurbish	Yes	I think the arts and Founders Theatre are really important for a vibrant city, especially if it's the 4th biggest city in the country. A new building would be great but might be too expensive so therefor I think the refurbishment may be a good middle of the road solution. I also quite like the looks of the current building and I always found it sufficiently good from an audience point of view.	No	No	
1502	Refurbish	No	Why knock down a good solid building? Cheaper option for ratepayers.	No	No	
1503	Refurbish	Yes	Unfortunately when Claudelands was built a theater for productions such as the royal New Zealand ballet was not accounted for so we need a facility such as Founders. The Meteor and Clarence Street will never be large enough.	No	No	
1504	Demolish		Too expensive - Tauranga to build a performance venue as part of a \$67 million plan of the civic centre. Tauranga Rototuna and Auckland just a relatively short distance to attend shows/ performances.	No	No	
1505	Demolish		"Could live without" from the 10 Year plan.	No	No	
1506	Demolish		There is already sufficient venue space in Claudelands event center and Waikato University facilities so an investment into a rebuild of Founders Theatre would be a poor use of council money. Refurbishing the Theatre is not an option for me as there is no point in upgrading what we already have when in 10 years time it will need another upgrade because it would not be as up to standard as a modern new one.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1507	Build New		A new theatre will go on and on for many years. If you only refurbish the repair bills will keep "cropping up". Would it be possible to run a lottery to raise funds as was done for the Sydney Opera House? Whatever happens, whether it be a new build or refurbishment PLEASE have a look at the seating at Baycourt Theatre, Tauranga. The seating in that theatre is steeply terraced and patrons get a marvellous view of the stage from every seat. Also SkyCity theatre in Auckland each seat has a marvellous view of stage. The number of times I have been to Founders and could not see the performers because of the person sitting in front of me. Only at the back of Founders could one see the stage from every seat ; those seats fill up very quickly. Let us have EVERY seat with a great view of stage. It may cost a lot of money but it will never be cheaper than it is today.	No	No	
1508	Build New		A completely new theatre would be able to incorporate the latest in equipment - sound, lighting etc. A new design could incorporate extra parking - much needed - and other amenities thought to be useful.	No	No	
1509	Refurbish	No	We have the venue in a great location, we always need to invest to maintain / improve so lets get on with it. Have to been to many evens with the family to the "Founders" - I don't mind paying extra in my regional rates just like we do for lake Taupo.	No	No	
1510	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre. To my mind, the close-and-demolish option is no option at all. Refurbishing the theatre would be an acceptable option but if Hamilton really wants to give the arts—not to mention its reputation—a boost and work towards becoming a city with a thriving arts scene that is known for its culture, it should go the whole nine yards and build new.	No	No	
1511	Demolish		Could live without - from the 10 Year plan. No further financial pain for the ratepayer.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1512	Demolish		Other venues in close proximity, Rotorua, Auckland and Tauranga.	No	No	
1513	Build New		I would like to understand more about what is needed and why. Are there no other options or partnerships? Would it be possible for a new place down by the river to fit in with the river development. If big concerts are at Claudelands, could the orchestras/ballet be at the Uni? I definitely think that we need space for the local community to perform, learn stage craft, some decent size shows (so we don't have to go to Auckland) and even though I'm not keen..the ballet and concerts..ha to be something for all people...close to Hood Street and Victoria St eating places and good parking.	No	No	
1514	Demolish		Only a 'nice to have'.	No	No	
1515	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment preserves an existing asset, built as a memorial to the founders of Hamilton. While not true to Aubrey de Lisle's original design, the building is still an example of sixties architecture and part of the historical record of our city. Far too much of the city's built environment has gradually been demolished. A city without a visible history is a city without a soul. Refurbishment is a more affordable option and imposes less of a financial burden on the city's ratepayers. Refurbishment retains the location of the theatre, with accessible street parking nearby; that would not be the case were the theatre to be relocated. Escalating building costs suggest that the final cost of rebuilding would greatly exceed the current estimate. The time frame for refurbishment would be significantly less than for rebuilding, ensuring that the makeshift accommodation for NZSO etc is required for a much shorter period	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1516	Refurbish	No	I like the size of the Founders Theatre and feel every city needs a theatre of this size	No	No	
1517	Refurbish	No	Cost Effective	No	No	
1518	Build New		This is a civic building and should be in the civic centre of Hamilton which is the CBD. A refurbishment of the old building will be just that - an old building, just refurbished! It has no design merit, and is in the wrong place anyway (the green belt!)	No	No	
1519	Refurbish	No	The skeleton of the building has history and is in a great location. The city needs this theatre back in action in the most timely manner.	No	No	
1520	Demolish		Council and the arts sector advocate that Founders is a Regional resource, together with the Regional resident having a say in the consultation. However only Hamilton ratepayers will Fund any of the options.	No	No	
1521	Build New		I believe Hamilton needs a theatre capable of accommodating major productions. Building a new theatre would provide the opportunity for a fresh approach both in design and possible alternative location.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1522	Build New		I would prefer this option although I do consider refurbishment as an option too. It would be great to have it located central city with plenty of parking, attractive grounds and updated to incorporate the technological, sound and lighting performance options available these days with the hope of keeping space and wiring for those changes not yet foreseen. A modern one may cater for more of an intergenerational community as well. Auckland has western springs and a growing Hamilton city would benefit from having another facility to cater for the people in and around the Waikato, Thames Valley, South and Western Waikato. We have an amazing catchment and to retain these people in our wonderful region it would be great to have somewhere to showcase our unique Waikato cultural flavour and more.	No	No	
1523	Demolish		Duplication with the new build theatre at the University.	No	No	
1524	Demolish		'Nice to have but we can live without' Council's statement from 10 Year plan.	No	No	
1525	Refurbish	No	its the cheapest option	No	No	
1526	Demolish		Unaffordable.	No	No	
1527	Demolish		Claudlands should be updated to accommodate any shows that Founder's would have been used for. It is a waste of money to have 2 arts venues.	No	No	
1528	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs facilities to support shows of a high calibre	No	No	
1529	Refurbish	No	Hamilton, being the 4th largest city in NZ, needs a venue to accommodate art and performance events. Refurbishment option costs a lot less and has a shorter turn around, which is important as the existing theatre is closed.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1530	Build New		The citizen in Hamilton do need a real theater. It does cost a lot, but everyone can enjoy it. Even though we did not go to Founders Theater in last three year, we have been there many time in last 10 years. We still expect to go there to enjoy some high level performance. For example, we would like to watch the Swan lake, but it looks we have to go to Auckland or Rotorua this year. It is really a shame for Hamilton without a proper theater!	No	No	
1531	Refurbish	No	A new build larger theatre would perhaps take away events from Claudelands and create a situation of two council run venues competing for the same events. There are not enough benefit for the extra 30million on new vs rebuild	No	No	
1532	Refurbish	No	I have danced there every year since i was six.	No	No	
1533	Refurbish	No	I prefer the refurbishment option because it is cheaper than a rebuild and it will not take as long to complete, so the theater can go back into use sooner. I am a dancer and I have performed many dance shows at the Founders over the years. It is a great theater and loved by many performers and spectators and it is an important part of the history of our city, it would be a shame to see it demolished. I also don't want to wait 5-6 years for a rebuild to take place. I also prefer refurbishment because I don't like the idea of rebuilding on a different location. I think the location of the theater is in a very good place. It is close to town but not right in the middle of town, so if there is a family show on the can avoid the drunks. There is a good amount of off street parking at its current location. It is right next to Seddon park so we have to places where we can watch different kinds of performances in close proximity.	No	No	
1534	Build New		It would be more attractive for visiting artists and shows and would further enhance the status of our city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1535	Build New		For the last forty years, I've kept every programme from every performance I've seen at the Founders (I'm an archivist, not a hoarder!). I loved seeing the ballet there and Hamilton Operatic shows, but over the years have also seen the NZSO, bands, comedians, magicians and attended graduations and prize-givings – all manner of events in that auditorium. When I was really little, my sister and I used to marvel at the old ladies who arrived dripping with pearls, diamond brooches and real furs. In those days, everyone spoke in hushed tones in the lobby and we knew or recognised most attendees. Going to the Founders was an absolute treat.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			It became par for the course for me to take my ballet slippers and have my hair in a bun, so I could skip up and down the aisles with my ballet friends during intermission. And the nights that Valerie was there were the most special. "Look Mummy, there's Miss Lisette!" I'd say, awestruck that she was watching (or sometimes performing with) the NZ Ballet. The magic of theatre never left, and in 2005 I couldn't resist the pull of the theatre and became involved with Hamilton Operatic Society. The first production I participated in was the thirtieth anniversary celebration of Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show. Production week (the week prior to the show opening to audiences) was an absolute killer, but I couldn't get enough. Everyone was working or studying fulltime, then arriving at the theatre soon after 5pm for up to 6 or 7 hours of rehearsals. It was exhilarating and I ran on adrenalin for that month. Also, thanks to Hamilton Operatic, I have made some of my dearest friends at the Founders. We have laughed and cried together on numerous occasions, mainly due to the intense friendships that form during any production. My theatre family really are my second family, and those friendships are extraordinary. We collaborate for months on end, put on a show, go our separate ways, then come back together to collaborate on another project sometimes six months, often twelve months later. I've been an audience member, I've performed on the stage, I've worked backstage at the Founders. I may have spent more hours in that theatre than any other single place besides home, school or work. Going through the stage door is like walking into my own place. It is home, and backstage is full of people I absolutely adore.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			I do not buy for one minute that the members of the community who fundraised for and built Founders thought it would have a lifespan of fifty years. I believe they built it to be used for many generations. I've said it before and will say it again, shame on you Hamilton City Council for not maintaining our city's largest theatre and ensuring that it continued to comply with the building code and basic technical developments over the years. So, in 2016 we have three options – refurbish, build new or close and demolish. I think we should build new on a different site and this is why. In most other cities, when you go to the theatre it's an event (think of the Civic in Auckland). There's plenty of parking, and numerous restaurant options where you can dine before or after the show. The current Founders site has pitiful parking (practically no parking when there's a big game at Waikato Stadium), and there are no decent restaurants within walking distance. Rebuilding on the current site does not fix the issue of parking, nor does it allow theatre-goers to have a one-stop night out with a show and meal. Last weekend, I spent all of Saturday at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre (TAPAC). There were hundreds of free car parks available, and anyone who read my earlier Instagram post will know that I was really taken with the variety of users that came through the doors that day. From little ballerinas to cultural groups, there was constant activity in the foyer for the eight hours I was there. What made TAPAC so busy? The fact that there are multiple rehearsal rooms on site. These studios are let out at affordable rates, and as such, are booked heavily. There is also a little coffee shop – very basic, but they brew great coffee (so I am told), and sell muffins, fruit and healthy drinks. The staff members in reception/the box office doubled as the baristas. So, on days when the actual theatre isn't in use, the overall facility still is and there's a little income stream from the studios, coffee shop and \$2 wifi.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			In this day and age, the theatre needs to be more than just an auditorium. It needs decent parking, be close to main transport routes, and provide other sources of income (such as studios and a little coffee shop). Building New Founders on the Municipal Pools site has been bandied about. I'm all for the south end of Victoria Street becoming a cultural and arts hub – the Meteor Theatre, Waikato Museum and Arts Post are already there. It makes sense to build on that scene and reposition that part of the city as cultural centre. However, this needs to be a safe place for theatre users. Not a place for the homeless to hang out. If the council has to employ a security guard to ensure those people don't abuse the facility, so be it. For example, I want the little ballerinas of tomorrow to rush in without fear and enjoy their lessons or shows. I want them to experience what I experienced as a child at Founders. I want them to feel the magic and delight of a purpose built facility that allows them to express themselves creatively. In closing, I'm happy to wait for New Founders. We don't need a quick fix. We need a future-proof fix that is well planned and sited appropriately.			
1536	Build New		I don't see the refurbishment as being the best use of money. I have ticked two alternatives because I'm not sure whether there are any other venues available for the larger events that the Founders was used for. If there are, do we need the Founders Theatre? I understand there is a new facility in the planning stage at the University. Could some Council funding be added to increase the size of that facility? If a new build occurred contributions should come from Council and other donations.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1537	Refurbish	No	I am very happy with the site of the theatre but it would be a really great venue if the refurbishment was done.	No	No	
1538	Refurbish	Yes	If the refurbished and rebuild options have the capacity for setting why pay lots more. However if if the rebuild will meet the needs of a growing city better for the long term then rebuild. I do not like the close and demolish, as this limits what can be performed in Hamilton, there would be no ballet.	No	No	
1539	Build New		The current Founders Theatre inadequately serves ballet and opera. The orchestra pit is not large enough to take a full-sized symphony orchestra, necessary for both art forms. Because of that, we Hamiltonians have never had the pleasure of live music with the Royal NZ ballet. Always recorded music. And to speak of opera live on-stage, I don't need to point out the impossibility in Hamilton. Come to Europe to see small concert venues, and large ones too, with masterful (19th century!! and 20th century) sound acoustics which are a pleasure to perform in and listen/watch in. No microphones needed!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			I would like a proper modern theatre with - - proper acoustics - a properly-sized and lit orchestra pit - the ability for performers to sing or speak without any need for microphones - mobile and adaptable stage equipment - no eating or drinking in the concert hall(s) Honestly, if you get schools involved, and provide the theatre to them at a reasonable cost, everybody would win - kids would see the theatre as something to aspire to, parents would see it as a usable venue, the general public would notice and appreciate that it's being used. Modern NZ has turned into an extreme-right version of the USA model of user pays. I note that this has been the case since the 1980s, but that does not make this model right, or desirable, for our community or for NZ as a whole. Make the new theatre available to all, without the pressure of user pays (for profit). And finally, could HCC please stop promoting the architect for the current Founders Theatre, as he/they (de Lisle) did an abhorrent job back in the 1960s with this build and building. Promotions were regular in the HCC community newspaper, City News, at least until recently. A thorn in my eye. We know how horrid and unserving the current building has been, and no amount of press lines will ever make up for what Hamilton has lost.			
1540	Demolish		Doesn't have enough entertainment going for it these days.	No	No	
1541	Refurbish	Yes	Able to use it again faster. If you were to demolish, there wouldn't be the same type of shows coming to Hamilton.	No	No	
1542	Refurbish	Not Answered	Refurbishment is my preferred option, as we do need a good theatre, but not at another excessive cost to ratepayers that a new build would entail.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1543	Refurbish	No	Would HATE to see it demolished. I think this is the best option, would achieve the needs of the community. Quicker and cheaper than rebuild.	No	No	
1544	Demolish		Duplication with University to build a theatre.	No	No	
1545	Refurbish	No	I believe the Founders which is only about 60 years old is structurally sound is a great venue and location. I don't believe \$20m is required to provide upgraded improvements. Details such as the 'parable' near the entrance would be an ideal location for a info centre and cafe.	No	No	
1546	Refurbish	Yes	Cheapest of all options.	No	No	
1547	Build New		Hamilton is a growing community and the performing arts are very important to an expanding community. It should be large enough to accommodate the best of all performances with great acoustics for singers, orchestras etc.	No	No	
1548	Demolish		Submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 1548 Insert – 1 page long

Hillcrest,
Hamilton.

30 May, 2016

To Whomever this Concerns

FOUNDERS THEATRE

I am dismayed that the Founders Theatre has been closed. Originally an Aucklander, I have lived in Hamilton (which I love) for 36 years and the Founders Theatre has been part of my life throughout this time. Children's yearly dancing recitals, Hillcrest High School annual senior prize-giving, the wonderful NZ Symphony Orchestra concerts, drama, musicals, (The Phantom of the Opera was astounding and world class) and the ballet (before the theatre was deemed to be unsuitable) - all of these were events which enhanced my enjoyment of being a resident here.

What really makes me angry is the money wasted, businesses inconvenienced and petrol burned up on the car racing. What total idiocy that was!! A noisy, wasteful, inappropriate event to put on in the inner city.

The Founders has a certain old-world-charm – not up to the Civic standards of course, but none-the-less, a theatre with its own unique ambiance. Claudelands is a big, draughty barn in comparison. It is appalling that events had to be cancelled or moved to other venues. Please re-instate the Founders as soon as possible

Yours faithfully,



Christie B.Doube



Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1549	Build New		Hamilton needs a venue with good acoustics and a large enough stage to accommodate a full orchestra or a ballet corp. Claudelands doesn't cut it!	No	No	
1550	Build New		It is logn past time that Hamilton had a really good concert performance venue, good acoustics, large enough stage for full orchestra, and for ballet with orchestra. Claudelands is appalling - and nowhere else is long enough.	No	No	
1551	Demolish		I think we have enough closed in spaces for performance and art - Claudelands, University, Meteor, Riverlea, Trustbank theatre. Why don't we use this space as an open garden performance area similar to Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne or Bowl of Booklands in Taranaki?	No	No	
1552	Refurbish	Yes	Serves the community on the western side of the city - don't demolish.	No	No	
1553	Build New		Hamilton needs a Theatre that we can be proud of. We are a growing city and we need to look to the future. Our old theatre is past its used by date. I think the new theatre should be built on its lovely present site but be slightly larger. We need to attract the likes of the NZ Ballet back to Hamilton once again. I have recently been to the Aotea Theatre in Auckland x2 in the last month because of the closing of our theatre, and this theatre is what Hamilton needs. It will cost us as ratepayers but the cost will only get more as the years go by. Build new I say!	No	No	
1554	Refurbish	Yes	1) Refurbishment because it is affordable in the short term. 2) A new theatre is desirable and would be cheaper in the ling run.	No	No	
1555	Refurbish	No	It is a future Historic Building - if every council/city in England demolished old buildings and didn't maintain/restore them, there would be NO history - architecture/cultural events/concerts etc. Hamilton NEEDS it and Claudelands.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1556	Refurbish	Not Answered	I believe that the state of the existing building regarding its seismic condition should be evaluated before a decision on the 'alternatives' can be considered. One would think that the renovation could be completed more quickly, than 2 years.	No	No	
1557	Build New		Build new is the only option - site is by the river and take advantage of the setting like MRP have. Refurbishment will only be papering over the cracks! After rebuild, demolish it and turn it to green space.	No	No	
1558	Refurbish	Not Answered	Submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 1558 Insert – 2 pages long

DRURY LANE DANCE & PERFORMANCE

(ESTABLISHED 1968)

PRINCIPAL MRS. A.M. DOWNEY N.Z.A.M.D. B.A.L. (T.C.) B.B.O. (T.C.)
TUTOR – EXAMINER & ADJUDICATOR. AREA ORGANISER NZAMD

TELEPHONE 07 8569607 – MOBILE 021 0321945 - FAX 07 8569652

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To Whom it May Concern – re Founders Theatre

9/6/16

The closing of the Founders Theatre is a tragedy and extremely disappointing and a great loss to the performing arts, local and visiting, in all their diverse forms.

I can recall being invited to many meetings going back some years re the updating and repairs at the Theatre but only the very minimum seems to have been done which has now brought it to this very unfortunate result.

As a life member of HOS I have been very involved in their productions in the Theatre for many many years as a performer, ballet mistress, dance captain, choreographer, director, stage manager and board member, working mainly with well known directors such as Bobbie Alderton and the late Robert Young, doing, sometimes, up to 8 productions a year, the larger ones held in the Founders Theatre. It was almost 'home' for many local performers and although it had some limitations it was a great place to perform in and could be adapted in many ways to suit different styles of shows – and still could be.

Over the last 30 plus years our dance studio 'Drury Lane Dance & Performance' has held its annual end of year production in the Founders Theatre, where it has been very much looked forward to by students, parents and audiences alike. Although over the last few years the cost of Founders hire has been a worry.

We have also been very involved in the Founders with many varied groups such as - Miss NZ pageants, school productions, Ag Art wear, Rivertones concerts - competitions etc etc to name a few.

This is our only town hall and although there are other venues we can and now have to use it is really not the same. Less audience capacity – difficult sight lines in some auditoriums – lack of good sized Foyers (limited or no coffee and shop facilities) – lack of equipment – lack of a Fly Tower in most – limited backstage space, limited parking (Clarence St Theatre) etc etc, also lack of 'ambience' and that great 'theatre' feel.

After much thought, discussion and attendance at many meetings I recommend that the Founders be upgraded in accordance with the recommendations of the first option. The city cannot afford to be without a performance venue such as the

Founders for the considerable length of time it is suggested it will take to replace it. It is really an embarrassment to see travelling professional shows and ballets etc bypassing Hamilton, and nowhere for larger local productions to be performed.

Option1. Refurbish Founders – in time - a second Theatre could be added on to the Founders for those that require different acoustics (no fly tower), such as choirs and orchestras, with less seating capacity. Also a full time working large restaurant and bar that could also be used by Stadium audiences, conferences etc. Enlarged parking areas and perhaps large rehearsal areas that could still be used during stage-set up times and during performances.

This could be a wonderful cultural centre, it is not too far from the CDB where parking is and would be a problem, it could be run separately by a very committed Arts group. The whole complex would be a great asset to our growing city.

Option 2. Refurbish Founders and while it is still in use build a bigger better Arts complex including all the above.

(To build a new Theatre a similar size to Founders would be a complete waste of time and funds).

In Brief

Option 1. Refurbish (please)

Build on specialized Theatre complex (in time)

Add a Restaurant & Bar, working independently and full time

Enlarged rehearsal and backstage areas

Added parking.

Option 2. Build a bigger better Arts complex (including above suggestions) while Founders is still in use.

This has been written on behalf of Kerry Davis and all members of the Drury Lane Dance & Performance Studio.

Sincerely



Aileen Downey

Drury Lane Dance & Performance

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1559	Refurbish	No	Cost consideration and history of current building.	No	No	
1560	Demolish		Can't afford it.	No	No	
1561	Refurbish	No	1. There is nothing wrong with the present site of Founders. It is set in attractive, spacious surroundings, parking is not a problem. It is away from the restaurant/bar area of the city so there is no problem with drunken or loutish interactions with theatregoers. 2. The stage house/flytower obviously need a major rebuild to bring the facility up to scratch. Do this without delay. 3. Depending on the seismic report not yet published, the auditorium may not need major attention immediately. In fact it may be adequate for some years yet and could be dealt with on a grander scale at a later date and possibly enlarged also. By that time the population could have grown to support more ambitious plans.. 5. The theatre is just over 50 years old - not a long theatrical life by any means - and how many earthquakes have there been recorded in Hamilton over its life to date? 6. The city will be very disadvantaged as long as Founders is out of action - it is imperative that we get it reopened again ASAP as the constraints of finance and planning requirements allow. A new theatre complex on another site will require much thought, planning and finance which will take a lot of time and effort. Let's not be too hasty - refurbishing Founders will be fine in the interim! 7. While bright and shiny new is much coveted in this day and age, Founders has been a cornerstone in the cultural life of the city for many citizens who have had a strong emotional attachment to it for many years. That should not be trampled on.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1562	Build New		Because the current theatre is not very disability friendly or easily accessible to those with a disability or have to use a mobility aid like a walking frame, wheelchair. As an older person with a disability I find it difficult to use the current theatre. A new theatre can be future proofed and build in a disability friendly way and made accessible to our whole population including our aging population and much better parking around or under a new building is going to be easier if purpose built rather than a retrofit of a refurbished existing building which will not easily accommodate the improvements needed for a future long term facility.	No	No	
1563	Build New		Speaking as a group of disabled stroke survivors their caregivers and families the current theatre is not very disability friendly or easily accessible to those with a disability who have to use a disability aid like a walking frame, wheelchair, crutch or walking stick. A new theatre can be future proofed and built in a disability friendly way and made fully accessible to our whole population including our disabled and aging population and much better accessible parking around or under a new building is going to be easier achieved if purpose built rather than a retrofit of a refurbished existing building which will not easily accommodate the improvements required for a future long term facility.	No	Yes	
1564	Refurbish	No	Quicker turn around and they are going to expand areas	No	No	
1565	Demolish		-	No	No	
1566	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1567	Refurbish	Yes	Born in Hamilton some 60 years ago, I have been to numerous shows at the Founders.... The founders sits in wonderful spacious grounds. Parking is easy round about the venue. Yes, the theatre could be improved, it is old, but the location , environs and name are well worth saving . Why not offer we locals the chance to buy a brick , or piece of wood to help with costs..... This is a valued piece of Hamilton....	No	No	
1568	Demolish		I'm not a Hamilton resident now though I was one for many years and still work in Hamlton. I would suggest the money for refurbishment would be better spent in making the Claudelands venue more able to be used for other events, which would probably improve its commercial viability somewhat.	No	No	
1569	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders Theatre is important for its historical value in Hamilton and should retain the design features it was originally built with. This building offers the ability to draw and engage with cultural treasures by having an orchestra pit, moving backdrops, teared seating with wheelchair access, a reception area and specific green rooms for housing actors and/or performers. There is an urgent need to upgrading the facilities within the building as they have been left to deteriorate for far too long. Hamilton draws from a huge area of smaller contributing towns and are very connected through rural links, commerce and industry making Hamilton a central focus to provide opportunity for cultural entertainment on a grand scale.	No	No	
1570	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1571	Refurbish	Yes	I feel that the refurbishment will provide us with everything we require. It is also good to keep part of our history. An 'up to date' theatre is essential for Hamilton as it is a fast growing city and we have to offer people a place to go to the orchestra ballet, plays etc. If a refurbishment isn't going to provide a top theatre then I would support a new theatre being built.	No	No	
1572	Build New		we need a theater that will be able to hold a larger crowd with the growing population of Hamilton, it will also draw more shows here.	No	No	
1573	Refurbish	No	Why spend 30 million more to build a new one of a similar size and scale when for 30 million less you can refurbish the existing to just as good a standard	No	No	
1574	Refurbish	Yes	The theatre is an important part of Hamilton's history, and a fantastic centrally located venue for Hamilton's future. I don't think we can afford to build new - we also desperately need to invest in Hamilton so we match what has happened in other regional centres i.e. New Plymouth - ocean walkway and Len Lye Center, Napier - museum and cycle ways. Our riverpath needs points of interest to encourage more people to want to use it i.e. historical billboards, native plant or bird information, and needs to be safer in behind the casino.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1575	Build New		My preference is for a new theatre to be built on the existing Founders Theatre site. In my opinion, this is an ideal location, as it would be situated in the attractive park/surrounding green space already set aside for such a venue and it would help to bring much needed life and focus back to the central city, which has lost its vibrant and lively heart as retail and residential development at the northern end of Hamilton continues to depress the city centre. This existing location would also be closer to businesses (including cafes and restaurants) and hotel/motel accommodation which offers greater convenience for both visiting artists, city visitors and local audiences. As an alternative, the suggestion that a theatre could be built adjacent or as an extension to, the Gallagher Performing Arts Centre on the Waikato University Campus has some merit in terms of developing/expanding the existing performing arts complex in attractive surroundings, but this location would also take the focus away from the city centre and its amenities and possibly be less accessible to city visitors, as well as local residents. To cater for a wider variety of performances and large-scale touring productions which would appeal to and attract a larger and more diverse audience, I believe a city the size of Hamilton needs a new purpose-built venue if it is going to offer a cultural centre to boost the cultural and creative art scene in the city. At present we suffer culturally from our proximity to Auckland and miss many of the touring performances that our residents and visitors could enjoy. It does not enhance the appeal of Hamilton as a place to live if residents have to travel to Tauranga, Rotorua (both smaller cities than ours) or Auckland, to see a show!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			The population in the city and surrounding towns such as Cambridge is also set to grow at a rapid rate as the cost of living in Auckland escalates and infrastructure congestion leads many Aucklanders to question their quality of life and to look for alternative, less stressful and more affordable locations in which to live, work and pursue their leisure interests and activities. Offering a new theatre as well as excellent sports venues could help to attract potential residents to our city. We pride ourselves on being a multi-cultural city and a new theatre would also offer a venue for us to celebrate this cultural diversity.			
1576	Build New		My preference if for a new theatre to be built on the existing Founders Theatre site. In my opinion, this is an ideal location, as it would be situated in the attractive park/surrounding green space already set aside for such a venue and it would help to bring much needed life and focus back to the central city, which has lost its vibrant and lively heart as retail and residential development at the northern end of Hamilton continues to depress the city centre. This existing location would also be closer to businesses (including cafes and restaurants) and hotel/motel accomodation which offers greater convenience for both visiting artists, city visitors and local audiences. As an alternative,the suggestion that a theatre could be built adjacent or as an extension to, the Gallagher Performing Arts Centre on the Waikato University Campus has some merit in terms of developing/expanding the existing performing arts comlex in attractive surroundings, but this location would also take the focus away from the city centre and its amenities and possibly be less accessible to city visitors, as well as local residents.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
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1577	Refurbish	Yes	Because we want to have a big enough theatre in Hamilton and it is is \$30,00m less of a cost then the rebuild	No	No	
1578	Demolish		-	No	No	
1579	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1580	Refurbish	No	Save Hamilton's Founders' Theatre! It would demonstrate more support for the performing arts by providing even more performance venue options that can cater for all artists, groups and events instead of closing & demolishing one. There is no need to spend \$50 million on completing replacing the Founders', but instead refurbish it well enough for the NZ Ballet to want to come back to Hamilton and then spend the remaining millions on supporting the performing arts in other ways.	No	No	
1581	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is still suitable for the purpose it was built for. Any theatre requires regular maintenance, refurbishment and upgrading.	No	No	
1582	Refurbish	No	Cheapest, quickest option that provides a quality venue.	No	No	
1583	Refurbish	Yes	We need a theatre in central Hamilton, however as a rate payer I do not wish to spend truck loads	No	No	
1584	Build New		Fixing up the existing building would be a waste of money in the long run. Hamilton should have a theatre large enough to take touring shows such as musicals, to have ballet with an orchestra, better, modern acoustics and more parking. A better site than the present one? By the river could be good, though underground parking must be considered.	No	No	
1585	Refurbish	No	Founders is an important part of our city. It is centrally located and is able to house a variety of performances within walking distance to the CBD. I think it is imperative that the building is brought up to standard and can be used by our region. It is a sad state of affairs that it has been left to get to this point. Spaces such as these are an essential part of the city and our region.	No	No	
1586	Demolish		-	No	No	
1587	Demolish		-	No	No	
1588	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1589	Refurbish	Yes	There are so many historical memories for families young and old at Founders and I believe that refurbishing it will maintain those memories while allowing brand new ones to be built on top....	No	No	
1590	Demolish		-	No	No	
1591	Demolish		-	No	No	
1592	Demolish		-	No	No	
1593	Demolish		-	No	No	
1594	Build New		Often big productions skip Hamilton as our theatres are not large enough to accomodate them. Going up to Auckland for all shows is expensive, and shouldn't be needed when Hamilton is a big city	No	No	
1595	Demolish		-	No	No	
1596	Demolish		-	No	No	
1597	Build New		A new theatre could be on a site closer to the entertainment area of the city and to the river. It could be a landmark building that is an asset to Hamilton - rather than the very dated looking existing building. A completely new building could be more fit for purpose than a refurbished one.	No	No	
1598	Build New		City is larger than Dunedin and Tauranga and needs to present with better facilities than they do. A new theatre in the River precinct will go a long way to revitalising the city. The facility needs to be fit for purpose in 20 years as well as just making do now. I do go to events at the smaller venues and would go to events at a new facility.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1599	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs a modern facility (& to also think of the future growth & needs of our city's population). It needs to be a facility good enough to attract touring shows. It should be moved into a location closer to the restaurants/nightlife to provide an all round entertainment experience, for locals and visitors. Moving it closer to the central city area will uplift/boost the future look for our CBD to tie in with the river plan project. A drawcard for the city, to make it more attractive.	No	No	
1600	Refurbish	No	The bones of the present building and the surrounding infrastructure such as roading, water, sewerage already exist. Refurbishment is also a lower cost option with consequence lower impact on rates. The HC C has already invested heavily in other under utilised and under performing assets such as the Stadium, Events Centre not mention the V8's. Many of theses larger facilities can also be viewed as regional facilities which benefit not only Hamilton ratepayers. Thus any investment should consider sources of funding other than rates. Hamilton rates are already too high. With investments of this kind consideration must be given to utilisation with maximum utilisation for the investment considered. Ratepayers do not need another under-utilised "white elephant".	No	No	
1601	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs a theatre for dance productions. Refurbishment is cheaper and more timely than a rebuild.	No	No	
1602	Demolish		-	No	No	
1603	Demolish		-	No	No	
1604	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1605	Refurbish	No	Hamilton is a vibrant, growing city and a cultural centre such as the Founders Theatre is essential otherwise the city would become a "cultural backwater". The current site should be kept as it is attractive, close to the city centre and easily accessible with ample close parking. In these rather hard pressed financial times, the lower cost of refurbishment would probably be more acceptable to ratepayers than building new also the shorter time span for completion makes refurbishment a better option. I wonder if the 4% drop in the number of people attending events there is because many of the larger productions could not be accommodated at the theatre so people have had to go elsewhere. A larger stage and better facilities should address this. A high standard of refurbishment would be wonderful	No	No	
1606	Demolish		-	No	No	
1607	Build New		Yes we need a ood theatre for symphony and Ballet productions. I think that building new would allow for a facility which will take into account the needs of a growing population, and not restrict the facility to what is feasible/ possible to adapt from existing.	No	Yes	
1608	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1609	Build New		In my opinion the Founders Theatre would be better utilised and a better attraction for the city if it was moved into the city theatre. This move would fit in with the City Centre revitalisation plan and help towards rebuilding and enticing patronage back into the centre. The site could become a recreational park that is accessible from the city centre and the Frankton area. Apart from the riverbank there is no other park in close proximity to the city centre or the Frankton area where workers are able to take time out from their places of employment. The restrictions on refurbishing are too great and the parking issues in the area will still remain.	No	No	
1610	Build New		UTILISE THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER!!!!!! Have the guts to stand- up and actually DO something instead of plans that just get changed at the next change of council.	No	No	
1611	Build New		High cost of refurb, building new provides more opportunity to build fit for modern purpose and consider alternative locations	No	No	
1612	Refurbish	No	The acoustics of Riverlea and the Meteor are adequate, but not sound. The acoustics of Clarence St Theatre are appalling. Even sitting up front it is difficult to hear. As a sound engineer with 25 years experience, I can state with confidence that the acoustics of the current founders are better than any theatre I've seen in the Waikato - they are world class. With any re-design there is the possibility of some idiot without acoustic construction expertise to fuck the whole thing up. And given the expense, I don't honestly understand why anybody would in all seriousness float the option. The theatre had started bringing international acts to Hamilton that would never have made a showing otherwise. It would be a shame to lose out on that.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1613	Refurbish	Yes	Refurb,attract more events to preform for the waikato and surrounding areas. People love travelling to hamilton as opposed to new plymouth or auckland.	No	No	
1614	Build New		I feel the existing founders theatre is tired and dated and by revamping it the costs could easily rise. However by demolishing it and building a new one that is much more user friendly and visually appealing would enhance Hamilton as a place to attract more events, concerts etc	No	No	
1615	Build New		The whole facility is old and tired. Build new is an effective way to give the city a facility that meet today's requirements and can be future-proofed for the future.	No	No	
1616	Demolish		-	No	No	
1617	Demolish		-	No	No	
1618	Demolish		-	No	No	
1619	Demolish		-	No	No	
1620	Demolish		-	No	No	
1621	Demolish		-	No	No	
1622	Demolish		-	No	No	
1623	Refurbish	No	Lower cost and we still get a theatre. I've never had a problem with parking at Founders and I like the park-like surrounds. I know that one of the arguments for an alternative site was a closer access to hospitality of the south end - but if that is really important to people they will get there or the hospitality people could put on free shuttles. My next choice would be to further investigate the university theatre option - I've currently had personal interest in a number of american universities which have their cities major theatre as part of their campus.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1624	Refurbish	Yes	Because we need a theatre now. Not waiting for years for a new one	No	No	
1625	Build New		Why not embrace and create something iconic for Hamilton? Claudelands has been a superb investment for the city and has seen a significant economic impact from the conferences and events it has hosted. Now is the time to invest again in the arts sector. Consider building a purpose built theatre for arts, dance and performance. The city needs a new venue and not refurbishing the existing. The old building has ongoing maintenance issues, poor parking and the stage is too small. Think big and think bold Hamilton City Council.	No	No	
1626	Refurbish	Yes	We need the theatre in Hamilton. I recently attended stage challenge at Clarence street and they don't have the size capacity to run an event like that to the same standard.	No	No	
1627	Refurbish	Not Answered	-	No	No	
1628	Refurbish	Yes	I believe this option is preferable because we don't need a new facility in the city. Once this is refurbished it will be like a new building with all updated things as required. We still have the other places like Clarence St theatre, Claudlands Conference Center and Mystery Creek.	No	No	
1629	Refurbish	No	I think the present situation is ideal. Why spend \$50 million when \$20 million will give us a lovely theatre.	No	No	
1630	Demolish		Too expensive to either refurbish or new build. Council should avoid getting into ventures are not self sustaining.	No	No	
1631	Build New		Current space is not very flexible. Rebuild to multi-function/size theatre spaces. Soul-less building - aesthetically it's a concrete jungle.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1632	Build New		The current theatre has very poor accoustics that detract badly during classical musical productions. The theatre also has an inadequate area to hold a full orchestra.	No	No	
1633	Refurbish	Yes	Rebuilding the theater would be ideal however realistically the cost might be too high - so we need to at the very least refurbish it. However in doing so, the refurbishment should hopefully be done in close consultation with the Hamilton arts community. Young creative groups such as ZEAL and other youth organisations involved in the community should be involved in providing input on the facilities and specifications of the new refurbished model to ensure that it is fit for purpose into the future.	No	No	
1634	Build New		My dream is to have a brand new theatre, future proofed for 100 years. I would be happy to wait for a state of the art theatre over a short term refurbishment as long as something is built within 5 years.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1635	Demolish		I have not ticked any of the above, because I believe another option has not been presented for consideration and that is: To keep the Founders theatre, largely as it is. To build a new theatre to suit the specialised needs that Founders does not allegedly satisfy; or To encourage another body, such as the University, to build such a theatre and to support this financially. To support this view, I would offer the following: I am a registered architect and joined the firm of Leigh, deLisle and Fraser just as the theatre was being completed. The design of the theatre was regarded at the time as being significant for a growing city and was, as you are aware, funded by public donation. Aubrey deLisle was sent by council to research the latest overseas design trends for theatres. The brief was difficult, the funds were limited, but the final result was a major achievement. The building received a design award from the local branch of the NZ Institute of Architects The brief was for a theatre that would serve a variety of purposes, from small scale dramatic productions with no amplification to large scale musical productions with full amplification. It was to be a multi-use venue. The site is a significant one in the City and its grounds provide an appropriate setting for the theatre and include two special fountains, the first being a memorial to Dame Hilda Ross.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			The options listed as being considered at the Council meeting did not include building a new Theatre on a new site as well as retaining and re-validating the Founder's building for continued use in a restricted role, say for musical performances, conferences and dramatic productions not requiring the use of a fly tower. It can be argued, that a fly tower is not a necessity, in any case. With the increasing utilization of LED screen technology, it is extremely easy to provide stage scenery of the type that would otherwise be flown from a tower. This system allows photorealism if required and can be changed without disruption to the flow of the performance. There have been many proposals considered over the years by the firm I was involved with that looked at various schemes to expand the size and provide for bigger productions, but the building is not well suited to being enlarged due to its specific design form. We did, however design and manage the implementation of many smaller alterations as technology and expectations of users developed. I challenge the need for seismic strengthening. I have access to a structural report, dated 7 December 2007, produced for the Hamilton City Council by Gordon Hughes, consulting engineer, which analysed the structure of the building from the original engineering drawings and found it met the requirements of the building code. The report also makes the comment that the building was well designed and is in good condition. There would appear to be no valid structural reason prohibiting its continued use, but I believe Mr Hughes should be invited to update his report since there have been changes to the engineering code recently.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			Concerning the acoustic quality of the auditorium, most of the perceived shortcomings are a result of the Fan Shaped auditorium together with the high volume of the fly tower. The fan shape was considered at the time of design to be the favoured shape for new theatres, as was well demonstrated in significant examples overseas. There were many attempts to modify the acoustic quality of the space and to provide sound reflectors on the stage for orchestral performances. It is doubtful if any further attempts will produce significant effects. The use of LED backdrops allowing the closing off of the tower may however be useful. I have no desire to try to make the Founders fit current performance venue requirements and welcome the idea of a new theatre; but I believe the citizens of Hamilton owe it to themselves to respect all that the Founder's Theatre has offered over its life.			
1636	Demolish		-	No	No	
1637	Demolish		-	No	No	
1638	Demolish		-	No	No	
1639	Demolish		-	No	No	
1640	Demolish		Obviously it is the most cost effective solution and with capital investment already established at the Claudlands Events Center this seems a good alternative. I realise modifications would have to be undertaken but was surprised this scenario was not listed as a forth option. Surely encouraging patronage of the underutilised Claudlands Events Center would be a good thing.	No	No	
1641	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1642	Refurbish	No	Would like to keep the original building - like an icon for Hamilton. Just update building	No	No	
1643	Refurbish	No	Keep the original building design as has character and icon of Hamilton. Just make it safer	No	No	
1644	Demolish		-	No	No	
1645	Demolish		-	No	No	
1646	Demolish		-	No	No	
1647	Demolish		-	No	No	
1648	Refurbish	No	Hamilton City has enough debt	No	No	
1649	Build New		Building new gives greater flexibility for events and sets up the Theatre for the next 30-50 years without further refurbishment which would be necessary under the other options.	No	No	
1650	Refurbish	No	We should keep the status quo as we need a theatre around the 1200 seat capacity in this city. The New Zealand ballet won't come to Hamilton any more as the theatre is closed and there is no other venue that they can use. The same applies to the Symphony Orchestra. There would also be other gigs that we are probably missing out on for example comedian Alan Davies.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1651	Refurbish	No	1. The present building has some definite historical significance having been built for the City's 1964 Centennial. Its demolition would destroy that feature of Hamilton's history and character and further decrease the 'historic building resource' of the City which is a fast diminishing phenomenon today. 2. A new building would have no such historical significance and would simply be a much more costly and time consuming project producing a new facility without any special meaning for Hamilton other than being a 'costly new theatre'. 3. Upgrading at \$20m is a much lesser cost and more acceptable option to enable the present theatre to function as a modern facility able to accommodate a wide variety of large and more complex shows. That is as much as we need. We should not try to be a 'world-event' centre which is beyond our capabilities. 4. The temptation to build a 'super' complex in a city the size of Hamilton is to be avoided. The V8 fiasco here and the building of large stadiums elsewhere (eg. Dunedin) has proved to be a great folly and must not happen now. Ratepayers are real people and their pockets are not bottomless just to satisfy the egos of some people who are unrealistic about what is a logical, meaningful and attainable objective for Hamilton at this time of its history and development. 5. The time frame of 2-3 years is the shortest time to be without the theatre and, therefore, the period of least inconvenience to the City's people and visiting performers who wish to present their shows to the City. 6. A rates increase of \$28 would be acceptable over a 20 year period for the provision of a very adequate facility. 7. The delayed meeting of the debt/revenue target from 2020 to 2022 would be reasonably minor and quite acceptable for the resultant gain of a really good theatre at the least cost both in terms of both money and time for the City.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1652	Build New		Chance to update and give us a new theatre for another 25-30 years. Don't loose the opportunity for the sack of money.	No	No	
1653	Refurbish	No	Not only is it the cheapest option p it would also be the fastest. A city the size of Hamilton needs to be able to provide the venue to accommodate the musical/theatrical arts. As a ratepayer of 45 years I am appalled that Founders Theatre was not kept up to the requirements it needed!	No	No	
1654	Build New		I would expect the option below to be done whether the theatre was refurbished or brand new.	No	No	
1655	Build New		We can then enjoy magnificent performances enhanced by the latest developments in theatre construction. Performers and audiences alike would benefit. Keep the theatre central - easy access for all people.	No	No	
1656	Refurbish	No	It is central to the city, it belongs to the city. It is a small, intimate venue. Parking is reasonably good.	No	No	
1657	Build New		For the long term, it is better to invest now in arts and cultural performances, so we can attract more shows and larger ones as well.	No	No	
1658	Demolish		See below.	No	No	

Submitter 1658 Insert – 2 pages long

-----Original Message-----

From: "Angela Grace Clements"

Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2016 7:00 PM

To: "info@hcc.govt.nz" <info@hcc.govt.nz>

Cc: "info@hcc.govt.nz" <info@hcc.govt.nz>

Subject:

Angela Grace Clements

TO WHOMEVER IT MAY CONCERN

Greetings

My suggestion for the verbal hearing date on the '7th of July 2016' - at the Councils Municipal Building at Garden place, be around brought up discussed details of -

“OPTION ONE” .. or .. “OPTION TWO”

In my opinion NOT - .. “OPTION THREE” .. - for me!

You ask WHY?

I say in reply -

“THINK FIRST!

and

THEN ACT!!"

.. Why should - “OPTION THREE” - be a “NO FOR ME?” ..

Why should your humble voting public in Hamilton/Kirikiriroa have to pay your council 300K merely just to have it closed?

Do we NOT need to have a greater creative space for theatre in the city? Somewhere bigger than Clarence Street Theatre and Riverlea Theatre on Riverlea Road?

I along with others in my same year studied a year at - “RIVERLEA THEATREs ADULT STAGECRAFT DRAMA SCHOOL in 2004,” on Riverlea Road, Hillcrest, HAMILTON/KIRIKIRIROA.

WHY should we as you Waikato Provincial constituencies, of your council have to travel to other places, such as to the likes of Rotorua or Auckland to see such shows in the creative arts that we used to be able to enjoy through “Founders Theatre,” when it was still open here?

We would still now and in the future would want to be able to enjoy seeing our national theatre companies perform - locally in our city, through - acting theatre stage shows ballet, operas, AND military theatre/opera/dance performance (traditional)/(including traditional Maori dance).

ALL of these mentioned in this last sentence through our local - “HAMILTON PLAYBOX REPERTORY SOCIETY (INC),” - represented through our current head of state, as our country is still part of Her Majesty the Queen of England’s Commonwealth.

I as a citizen of this same Commonwealth Country, would like to see that we could see overseas performances in our city in a space the same or similar to what our local ‘Founders Theatre’ for decades has been, continue to come from overseas not just from our land so to speak. Such as all countries of the traditional United Kingdom, countries of greater Europe and Australia. Old school performances and continued olden days training in our ‘acting theatre’ here in this country from ‘BBC Theatre’, would be great..And - ‘theatre ballet and opera from hundreds of years ago in greater Europe from centuries pre 1900 gone by.’ .. Of course as we all know - ‘original traditional circuses’ AND ‘original traditional classical ballet - as a strict dance form’ - both began in the centuries old nation of France.

‘Clarence Theatre’ - is small. And another bigger stage (traditional theatre stage) in this city here I feel is needed.

I also humbly suggest - “up for debate by Riverlea Theatres Stagecraft Acting Directors and our local Waikato Province/Hamilton Playbox Repertory Society (Inc)” - is that, could it be possible that a decision be made, (should no modern ‘future Riverlea Theatre make future use of — the our past ‘FOUNDERS THEATRES’ original ‘FLYING SYSTEM’) .. Could this same ‘original Flying System,’ .. be used by the likes of “RIVERA THEATRES STAGECRAFT DRAMA SCHOOL” in “Riverlea Theatre on Riverlea Road,” ..

for students of all ages in present tense and future tense continuing to keep being studying of how this very original yesteryear (pre 2016) “Flying System,” has worked, for the whole time our “FOUNDERS THEATRE,” we enjoyed the years where it opened for and for each and every one of those performances it worked for in legal records of the now "Closed FOUNDERS Theatre," on 'legal historical record of our Waikato/Hamilton Playbox Repertory Society (Inc)."

Yours sincerely

Angela Grace Clements
PUBLISHED ARTIST/AUTHOR

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1659	Refurbish	No	A digestion building with plenty of parking in nearby streets. It is centrally located. Designed by a top notch architect and built by an honest and fantastic builder.	No	No	
1660	Refurbish	No	A good solution and less to ratepayers.	No	No	
1661	Build New		The Founders Theatre is an essential venue for overseas artists. If we build it from new all parts of it will be new and we wont need to re-new other parts later.	No	Yes	
1662	Build New		I watched the Founders Theatre being built - outlived its time. Build a new one with all mod/cons that Hamilton can be proud of.	No	No	
1663	Build New		If the structure of a building is unsafe, it does not make sense to try major repairs. It is not as though the building is well designed. To start a fresh and get it right would be ideal. Perhaps the Waikato District Council could help with costs?	No	No	
1664	Build New		I think there is enough parking and people are used to going to the theatre there. You could also use some of the green space for parking.	No	No	
1665	Refurbish	No	It is essential we have a venue for the NZ Ballet Company, the orchestra, visiting musicians, local theatre productions etc and we should have a suitable venue NOW. It is many years since NZ Ballet stopped coming to Hamilton on a regular basis.	No	No	
1666	Refurbish	Not Answered	Hamilton has a history of destroying its heritage and replacing with ugliness!! The Founders Theatre is one of Hamilton's last icons and needs to be kept.	No	Yes	
1667	Refurbish	Not Answered	Its situation, is perfect, just enlarge and repair.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1668	Refurbish	No	I think it is a lovely theatre in an ideal situation and a memorial to the Founding Members of Hamilton who worked so hard to get us a theatre.	No	No	
1669	Refurbish	No	Character worth retaining.	No	No	
1670	Build New		The Founders Theatre is not in the right location in Frankton. Needs to be part of downtown by cafes, bars and other theatres. Other 2 options are not valid for the long term.	No	No	
1671	Build New		Theatre needs to be in the centre of the city - to be the centre of entertainment cafes, bars, restaurants. A refurbishment will mean the same discussion happening again in 102-years and then again....	No	No	
1672	Build New		1. Existing site is not close to the entertainment area of Hamilton 2. Existing theatre has poor acoustics and there is no mentioning the refurbishment option of rectifying that. 3. For 40% of the cost of a new theatre we would just get a patched up theatre, which I believe we would quickly regret. 4. Although the building of a new theatre would take longer, there is the opportunity to incorporate it within the new river developments and have a world class facility that we could be proud of, and enhance tourism.	No	No	
1673	Build New		Would like to have a purpose built building.	No	No	
1674	Build New		Hamilton is a progressive, fast growing city and as such needs a vibrant arts sector. A new purpose built venue would encourage this sector and provide for the future needs of the city. It would bring a sense of pride to the city. It would be an opportunity to design a state of the art venue without the restriction of adapting an outdated dilapidated building.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1675	Build New		I was born in Hamilton and remember the opening years of the theatre well. It gave an enormous boost to the arts community and most importantly an identity for Hamiltonians. Somehow that appears to have slipped away. Time to start afresh.	No	No	
1676	Refurbish	No	This memorial theatre was built to celebrate 100 years of Hamilton.and should be retained and respected. I like the theatre. It is a cheaper option for everyone.	No	No	
1677	Refurbish	No	Should bring building up to standard.	No	No	
1678	Build New		I am originally from a big city and have traveled around to many vibrant city's and found that the best city's in the world have a sense of culture and the arts. Hamilton although it is a great city to live in, it could benefit from more culture and arts. I have been to the founders theatre quiet a few times for various shows and found it dated and unwelcoming. I would like to see Hamilton having a theatre that reflects the possibility's of what Hamilton is and can become. We are a growing city. Lets build something in the heart of our city that reflects who we are as Hamiltonian's and that can accommodate class acts from around the world as well as class acts from our city -Hamilton.	No	No	
1679	Refurbish	No	This is a boutique theatre in a superb setting and is liked by orchestra and performers. Option one is adequate - besides a building such as this should last more than 50 years.	No	No	
1680	Build New		We should be looking at the next 50+ years. A refurbished building cannot meet this need.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1681	Refurbish	No	The replacement of the fly tower and possible widening and extension of the stage should be possible within a time frame of 2 years. A cultural void of many years will be the result if the other suggestions are followed.	No	Yes	
1682	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1683	Refurbish	No	As long as refurbishing increases the size of the stage so that Hamilton can host major theatre attractions.	No	No	
1684	Refurbish	No	All my family and friends have attended numerous events at the Founders Theatre from its original opening. It's ambience, convenience and confort transend all other venues (reminiscent of Auckland's Civic Theatre) that it would be totally appropriate to restore it.	No	Yes	
1685	Refurbish	No	The auditorium has been improved over the years, eg. seating and acoustics but the stage/fly-tower etc need renovation/enlarging and updating.	No	No	
1686	Build New		Hamilton needs a theatre that can hold major productions and shows that are available. The city will continue to grow and it is important for the people of Hamilton and the Waikato to have a cultural centre that can accommodate these events. Commercial interests could be involved in the financing as provision to utilise space for retail and other supporting business would be attractive. We must have vision for Hamilton's future, which needs a modern theatre.	No	No	
1687	Refurbish	No	Due to cost.	No	No	
1688	Refurbish	Yes	Save money to spend helping house poor.	No	No	
1689	Refurbish	No	Situation - central, an attractive park like surroundings. Time frame more acceptable than build new.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1690	Refurbish	No	This is urgently needed for the performing arts and is the quickest option. The building new option is likely to see costs escalating over the \$50m. The refurbishment option will meet the need.	No	No	
1691	Build New		I think Hamilton deserves a new cultural centre, otherwise it gets behind other towns. Claudelands big "monster" has got only limited cultural events-use-despite winning the architect award, if I'm not mistaken.	No	Yes	
1692	Demolish		Concentrate on Claudelands and Clarence St Theatre.	No	No	
1693	Refurbish	No	Because it is the cheapest cost-wise. The building should be retained as it was built by our "Founders". We need a theatre facility "now" and refurbishment is the quickest "time-frame", to facilitate this.	No	No	
1694	Refurbish	No	I think that in the long term it would be the most economical.	No	No	
1695	Refurbish	No	Have attend performances over three years ago and found the theatre to be an excellent venue. Hamilton needs a good theatre and the cost of a new one is too high.	No	No	
1696	Refurbish	Yes	Maintain Founders as a "historic" building - so many are being demolished - fast! Cheaper financially.	No	No	
1697	Refurbish	No	I feel the time-line for any of the other options is far too long. We need the Theatre to be operating as soon as possible.	No	No	
1698	Refurbish	No	I feel that the outcome of the first two options is the same, ie. size of shows that will be able to perform there. The cost is less and repayment sooner.	No	No	
1699	Refurbish	No	Because it makes better financial sense to upgrade refurbish and most of all MAINTAIN what we've got.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1700	Build New		We would appreciate a first class MODERN theatre as an asset to Hamilton which we can be proud of! It could look magnificent in the middle of the park with more parking space for theatre goers.	No	No	
1701	Refurbish	Not Answered	See attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 1701 Insert – 1 page long

Hamilton City Council
Hamilton.

M.C.
16-6-16.

Founders Theatre Submission.

Hi Folks,

I would only be in favour of Option 1
(refurbishment).

Surely when the theatre was built on Boyes Park
it was for the long term: Not just 50yrs and
bowled over.

Over the years considerable amounts of ratepayers
money has been spent on improvements etc.

The public who use this facility cant jyst expect
everything to be new!

How has the fly system become dangerous?
Surely this is a lack of foresight in the
maintenance programme.

It is always stated that consultants make
forward planning reports. These at a considerable
cost.

Things have to alter because it seems the
present system has failed.

Founders Theatre should have been kept up to
the required standard without closure. This is
wrong!

Now we have arrived at this situation, the
remedial work needs to be undertaken so
the existing Theatre is fully utilised.

Yours,
Ray Kett.

PS It seems like a lot of dumb
decisions have been made over
the years in relation to our
Council operated venues, with all
the costs just put onto the ratepayers.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1702	Refurbish	Yes	Lower cost to general rate payers	No	No	
1703	Demolish		HCC are having problems staying within their budget. So instead of Founders, Claudelands Centre, and Waikato Stadium all struggling, put the funding to creating a space to hold functions that would have been at the Founders Theatre. Better parking would be needed (ie. not walking through muddy grass).	No	No	
1704	Refurbish	Yes	Its cheaper than Build New option and the venue is a cheaper/small place to be able to hire/use in Hamilton compared to the new Claudelands option.	No	No	
1705	Build New		The city is growing to be a major city and should have a top class Theatre. \$40 million plus was spent approximately 10 years ago on upgrade of Seddon and Rugby Parks. In today's money \$50 million equates and the facility would be used a lot more than those two facilities. Get on and get it done!	No	No	
1706	Build New		BUT - it must be well designed and central city positioned NOT university.	No	No	
1707	Demolish		20 million is a lot of money and so is 50 million. Where! I mean who will pay this "Ratepayers". Sorry but true. It would be sad to see it go but, it's a lot of money to refurbish or rebuild.	No	No	
1708	Refurbish	Not Answered	Cheaper than new - I like fixing up the old better than new.	No	No	
1709	Refurbish	No	Much cheaper and quicker to complete. A theatre is required of this size or Hamilton will miss out on events.	No	No	
1710	Refurbish	Yes	Because so much money was put into Claudelands and we still need a theatre to put on shows of a high caliber.	No	No	
1711	Refurbish	Yes	Rather than demolish, Refurbishment is more common sense. Really looking forward to the decision.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1712	Build New		Because for many years now the Founders stage and facilities have been inadequate for some shows (eg. NZ Ballet). Because of population growth in Hamilton and the Waikato calls for updated facilities which the Founders Theatre SHOULD be able to provide!	No	No	
1713	Refurbish	No	It is only 50 years old. The people of Hamilton raised the money to build it, the Council has allowed it to fall into the sate it is in. WE NEED THIS THEATRE for shows and concerts.	No	No	
1714	Refurbish	Not Answered	A perfect position where it is and central. This is essential for Waikato culture, providing wonderful shows and I always attended the NZ Symphony concerts. Missing it terribly! Please don't wait forever to decide, as is the norm! I wish the Founders be refurbished!	No	No	
1715	Refurbish	No	Because Founders Theatre is part of our history and should be used.	No	No	
1716	Refurbish	Yes	I suspect the cost of building new will escalate to well over the estimated \$50 million.	No	No	
1717	Refurbish	Yes	I have dreamed about attending my graduation there.	No	Yes	
1718	Build New		Hamilton is a growing population and we need to be innovative and look to the future. The Founders Theatre is in the place - a wonderful facility conncting the river and heart of the city/business in the way forward.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1719	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is an iconic part of Hamilton. As a dance student I have performed at that theatre for over 10 years so it has great sentimental value to me and many others in Hamilton. I was awarded dux at my high school graduation there and have also watched many performances over the years. Closing and demolishing should definitely not be an option for all the reasons listed above (no comparable venue, touring shows will bypass Hamilton, it will probably negatively affect the Hamilton economy, and it is hugely significant to myself and many others). Refurbishing will cost less and also retain this building of huge sentimental building.	No	No	
1720	Refurbish	No	I have been attending functions at Founders Theatre for 54 years and it is my favourite theatre. It is an icon and should never be demolished. No other venue in Hamilton can remotely compare with the Founders, parking is fine and the area is great. Don't close and demolish it please.	No	No	
1721	Demolish		-	No	No	
1722	Demolish		-	No	No	
1723	Build New		A new theatre will bring bigger and better shows than currently. This is making it better for future generations.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1724	Demolish		Founder Theatre- I think a rebuild that can cater for the next 50 years may be a more strategic way to go however no one wants to see costs escalate like the Claudelands scenario. The original Founders Theatre was originally donated to council by philanthropic actions of Hamilton families and while this may not be solely achievable in todays climate I do believe there is scope to partner and collaborate with regional councils that may use this facility and also local business and philanthropic families- - this gives the city and region more 'skin in the game' and also unburdens the rate payer from footing the entire bill Where? I actually like the location because to me it's a pseudo entrance to the cbd. Coming from Frankton it's gates the cbd with a beautiful fountain and a massive building proudly showcasing the great acts coming to town with its large drop down style billboards. It is conducive to car parking and could have both more parking and a larger building if we edged into the 2000 sq metres reserve that is Boyes park. The two blocks surrounding founders are reserves Hinemoa Park and Norris Ward?/Seddon Park so we wouldn't lose the vibrant green scape it has around it. Its also only 800 metres or a 10-minute stroll to Bryce street restaurants.	No	No	
1725	Refurbish	No	The building has its own charm and story in Hamilton. Not having a main theatre at all would be culturally devastating and further entrench Hamilton's reputation as a staid and inbred colonial backwater, which none of want even for economic reasons.	No	No	
1726	Build New		Because Hamilton and the Waikato need a theatre as all major cities do. Also, isn't the motto of the HCC about a world class city. To have a world class city, do we not need to have the best facilities that can be recognised on a world class level and attract events nationally and globally.	No	No	
1727	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1728	Refurbish	No	The Founders Memorial Theatre is an excellent venue which has served the city for almost 54 years. I was in the Opening Concert & also the first musical production in the theatre ("Where's Charley) plus involvement in many ways as performer & audience. It seems wrong to demolish the building because it no longer meets the building codes when it would be far more economical to put the defects to rights. There is plenty of space to re-build the backstage area, fly floor etc. The entrance & auditorium are perfectly good. The site is excellent, far enough out of the city to not cause a nuisance yet close enough to walk to from the main street & parking in the area is adequate (almost). At times nearly streets are required. It ain't broke (well, not completely) so just fix it! I strongly oppose building a completely a new theatre. The public believe in the Founders & would contribute to the refurbishment as they did for the initial build. Why not include a questionnaire on this with the Council voting papers? \$30 million should make The Founders Theatre good for another 54 years.	No	No	
1729	Refurbish	No	So my child can continue to dance in a good theatre	No	No	
1730	Refurbish	No	Mostly cost. I also feel that we can have a first class theatre with clever design and good creative people which Hamilton has.	No	No	
1731	Refurbish	No	Avoid wasting current structure. Architectural preservation. Suitable position for parking,	No	No	
1732	Demolish		We have the Events Centre which can accomodate shows plus there is plenty o parking available	No	No	
1733	Build New		Founders has reached the end of its life. We need a new theater of this scale.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1734	Refurbish	No	Founders theatre holds many happy memories for myself and my family. It would be a huge waste to replace or demolish the theatre. The arts in Hamilton are thriving and not maintaining the theatre would be a huge blow. The council's contribution should not be capped but obviously alternative funding avenues should be tried (lotto funding etc).	No	No	
1735	Demolish		-	No	No	
1736	Demolish		-	No	No	
1737	Demolish		-	No	No	
1738	Demolish		-	No	No	
1739	Demolish		-	No	No	
1740	Build New		1.A city the size of Hamilton needs a large theatre. It needs to be suitable for many purposes, including the performance of non-amplified music. 2. The existing theatre has out-lived its purpose. It doesn't meet the needs of new technology, and the way things are done now. It has so many unattractive aspects, and you would risk trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, so to speak. 3. It has dreadful acoustics, and this can't necessarily be remedied in a refurbishment. It would be such a shame to refurbish and find all the old problems still existed. 4. A rebuild could attract funders, and there could possibly be a different way of funding it e.g through donors and sponsors through a Trust. There is a lot of good will out there to make such a thing happen. 5. If Council were spared the cost of a rebuild because it was privately funded, maybe they could still keep the Founders for events that were suitable for that venue.	No	No	
1741	Demolish		-	No	No	
1742	Demolish		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1743	Build New		We need to build something that would last and be around for the future.	No	No	
1744	Demolish		-	No	No	
1745	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton needs to retain a sizeable theatre not only for local shows but traveling shows. Founders theatre has historically hosted world-class shows and performances - it would be a shame to lose this. I have opted for refurbishment rather than build new, because if we can still have a theatre of a high standard for \$30million less than brand new, then let's do that. Just don't let it close or be demolished!	No	No	
1746	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs a venue capable of hosting large theatrical, musical and civic events.	No	No	
1747	Build New		Hamilton is a major NZ city and should have a large flexible theatre suitable for all aspects of performing arts incl drama, musicals, dance (ballet etc), comedy shows etc that provides good acoustics, and good audience comfort and facilities. We must not just be considered a sporting city but also a cultural centre.	No	No	
1748	Build New		There is no venue for orchestral music big enough to support a large orchestra or audience. The acoustics of the current Founders theatre are abysmal and refurbishing the venue may not improve that. Backstage the facilities are outdated and limited. (2 female loos, inappropriate dressing rooms, not enough room(s) for soloists) Lighting etc is outmoded.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1749	Build New		I am a performer of orchestral music and have played for shows in the Founders since the 1970's. I also attend NZSO and TWSO concerts regularly. Also ballet and numerous productions by local companies. I would like to see our theatre rebuilt as the acoustics have not been satisfactory for the calibre of performer using it. Hamilton needs a theatre of the size offered by Founders. It's location is ideal being a central position. I am saddened to think a resolution may take years to reconcile. Please work to give our city a beautiful theatre we Hamiltonians can enjoy and have pride in.	No	No	
1750	Build New		Pull down existing Founders Theatre and build a new complex with ample parking facilities.	No	No	
1751	Refurbish	Yes	The city needs a comfortable venue for theatre, dance, music. Ideally we would a large multi-purpose multi-theatre complex. But if we have a well-refurbished and updated Founders, plus the Claudelands Event Centre AND, hopefully a medium-sized and comfortable music in particular theatre at the University - along with the other smaller theatres, Hamilton would be very well served, for the next 15-20 years. But we should be planning for a really decent Conference Centre plus theatres complex for 2035 or so. I still see the refurbished Founders as a stop-gap. But we need to be fast - see later, Q 10.	No	No	
1752	Refurbish	Yes	The possibility of the change of location is the sticking point for me. Founders needs to stay in the city. I would oppose commercial development of this site as it needs to be community focused.	No	No	
1753	Demolish		-	No	No	
1754	Demolish		-	No	No	
1755	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre was built with ratepayers assistance and support. It is in a central, convenient position for access and parking.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1756	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1757	Refurbish	Yes	This theatre has one of the best acoustics. It is big enough but is also small enough to be intimate. Viewing is also good from the majority of seats. the cost of refurbishing is the cheapest and also maintains the current central location. the cost to the ratepayer is less with this option. It would be helpful to install public lifts for the elderly and disabled rather than the current situation where you have to go into the non-public area to access a small lift. Better and more of disabled seats would be beneficial with the ageing population.	No	No	
1758	Refurbish	No	Founders is part of Hamilton's history, a rebuild will provide the city with what it needs, and not take 5-6 years to provide that.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1759	Build New		Hamilton is expanding in population. Future proofing by building a new performing arts centre mitigates any potential issues that will arise with a growing population and the need to upgrade a building. Hamilton is also developing itself as a recognised arts city with growing interest in street art, theatre and music. This is a trend that has also helped progress smaller cities (who are close to larger cities) overseas to become recognised arts centres. They have defined themselves as innovative arts cultured cities just by investing in the arts. This has an add on effect with tourists specifically going to these cities for their arts culture. Following this formula I believe Hamilton could pave the way in a similar fashion. Currently there have been touring events in ballet, dance and NZSO which miss Hamilton due to lack of suitable venue. As Hamilton is one of the larger cities in NZ having a facility that will match those in other comparable cities, will help bring back some of the major touring productions. We are also a city that is now been seen as an desirable place to live, especially those looking for an alternative to Auckland house prices and rents. Younger people seem to be choosing to stay in longer Hamilton and build base, rather than leaving after studies have finished. Accommodating for these trends by rebuilding I believe is the best way we can help grow and develop our city.	No	No	
1760	Build New		The city is expanding and needs a new theatre which will cater for all entertainment.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1761	Demolish		Start fresh - be innovative. Could potentially build on a new location. Could house different shows for example touring bands. Hamilton has been written off the music touring map as we can only provide small venues (bars) or the Claudelands Arena (extremely large). We need a medium to large sized venue - much like that of the Power Station in Auckland. We can't loose a theatre of this size - the large theatre touring companies would have nowhere to go and our city would be written off the entertainment map completely. With Hamilton's "culture" dying by the day, loosing another arts venue would be even more detrimental to our identity.	No	No	
1762	Build New		The Founders Theatre is acoustically poor and past its prime. It is not worthy of refurbishment. Funding for a new venue would attract audiences and artists alike. Hamilton has a vibrant arts community that is under-resourced and as a concert goer and a performer I have always known there to be unfulfilled potential. There are many local, national and international opera, theatre and musical groups that do not suit Founders. Many groups cannot perform there or perform there only as a last resort because there is nowhere else suitable. Music that is acoustic needs a reverberant 'hall' and there is no space in Hamilton for an orchestra to perform with the right acoustic. Wellington have two superb town halls. Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and even Tauranga have suitable venues but Hamilton has none.	No	No	
1763	Build New		Hamilton is a major of n.z. It needs it own Theatre It needs it to prove it not a just a cow town. It will be used not like Claudelands Event Centre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1764	Build New		I think we need a theatre in Hamilton and a new one would be an opportunity to create a focal point for the city that attracts both local and international acts. We need to future proof our city and I feel we need a theatre in addition to Claudlands for musicals and theatre.	No	No	
1765	Build New		Hamilton needs a prominent artistic venue. The Founders Theatre was part of my growing up in Hamilton, where I went to many shows and was inspired to pursue my current career (contemporary dancer, teacher, choreographer in Europe). To have more access to bigger touring shows helps to inspire new artists! A country is only as rich as its culture!!	No	No	
1766	Build New		The old theatre is not able to host all the many wonderful shows that come to our country	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1767	Refurbish	Yes	A city needs what a human needs. When our physical health fails, we seek help through medical intervention. We do the same for our mental health and discover, in addition to medication, that other things are essential to restore our well-being; creative pursuits – art, music, drama, dance, poetry, literature. Without outlets for expression and appreciation of this essential part of a well rounded and civilized society, our city's health is in danger. There is money within our community. It does not all have to come from taxation. When something is clearly beautiful, enriching, expressive, valuable for our well-being, then money is found. Look at the donations which increasingly flow into the Hamilton Gardens. Let us have a campaign to raise money for something which will enrich all residents of Hamilton and the Waikato for generations to come. We do not need more cafes along the river. We need places which express the magnificence, the brilliance of the human creative spirit; Hamilton's own version of the South Bank in the city of London. With the Museum, Arts Post, a new sculpture and land/property already in that area and awaiting redevelopment, the position of a Performing Arts Centre is obvious. A relocation of the Celebrating Age Centre would be necessary, and our senior citizens certainly deserve upgraded premises for their organisations and many activities ; And with good architectural design car parking space could be incorporated into Performing Arts Centre in that area. The Meteor as a centre for Arts Administration is already in the vicinity. Our many performing groups in the city all need good and reasonable priced rehearsal / administrative and storage space. A refurbished Founders Theatre would be ideal for such groups. Be creative, have vision! The human spirit can achieve what sometimes seems impossible.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1768	Refurbish	Yes	Reasonable cost, keeps debt low whilst still providing a good solution.	No	No	
1769	Demolish		I liked my experiences at founders but now that we have claudelands I feel that we may as well just use that and put the money elsewhere? I wouldn't be upset or anything however If we refurbished it though. It's pretty cool. Building new seems a bit silly based on founders size and hamiltons growing population.	No	No	
1770	Build New		Why demolition is not an option: It is important for Hamilton to have a proper theatre with good acoustics, proper stage/off stage space, flying system etc so that we can continue to enjoy great musical and theatrical performances. Claudelands event centre is not a substitute, and other theatres do not have the capacity. Therefore, demolition (without re-building) is not an option. Why building is better than refurbishing: Firstly, we have an opportunity to design a theatre building with unique architectural design which stands out as a landmark in Hamilton and adds something special to the city. Secondly, we have the opportunity to locate the theatre right in the middle of the CBD - this will encourage people to eat out at local restaurants before/after shows, help improve business in the CBD and make it a lively place where people want to be. It will help to make the central city an entertainment hub- at the moment Founders feels very disconnected from the rest of the shops and restaurants etc. Thirdly, as the current building continues to get older it may need more extensive maintenance. It is better to invest that money into something new now - this way we can also future proof by building a theatre with much bigger capacity to allow for a growing population in Hamilton.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1771	Build New		Because it would provide a future proofed theatre. It's a one off cost. Hamilton is expanding and needs to have modern, good venues.	No	No	
1772	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is an essential part of Hamilton's arts and performance landscape. It is an iconic building that deserves to be properly restored.	No	No	
1773	Refurbish	No	A number of reasons. Most importantly, I view that Hamilton (and the Waikato) will be going through substantial cultural, urban, and population change over the next 30-40 years, and any facility that we seek to build within the next 15-20 years will be a significant and unfortunate compromise (and functional failure) in relation to the theatre facility the city and region will ultimately require and deserve. Simply the city isn't ready yet for the theatre it will require in the long term for the population it will have. And that theatre facility (or multiple-location theatre strategy) may comprise a larger scale proscenium theatre, a concert chamber, and other civic facility requirements (not dissimilar to the Christchurch Town Hall / James Hay Theatre arrangement, for example). The second is that the city won't be able to afford - for some time to come - the size and quality of theatre facility it will ultimately require. Unfortunately Hamilton (& too often, NZ as a whole) makes undermining compromises in the civic ventures it undertakes. And when the time comes, the new theatre facility would need to be part of a region-wide strategic plan and visioning that involves not only arts facilities, but also transport and residential considerations. Therefore the city and region do need to look at reserving potential site(s) as part of the strategic study, and sooner rather than later while the land is more affordably available.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1774	Refurbish	Yes	It would be heart-breaking to see the Founders Theatre demolished- it would take away a major component of the cultural, social and events life of Hamilton. I'm sure it would also have negative economic impacts, particularly in the long-run. While a brand new theatre (on the same spot) might be ideal in terms of having a cutting-edge theatre, the cost is high- it depends what the pay-off would be. Also, it seems wasteful to completely demolish a large building if it's completely necessary.	No	No	
1775	Build New		As a subscriber to NZSO concerts for forty years and have attended many ballet performances also, it has long been my opinion that Hamilton is in serious need of an up to date purpose-built auditorium that would be worthy of the city and Waikato region. The old Founders Theatre was inadequate in many ways, particularly lacking in stage size and had poor acoustic characteristics that did not do justice to our wonderful national orchestra. Having had the opportunity to attend performances in modern auditoriums in the UK and NZ, I strongly feel that this is the time to make the right decision for the future and provide a state of the art 21st century asset for Hamilton. A new building would make use of the latest technology to full advantage, unlike a refurbishment which could be an expensive patch-up and long term disappointment.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1776	Refurbish	No	As far as world theatres are concerned, it is not old - just look how old the theatres are in the UK, especially London and they get refurbished all the time. I have chosen the refurbishment as being the the most cost effective but also quickest - how can we have a city like Hamilton without a theatre such as the founders. I am a regular theatre goer and driving any further than Hamilton on a regular basis is not an option (we go to Auckland enough for events as it is without having to go anymore). Two to three years is a terribly long time to wait though, surely this could be done quicker if council pull their fingers out! The present location in Hamilton is good too. We feel very passionate about this subject and are not happy with the present situation, just get on with it!	No	No	
1777	Refurbish	No	It saddens me greatly to see the increasing number of buildings being pulled down, to be replaced by "better" buildings. These newer buildings are either vacant, do not last as long as the older buildings and/or have no character. Environmentally and sustainably I think we are much better to refurbish what we have already. And a refurbished 1960's building could look really awesome. I have regularly attended NZSO and other performances at the Founders theatre for many years.	No	No	
1778	Refurbish	Yes	It is the option that restores the Founders as a working facility the fastest. To have no purpose-built facility for an extended length of time would be detrimental to nurturing the arts in Hamilton & surrounding areas. It stays on the current site which is a central and attractive location. It is the cheapest option.	No	No	
1779	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1780	Build New		Need to build one with better acoustics so when orchestras and artists come to perform the sound isn't murky. This will result in greater enjoyment by the concert attendees, which will result in larger audiences. Also more acts will perform at the theatre, it will be a more attractive venue, BECAUSE it is superior acoustically.	No	No	
1781	Build New		Need a venue that can house (and meet requirements of) s variety of arts events, including orchestral performances, comedy, musicals. This will require construction of a new performance venue that is able to accommodate all performances from a technical standpoint, not just in terms of capacity.	No	No	
1782	Build New		It is unacceptable for a city the size of Hamilton not to have a theatre capable of hosting local and international theatre events. The founders theatre is beyond it's use by date and is not in the correct location relative to other city amenities.	No	No	
1783	Build New		It is a chance to create an iconic building that serves the arts and the community. Between Grantham and Victoria street seems the obvious choice.	No	No	
1784	Refurbish	Not Answered	We need both the Founders' Memorial Theatre AND a new acoustically acceptable venue. Between them the venues can meet the needs of the performing arts in Hamilton and the Waikato. Alone, a multipurpose building simply cannot serve. Please note that providing estimates of costs at this stage, prior to discussion and decision making about the real needs, is to introduce a controversial distraction which can serve no useful purpose except to divide the community at a time when we need a collective and informed voice. There has been no indication at all of how the \$20 million estimate has been developed, and such a rounded figure only gives cause for concern at an apparent lack of research.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1785	Demolish		It's cheapest and seems like the best idea	No	No	
1786	Refurbish	Yes	Big enough for all sort of performance	No	No	
1787	Build New		I think the theatre could be in a better location. It needs to be made to better suit the big touring shows like Phantom, Cats, Mary Poppins etc. It needs to be made more comfortable. The acoustics are not very good.	No	No	
1788	Build New		Founders Theatre is an old building, I feel that a new building designed with better acoustics and upgraded facilities would be a huge asset to the Hamilton Community.	No	No	
1789	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton is a city of growth and prosperity, the arts is a central part of the city's fabric, as is having a fit for purpose theatre. Not having a theatre would be a decision inconsistent with the city's Arts Agenda. I strongly oppose the demolish and close option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1790	Demolish		As a concert goer as well as a performer who has performed many times in the founders, I can state very clearly the founders Theater has never been a satisfying concert venue due to the auditorium's acoustical dryness and the on stage acoustics which does nothing to build a group sound that players, especially orchestra players, need to hear from across the stage to produce their best and most inspired playing. With the university's academy for performing arts concert chamber rightfully gaining it's place as the best smallish hall in the country, I believe that a 7 million contribution from the university, a 15 million contribution from the city via its founders refurbishment fund and a 3 million contribution from the government, that more realistically in the short to medium term Hamilton could have within 4 years a beautiful 800-900 seat auditorium built on campus at the university of waikato, which could serve our community for the 15-25 years it would take to raise the 50-70 million dollars to build the perfect 13-1500 seat, acoustically wonderful concert hall in town somewhere on the river front, where it would best serve the Hamilton region. But the first priority is to commit to leaving the founders Theater out of the debate and move towards an mediate solution to our venue woes by thinking of a venue to supplement the academy of performing arts in a bigger capacity, which gives us all enough time to finally arrive at that long hoped for concert hall on town, seating 1500 people.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1791	Build New		There is the need of a suitable place in Hamilton to host shows that need a build in facility that was planned thinking about the size of the stage (the one available is too small for ballet dancer), for theatre shows (Operatic Society has had amazing shows and have managed with the size but it would be nice not to squeeze everything in), for Orchestras (planning for acoustics would be a marvellous idea). There are so many shows that do not come to Hamilton and stay in Auckland as Hamilton has nothing to offer. We need that for the growing population of Hamilton, to bring tourism, to bring shows and variety. Claudelands event centre is not a second good option for the three sort of shows mentioned above, so were do we host them???? There is no option available so far. Clarence street Theatre is not an option either.	No	No	
1792	Build New		Build new to ensure we have a safe theater long term. MAKE SURE THE REPLACEMENT IS ACOUSTICALLY SUITABLE FOR AN ORCHESTRA!	No	No	
1793	Demolish		It is the cheaper than demolition The theatre is iconic in that it has been a successful venue for every type of theatrical performance for more than 50 years. The refurbishments planned will provide the best possible facilities. It has a much user friendly ambience than the Claudeland's Event Centre.	No	No	
1794	Refurbish	Yes	The Founders is in an excellent location and a refurbishment of the exiting site will make it world class. Parking is accessible for evening events, and a new theater would seem at odds with having the University Performing Arts academy and the Claudeland events center.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1795	Build New		It is really important to me that a venue in Hamilton meets the acoustic needs of our local and touring orchestras, and theatre productions. Founders theatre never met these needs and the Claudelands arena which hosted the NZSO Scherezade concert last night lacked the resonance that our national orchestra deserves.	No	No	
1796	Build New		A credible modern city needs an iconic building capable of hosting musical, dance and theatrical productions as well as educational and civic events, with modern facilities, excellent acoustics and (preferably) at least two auditoriums, one seating up to 1500 people and the other seating around 500. Hamilton is the fourth largest city in NZ, and currently has no "Town Hall". It is gradually becoming a modern city - we really do need a civic building which functions well, and that our citizens can be proud of. Having just returned from Europe and the UK, I have seen beautiful, imaginatively designed multi-purpose arts buildings in cities like Liverpool, Glasgow and Belfast which are loved by residents and used for many different events. These buildings make an impact - people go to visit them as part of the tourist circuit because they are interesting in themselves. Please give us a new theatre, either on the existing site or somewhere near the centre of the city.	No	No	
1797	Build New		This is a once in 50 year spend, so do it right. Make it an appropriate size - maybe larger than existing so economic to have international concerts etc. Location needs to be considered carefully, may help with bring people back into central city of located in the right place.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1798	Build New		I think that Hamilton is bypassed in many cases when hosting major touring productions and Hamilton is a growing city that needs to look at the future. I originally came from Brisbane who was always considered the poor cousin of Sydney. Brisbane was quite similar to Hamilton in some respects a river running through it an not considered a tourist attraction or even a place to live, Brisbane now shines and people just love to live there as it offers so much and cheaper housing. I would love to see Hamilton become a centre for arts and theatre.... yes it can be done !! Takes some courage, forget the whingers even a bit extra in rates would see Hamilton shine!! Let Auckland come to Hamilton not the other way around, Please consider a site that is connected to the city when rebuilding the Founders a site by the museum or facing the river. please make it central to the city hub. PS Love how Hamilton is promoting arts... well done!!	No	No	
1799	Demolish		I like the 60s design and the fountain And the Hotere painting plus its cheaper	No	No	
1800	Refurbish	Yes	Demolition alone is not a good option. The arts are important to me and there are many acts which would not suit the other venues in town. But it seems wasteful to spend more than twice as much as the refurbishment cost on a new venue.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1801	Build New		We prefer the option to Build a New Theatre on the same site. It is central with well landscaped grounds around it and adequate parking. If possible keeping part of the exterior structure in deference to the original FOUNDERS. Over the years we have enjoyed performances from many different genres. I have also conducted school orchestras/ choirs and bands in the theatre. It has suffered from inadequate acoustics; too small a stage and a sound system that is outdated. Limiting the performances that actually wanted to come to Hamilton, The fourth largest city in New Zealand deserves a top quality theatre with outstanding state of the art acoustics! Something the city can be proud of and flock to.	No	No	
1802	Build New		The city of Hamilton NEEDS a purpose built arts centre which has a concert hall suitable for NZSO sized orchestras and other theatres suitable for dance and opera as well as the standard theatre productions. Hamilton has one defining characteristic, the river and this is the perfect unity to make the most of this asset and built a complex which will draw people from the greater region to the CBD of Hamilton.	No	No	
1803	Refurbish	Yes	Its an old hamilton building.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1804	Build New		Hamilton has a very wide and varied musical and cultured community. With the size of our city it is important to have a facility worthy of the music and performances that we, as a community, put on and that others from outside our district require when they visit our city. The reason for building new is that we need a facility that has the right acoustics for orchestra and voice. We need to make the right decision and build a building that we In Hamilton can feel proud of. The current facility is very dated In many aspects apart from appalling acoustics. Backstage,seating, foyer. Too many to warrant refurbishment. If we miss this chance of rebuild we miss a real opportunity to build a world class facility . There is nothing good about Founders at all except the land and so money would be wasted if we were to refurbish it. Even the people who say they are not musical need a facility where good music can be played and heard well. You just need to travel the world and visit the many high class facilities and venues in all cities In Europe to see this. They understand that music feeds the soul and how important for the people and therefore the city, it is.	No	No	
1805	Demolish		Hamilton has 2 many theatres. No parking. Invest money better. Leave it 2 private business 2 run. Sell it	No	No	
1806	Build New		I have done some renovation and maintenance work in the theatre and found the that the place was old had a certain old atmosphere and gear and equipment needed replacing It has only been air conditioned recently Parking can also be an issue It will be good to have decent sound acoustics as well	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1807	Build New		A long term view of hamiltons theatre needs should be considered, similar to the decision to develop the claudelands event centre, so refurbishing the existing or removing the service completely seem quick fix and short sighted. The current site is not well supported for parking and access and limits what could be. A purpose build theatre complex adjacent to claudelands could optimise supporting infrastructure like parking and hospitality services and could create the 'performance precinct' that the city has been wanting. A theatre complex should be multi-purpose in that it can accomodate smaller community theatre as well as professional performances. Funding should not just be from ratepayers or council funding. Private sponsorship should be included. A decision should also be considered on the best team to run the complex -should it continue to be run be council staff?	No	No	
1808	Build New		Hamilton is a major city of the future. We need to have a venue for all types of events particularly travelling yours etc. which a refurbishment would not meet.	No	No	
1809	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1810	Refurbish	Not Answered	Hamilton is know as 'cow town' because we spent 12 million on a street race when our beloved well used theatre was already in desperate need of repair. We absolutely do not want to lose this theatre. We will then be the 4th largest city in NZ with no proper performing art facility. No way can it go so I'm opting for cost sake to do it up rather then pull it down and build another one at an even greater expense. I have been in Hamilton Operatic for years and performed on the stage of the Founders Theatre since age 7. I would be devastated if it were to be pulled down and not replaced. In years to come our current younger generation will be appalled at this current council for their lack of foresight. .	No	No	
1811	Build New		The existing theatre has had its day, \$20m could be spent to refurbish, but the city would still have an aging building, so could be an unwise use of funds. So an opportunity to build an up to the minute "purpose built building " for high quality sound for opera, musicals, and the NZSO. Heard the NZSO on Friday at the Event Centre, not nearly as good as at the Founders Theatre.	No	No	
1812	Build New		My view is that refurbishing the old venue will merely throw good money after bad. Start with a clean slate and build a new state of the art purpose build venue. You can put lipstick on a pig, but it will always be a pig. A new venue should also consider parking options for patrons as this was one of the limiting factors for the old venue.	No	No	
1813	Refurbish	No	Founders theatre is part of hamiltons history, I'm 44 years old and have lived here all my life and have been to founders aswell as a child, it needs to stay!!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1814	Build New		Founders Theatre is not adequate for the future of Hamilton. It is badly sited with no parking. The seating is very poor and not well designed. Row zz is a long way from the stage - we should have a two tiered seating option. I worry about evacuation of the top half of the seating with no fire exits for the top half of seating. The dressing rooms are inadequate - insufficient toilets back and front of house. The stage is limited in it's functionality - no revolve - no ability to use underfloor exhausts, ventilation or trap doors. Wing space is far too small. Flying system needs automation. Technology is poor with no back stage PA system. Insufficient dressing rooms and not enough variety in size. It is very one dimensional - hard to use for other types of performing arts. Too expensive. Councillor Mallet wondered why occupation has gone down over the last few years - he should look at when the rates where hiked up significantly. There is a correlation. I know many groups that stopped using Founders due to cost. The theatre should be in the entertainment precinct close to restaurants and bars.	No	No	
1815	Build New		-	No	No	
1816	Build New		This is an opportunity for our city to plan and move forward. Not only can we build a multi-purpose arts facility, we can also future proof it so that it will be sustainable. Other facilities in the city are very one dimensional and have not been built with a future focus. This is a chance for Hamilton to become a premier arts centre in the country and to show that our city offers all aspects rather than just a selected few.	No	No	
1817	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1818	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment is an economical option. However, it would seem more appropriate to modify Claudelands to carry out the activities previously/proposed at Founders. This site also has much better parking available and is a new (under-utilised) building. Claudelands should work in with Mystery Creek and have the "ball games" etc at that venue.	No	No	
1819	Build New		it makes sense to build new to cater to our city's expanding population, upgrade the acoustics and performance area so its on par with world class facilities to enhance our art's scene. the refurbishment option is just a patch up short term view, and we will eventually have to revisit this option again. Longer term visionary planning will be to build new.	No	No	
1820	Build New		Hamilton needs a quality performing arts centre, but the current building has many limitations which would restrict its refurbishment.	No	No	
1821	Refurbish	Yes	Actual theatre is a pleasant venue for audience and is of a good size for most shows. We have larger or smaller venues. However backstage areas need replacing with more user friendly features. E.g. Covered access from foyer of theatre to stage door - currently need to go outside. Access from stage left to side corridor to foyer is via narrow steps by stage manager's desk.	No	No	
1822	Build New		When renovating it is difficult to predict what will be found underneath cladding and other hidden spaces, thus the cost could escalate. Building new gives flexibility and the latest technology can easily be incorporated.	No	No	
1823	Refurbish	No	The theatre has character and history. It certainly needs an upgrade and some love and that would give the City what it needs at a lower cost than knock down and rebuilt	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1824	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs & its residents deserve a new large purpose-built and adaptable theatre for many types of performances. The theatre needs to have excellent acoustics especially for the performance of non amplified music ie orchestral music. With the formation of Orchestras Central, (Opus Orchestra, Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra and United Youth Orchestra), Hamilton must have a suitable venue to continue to showcase, nurture and retain the talent that is here at its doorstep. Residents/rate payers have been missing out on various visiting artists, for example the Royal New Zealand Ballet, performing in Hamilton for years due to the lack of a suitable venue.	No	No	
1825	Build New		The Founders theatre is acoustically terrible for orchestras and chamber music. I make this statement both as someone who has attended as audience for NZSO performances there and as a player in Opus Orchestra with which I have played on the stage on two occasions. Although I live in Tauranga, the NZSO often don't play there and to see their performance, I have to come to Hamilton. I would also be very likely to attend more performances in Hamilton if there was actually an appropriate venue for orchestras to play in.	No	No	
1826	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city and can support this investment in infrastructure. Without a venue like this Hamilton won't compete with other cities in New Zealand for productions. Preference would be to build in central Hamilton on the river.	No	No	
1827	Refurbish	Yes	Ith It is the most cost effective method of retaining an iconic building that has local mana and national recognition	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1828	Refurbish	Yes	Need to have a venue that can hold stage show like musicals. Claudelands arena is too big a venue for this type of show. Also not as intimate as a theatre. I not worried if a new theatre is built or updating Founders theatre. It will depend on what is cost effective and will give the longer service.	No	No	
1829	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment we need a large stage, changes to dressing rooms required, new seats not required,better entrance and bar not required, building to be maintained every year.	No	No	
1830	Demolish		Cost of bringing the old theatre up to standard and rules and new regulations could change again at any time. A new sight with paraplegic parking would be handy.	No	No	
1831	Demolish		Hamilton and it's citizens will always be here therefore we need a theatre for the future .	No	No	
1832	Refurbish	No	Because I know the history of Founders, it was made to commemorate the founders of Hamilton with the Governor General Viscount Cobham laying the foundation stone of the theatre in 1961. Also I don't want to be without a theatre for too long.	No	No	
1833	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1834	Build New		Having worked back stage now for 4 yrs for Hamilton Operatic Society, to have a new theatre would put Hamilton on the map, bigger productions/ concerts, ballet etc would be held attracting many more people to the district.... getting to Auckland is ridiculous unless they do finally put a commuter rail link in, another topic that should be addressed. I have lived in NZ for 12 yrs and only twice seen a show in Auckland.. but would chose Hamilton. Front of House need a total make over and really should be upper and lower floor levels with more bar/ meal options, and the Ladies/gents are far too small. an area that would have to be enlarged for a refit. the dressing room arrangement isn't very practical in it's present layout, side of stage to narrow, etc... it would be silly to refurbish as this would still limit who can perform at Founders.	No	No	
1835	Demolish		My preferred option is Close and Demolish. I have read the points noted above, re this option. I chose this option because I do not believe the city can afford either of the other two options. I agree Founders has been a significant asset for the city since it was first built however, it is not now viable. The city has previously chosen to invest in the alternative of Claudelands Event Centre and I don't believe we can now afford to reburbish or rebuild Founders as well.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1836	Demolish		I accept Claudelands can accomodate some (not all) of events that Founders previously covered. Secondly, University of Waikato is looking at building a new Theatre within its campus. No point having two new theatres in Hamilton serving the same purpose. Many reasons have been given about why Claudlands cannot be used - but that should not be the reason to spend more money. I do not see patrons protesting that Claudeland is over used. It is really bad form that Claudeland is in fact underutilized. ALTERNATIVE OPTION: If my suggestion (to demolish) is disregarded - the new project must not use rate payers funding and instead HCC retains land ownership but the building be built and owned by private operators. Reason: HCC never uses the theatre for its own functions and therefore should have no role in managing the new building.	No	No	
1837	Demolish		Make gretaer use of Claudelands Facility. Surely money would be better spent customising venue for theatre type shows. Current Founders site is ideal for inner city park that would be attractive for inner city living around it. This brings in more people to the central city and helps with its revitalisation.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1838	Build New		We have an opportunity to produce an iconic facility that can be a destination in itself that further improves the placemaking features in Hamilton City. We need to examine the demographic changes that are occurring in the city and produce a theatre that responds to this changing demographic. We have more knowledge workers moving into the city - what do they like to listen to or watch? What attracts them. We need to have carparking adjacent to the theatre for safety reasons for children who are attending late night auditions. Closing and demolishing the theatre will not support the growth of the city. Refurbishing the theatre is a stop gap measure that is not future proofing where we are going as a city. We need to think how do we support the city from shifting from a small city to a medium city that needs to move away from its farming antecedents. We need to think about what is the demographic of people who attend events currently as well. Who spends the money and how much do they spend and what are their needs? - ie wealthy older people who want to park outside their venue.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1839	Build New		A great city has great institutions and facilities. The hospital is already great, and the university will someday reach that level of reputation and excellence. It has two highly functional malls and functional cricket, rugby and event facilities, a central position within NZ's most productive hinterland. There is significant wealth in the professional, agricultural, horticultural, and retail sectors when the region of over 1 million people with ready access to Hamilton is considered. The Founders theatre has remained a static entity through all of the developments, and is well passed it's used by date. I have been to many events in Founders and performed in choral groups about 5 times on its stage, using the behind stage facilities such as the Green Room. It is less than adequate for performing. In particular, in the sound does not reflect back to those who produce the sound, a fundamental flaw which should be considered along the other flaws identified in the "Future of Founders Theatre" invitation. We need to have all major performing groups which visit Wellington, Christchurch or Auckland also performing in Hamilton. The \$20M already being discussed could form for basis of a campaign which could include bonds and donations. If the cost were spread across the entire region there would be significant reductions per capita. People would travel to Hamilton for concert events, using other facilities such as restaurants and shopping in the CBD before the performance. The government could play a role – the city requires more than just new roads if it is to ascend the scale of greatness!	No	No	
1840	Build New		You have to think of our future generations ahead. Hamiton definitely needs a theatre!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1841	Build New		I am an orchestral musician and have played at the Founders Theatre many times. It is totally inadequate with regards to acoustics. It is not a nice venue to play in. As a concert goer, it is also not acoustic friendly and there are many very 'dead' sound areas in the founders, so not great to listen to quality concerts. From what I understand the NZSO do not like performing at the Founders and I believe they do not schedule their best concerts in Hamilton because of the sub-standard performance space. For the size of Hamilton, this theatre is totally substandard and embarrassing. Hamilton is the only 'city' in NZ that does not have a 'town hall'!! It has not concert venue to be proud of, therefore not providing a venue for the arts for many different genres. Come on Hamilton, stop being the laughing stock of NZ and get with the 21st Century and build something generations to come and be proud of. We've spent enough money and energy on sports. My future council votes will only go to those who have an interest in the arts and what to do something for Hamilton by building a quality theatre. If Christchurch can re-build a fantastic arts building after an earth quake, what is wrong with Hamilton!!	No	No	
1842	Build New		Because the rebuilt option gives the city a chance to build something more suitable for the future needs of the growing city.	No	No	
1843	Demolish		Would prefer to see money spent on making our CBD more visually appealing (similar to how Wellington have covered up vacant shop windows with large scale vinyl stickers etc, tidied and painted empty buildings).	No	No	
1844	Build New		A new plan could extend beyond the boundaries of the current building and therefore be designed to accommodate the performance standard that the NZ Ballet and professional theatre companies need. I think that trying to rebuild within the current footprint would be too limiting in terms of upgrading dressing room area and getting a top fly floor.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1845	Refurbish	Not Answered	The Entertainment Venues Association NZ represents 104 venues in NZ - 50 are performing arts centres (including theatres). EVANZ does not support doing nothing and either a refurbish of Founders or a new performing arts centre is our preference. A city the size of Hamilton needs a dedicated performing arts centre with 1000 seats plus. If a venue of this size is not available Hamilton may miss out on touring shows that visit Auckland, Wellington, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay and Manawatu. Performing arts centre capacity in Hamilton strengthens our case to attract large shows both international and national.	No	No	
1846	Build New		I cannot see the point of trying to refurbish a 50 odd building which has outlived its usefulness. Hamilton is a growing city and we need to have a modern up to date theatre facility. We went through a similar argument regarding the old Rugby Park. We now have an excellent rugby stadium befitting our rugby teams. Just let us get on with it!	No	No	
1847	Build New		The build lacks appeal	No	No	
1848	Build New		New technologies and systems need to be used and the old Founders is inadequate. I like the idea of it being built in the south end of Victoria Street.	No	No	
1849	Demolish		The city has too much debt, we cannot afford it - simple. Maybe built it later use University, Clarence St theatre.	No	No	
1850	Refurbish	No	More affordable. Raise the money over time by special events - enlist aid of Rotary, Lions etc plus sponsorship of commercial firms.	No	No	
1851	Refurbish	Yes	It is important to have a venue for live performances for communities to enjoy.	No	No	
1852	Build New		Its time Hamilton did something about founders theatre. Its a Waikato icon and we need to keep it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1853	Build New		Hamilton is in desperate need of a large scale theatre event centre. Large touring companies currently bypass Hamilton as Founders Theatre is not big enough to suit their requirements. A new theatre event centre could open up so many exciting opportunities for the Hamilton performing arts sector. I personally have been an active member of Hamilton Operatic Society for well over thirty years, and even though I have moved away from the city, I still return to Hamilton to volunteer on shows. Theatre means more to me than I can put down in a few words.....	No	No	
1854	Build New		Bigger newer better - Hamilton is a world class city - public amenities should be upmarket - modern - contemporary - vision and status - design and locality.	No	No	
1855	Refurbish	Not Answered	Because I think it will work for specific shows and other performances can be held at our alternate venues.	No	No	
1856	Refurbish	No	We need this type of theatre. Cost ALWAYS "blows out" and ratepayers suffer. Site is a good, near CBD without downsides of congestion.	No	No	
1857	Demolish		1. We need an appropriate and adequate place for Hamiltonians to use for choir and orchestra concerts, ballet, touring productions, ceremonies etc. I have lived in Hamilton since early 1971 and have been to the Founders Theatre very many times for various events but never once to the Events Centre and only once to the Stadium. 2. In my opinion the Founders is 'clapped out' – beyond re-claiming or remaking into an acceptable venue. 3. I am sure many Hamilton people are proud of the Stadium or the Events Centre. I would like to be proud of a new theatre – something worthy of our city and a facility that would nurture and encourage the artistic and creative life of the city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1858	Refurbish	No	Buildings surely can last more than 50 years. We need a theatre of the calibre of Founders and the sooner it is operating again the better. New Zealands 3rd or 4th largest City and we havn't got a proper Arts Theatre operating. The position of the Theatre is good with considerable parking around it but is easy walking for older people if having to park any distance away.	No	No	
1859	Build New		Hamilton is growing. Quickly. It is an oddity that Hamilton lacks a Town Hall as a premier performance venue, and this absence will become all the more apparent as expectations of Hamilton as a desirable, cultured, livable city increase over the next few decades.	No	No	
1860	Build New		I'm a player in opus orchestra, and I strongly think we need a new building that can accommodate everyone. NZSO, nz ballet, nz opera ect . A city like Hamilton needs to have something for the arts. There is so much happening and it would be sad for Hamilton to miss out on performances due to not having a theatre.	No	No	
1861	Demolish		New Zealand should be capable of creating important public buildings that last longer than 40 years - England and Europe certainly do, with buildings that last for hundreds of years, and become historical tourist attracting buildings. We need to do the same. Our city and district must have a facility for the cultural development of music and the arts. We just missed the Ten Tenors - because we couldn't accommodate them. The refurbishment must be long visioned for the future, and focussed on modernising those aspects of the building, that will provide top production for top artists. Of course the budget is important, but doing a budget job for the city's major cultural theatre would be a cheap mistake. I would prefer a bigger theatre, than one the same size, for \$50m.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1862	Refurbish	Yes	Closing the theatre is not an option. Hamilton and the Waikato needs a theatre like Founders to allow the arts to continue to thrive here. Refurbishment seems the best option based on cost and timeliness.	No	No	
1863	Refurbish	Yes	Fundamentally the Founders is an excellent sized theatre for Hamilton, whereas the alternatives are either far too big or too small for serious concerts, eg NZSO. A refurbishment could update the flies as needed, as well as acoustics, seating etc, a general upgrade. A new theatre commits Hamilton to yet again another huge and unnecessary debt. Demolition - not an option if Hamilton wants to support the Arts.	No	No	
1864	Refurbish	No	This was built by subscription by founders not ratepayers. It is a memorial as well as an important part of Hamilton's history. Too many old buildings have already been demolished. Culture and history are what we are.	No	No	
1865	Build New		Would prefer bigger theatre with lots of car parking but somewhere Else. When knocked down the current Founders Theater's land would fetch premium price.	No	No	
1866	Build New		Can this city afford to do this without debt? What is the real cost with if interest is added into calculations? I am concerned re current city debt of \$368M in 2015 What is cost of maintenance yearly and will it ever make money or lose money (like Claudelands event center) Please publish economic analysis to be transparent So keep the land, shut it down and revisit once we can TRULY afford it. Thanks.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1867	Build New		Refurbishment is just throwing money at a problem and putting a band aid on an open wound. Hamilton arts deserve to have a Theatre we can be proud of. No one questioned throwing money at the stadium when it was built and it spends many days a year empty at least a theatre has the potential to be hired out weeks at a time. That is if it is priced reasonably. I have never understood why the council believes charging more money makes more money. Make it affordable for more people and you will make more money. Not charge horrendous prices that the average Hamiltonian can not afford and have the venues empty for weeks at a time. Did we learn nothing from the V8s. It does not have to be paid for in the first few weeks it is open. You don't build a house and pay for it in a couple of years. You build your dream house and pay for it as you make it a home over many years. We have many children and youth in this city who are talented and passionate about the arts but there is no solid future for them to achieve greatness they have to leave home to make it. Give them a place they can be proud of and give them the opportunities to see world class productions in a world class venue	No	No	
1868	Build New		A larger space to accommodate full scale sets. Improve onsite rehearsal facilities/greenroom facilities. Improve acoustics.	No	No	
1869	Build New		A brand new build would last a long time.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1870	Build New		The Founders Theatre has too many things that need changing. We need to create a theatre that will last for a long and strong future, not just a touch up job to make it through the next few years. It needs to be in a different location with more parking and more culture. An idea that has been voiced is to be where the pools are opposite the meteor. This means there would be a theatre 'hub' in that area of town and it is near all the restaurants and the museum. It should have some sort of cafe in the front of it to bring people in all the time so see what is happening in the theatre in Hamilton. Build the culture and reputation of the city.	No	No	
1871	Build New		Founders theatre is a landmark for the city, yes. There are memories and wonderful things that happened in that theatre that will forever be in our hearts. But it's time for a change. A new place for new things. Building a new theatre holds so much more potential than just refurbishing the building. It can be so many things at once. It can be made into an all round entertainment centre for the people of Hamilton and the ones who visit. It could be a theatre, with proper rehearsal space, classes, shows and conferences. Not only can it be used as a theatre for shows but continue with what founders already provided. A place for graduations, stage challenge, school events, city meetings, group/business conferences and 'A night at the theatre'. There's so much potential for the new theatre, let Hamilton continue to show that the arts is very much alive and very deserving of a new, reliable, safe, and re-established community home.	No	No	
1872	Refurbish	Yes	If thought through refurbishment is the most logical get bigger stagehouse, to have capability to have RNZB return to city, shows that have been staged by HOS can use the full set not a cut down version. Most importantly Hamilton will have theatre to use as well as the other fine facilities we have ie claudelands for events	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1873	Build New		Hamilton had a huge arts culture. We cater to many different companies, schools, performace groups, comedy shows, musicals etc.. It provides a sense of community, support and enjoyment for our town. A bew buolding would provide the cities performace groups, dance studios, and education providers to hpld outstanding events that will cater to all needs whether it be for a musical, childrebs end of year dance show or a graduation.	No	No	
1874	Build New		It is hard to work within the current blueprint, and \$20 million is not enough to refurbish. Having worked BOH for over 30 productions the entire stage size and wing space is far too small, the RNZ Ballet has not toured here in years because of this. A new purpose build could house rehearsal spaces and attract far more people to use it. It could become a art hub for countless groups.	No	No	
1875	Refurbish	Yes	I have so many memories in this theatre and want to continue to perform and do what I love for the rest of my life. This theatre allows me to do that.	No	No	
1876	Build New		Having an excellent facility like this in Hamilton would attract large scale productions and as a result, encourage those who live out of town to attend shows in Hamilton.	No	No	
1877	Refurbish	No	1. Cost was known in 2014 (Creative Waikato infrastructure plan from 2014 p15) & planned, even though now half a decade early, (HCC 10 year plan p2) 2. To build new may mean build smaller, (see attached) average theatre size for city theatre in similar sizes city (pop 100k to 200k) in the Netherland or Germany is about 750 seats. Of the cities referenced, only 4 had larger seating capacity, a third had less than 650 seats.	Yes	No	

Submitter 1877 Insert – 1 page long

City	Country	Pop	Area	Density	Theater	Seats
Hamm DE	DE	186,700	98	1,905	Helios Theter	200
S'-Hertogenbosch NL	NL	141,893		1,677	Verkadefabriek	305
Neuss DE	DE	151,388	99	1,529	Rheinisches Landestl	443
Potsdam DE	DE	161,468	187	863	Hans Otto Theater	485
Gottingen DE	DE	121,060	116	1,044	Deutsches Theater	500
Koblenz DE	DE	106,417	105	1,013	Theater Koblenz	500
Paderborn DE	DE	145,176	179	811	Paderborn Theater	500
Rostock DE	DE	192,100	181	1,061	Volks Theater Rostoc	500
Delft NL	NL	99,973		4,381	De Veste	507
Pforzheim DE	DE	119,781	98	1,222	Stadttheater Pforzhei	511
Siegen DE	DE	100,325	115	872	Apollo Theater	521
Oldenburg DE	DE	162,173	103	1,574	Oldenburgisches Sta	540
Leiden NL	NL	121,199		5,522	Leidse Schouwburg	541
Heilbronn DE	DE	122,879	100	1,229	City Theater	547
Heidelberg DE	DE	147,312	109	1,351	Theatre Heidelberg	600
Hildesheim DE	DE	102,794	92	1,117	Hildesheim Theater	600
Erlangen DE	DE	105,629	77	1,372	Markgrafentheater	611
Remscheid DE	DE	110,563	74	1,494	Toe Otto Theater	620
Osnabruck DE	DE	164,119	120	1,368	Theater Osnabruck	642
Cottbus DE	DE	99,595	164	607	Staatstheater Cottbus	650
Haarlem NL	NL	155,205		5,312	City Theatre Haarlem	650
Regensburg DE	DE	135,520	81	1,673	Theater Regensburg	650
Alkmaar	NL	95,076		3,244	Theater De Vest	680
Bremerhaven DE	DE	113,366	94	1,206	Stadttheater Bremerh	685
Wurzburg DE	DE	133,799	87	1,538	Theatre of Wurzburg	739
Furth DE	DE	119,808	63	1,902	Stadt theater Furth	750
Groningen NL	NL	198,108		2,538	Stadsschouwburg	750
Dordrecht NL	NL	118,716		1,503	Kunstmin	755
Venlo NL	NL	100,381		803	De Maaspoort	760
Offenbach am Main L	DE	119,203	45	2,649	Capitol	775
Zoetermeer NL	NL	123,614		3,578	Stadstheater Zoeterm	780
Bergisch Gladbach	DE	109,697	83	1,322	Burgerhaus Bergisch	800
Erfurt DE	DE	206,219	270	764	Theater Erfurt	800
Ulm DE	DE	122,801	118	1,041	Theater Ulm	817
Emmen NL	NL	108,003		321	Atlas Theater Emmer	822
Wolfsburg DE	DE	122,457	204	600	Theater Wolfsburg	833
Maastricht NL	NL	122,331		2,153	Theater aan het Vrijth	850
Arnhem	NL	150,000		1,489	Anrhem Stadstheater	870
Saarbrucken DE	DE	175,741	167	1,052	Saarland State Theat	875
Tilburg NL	NL	207,579		1,769	Theaters Tillburg	877
Zaanstad NL	NL	150,911		1,106	Zaantheater Great H	893
Nijmegen NL	NL	165,253		3,083	Stads Schouwburg	900
Zwolle NL	NL	123,211		1,106	Theater de Spiegel	932
Eindhoven NL	NL	220,000		2,407	Parktheater Eindhove	950
Darmstadt DE	DE	151,879	122	1,245	Staatstheater Darmst	956
Hagen DE	DE	188,529	160	1,178	Theatre Hagen	960
Almere	NL	196,156		1,514	Schouwburg Almere	1,000
Amersfoort	NL	151,534	64	2,368	De Flint	1,000
Leeuwarden NL	NL	108,113		713	De Harmonie	1,000
Leverkusen DE	DE	160,772	79	2,035	Venue Forum	1,000
Mainz DE	DE	199,237	98	2,033	Staatathheater Mainz	1,000
Solling DE	DE	159,927	89	1,797	Theater und Konzertt	1,000
Enschede NL	NL	158,542	141	1,124	Wilmink Theater	1001
Mulheim an der Ruhr	DE	167,344	91	1,839	Stadthalle	1,079
Ludwigshafen am Rh	DE	164,177	77	2,132	Pfalzbau	1,171
Reutlingen DE	DE	112,484	87	1,293	Nature Theater	1,200
Hamilton 2013 NZ	NZ	150,200	98	1,533	Founders Theater	1,249
Apeldoorn	NL	157,057	341	457	Orpheus	1,300
Ingolstadt DE	DE	129,136	129	1,001	Stadttheater Ingolsta	1,300
Breda NL	NL	178,280		1,376	Chasse Theater	1430
Kassel DE	DE	195,530	107	1,827	Staatstheater Kassel	1,592

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1878	Refurbish	No	Because it's such an iconic building and holds lots of fond memories so I'd hate for the building to be demolished. It would be nice to keep some of it original.	No	No	
1879	Refurbish	No	Better things to spend money on. Claudelands events centre is a better alternative for shows and there is plenty of parking there. However refurbishment is a better alternative to building a new theatre.	No	No	
1880	Build New		It's an old theatre that should be demolished to create a new theatre that is capable of hosting big international ballets, musicals, theatre performances, artist etc as well as local talent	No	No	
1881	Refurbish	No	It is iconic	No	No	
1882	Build New		Hamilton is only going to grow in population and we need to build for the needs of the city moving forward. There would be great interest for those who live in Hamilton and surrounds to be able to attend major events there which we have to travel to Akld for at the moment, ballets, shows, theatre etc	No	No	
1883	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
1884	Build New		Need a complete new rebuild to seat more and it needs to be completely redone.	No	No	
1885	Build New		A new building in a more accessible location could lead to future concerts being held in hamilton leading to more money coming in and also more for youth to do instead of always having to travel for concerts. A refurbishment could also be a good idea in terms of the access money that would've been spent on a new building - could be used to build a skate park for youth to be able to skate and have somewhere to go to get out of trouble.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1886	Refurbish	Yes	Being in the arts atmosphere, I understand how important having a venue like this is for Hamilton. I would be sad to see it demolished, and think it's a little unnecessary to build an entirely new theatre.	No	No	
1887	Refurbish	No	Refurbishing the Founders Theatre brings it back into service in the shortest amount of time and allows audiences and performing groups and other users to enjoy and use the Theatre's facilities and offerings again with minimal delay.	No	No	
1888	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1889	Refurbish	No	Refurbishing the Founders Theatre brings it back into service in the shortest amount of time and allows audiences and performing groups and other users to enjoy and use the Theatre's facilities and offerings again with minimal delay.	No	No	
1890	Build New		Spending \$20 million to refurbish would bring the building to today's required standard but would not be enough to completely refurbish the whole building which is dated. There is no parking around the current site and no bars or restaurants. Building a purpose built arts centre overlooking the river in Grantham st makes more sense. It would be future proofed, close to bars restaraunts and hotels. Plenty of parking in Knox street.	No	No	
1891	Refurbish	No	Refurbishing the Founders Theatre brings it back into service in the shortest amount of time and allows audiences and performing groups and other users to enjoy and use the Theatre's facilities and offerings again with minimal delay.	No	No	
1892	Build New		Because the old one is just too old to try and refurbish	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1893	Build New		We might as well start from scratch so we can build a theatre we can be proud of, rather than sprusing up one that is ugly and has multiple problems in layout and architecture design - problems that can't just be refurbished. The site is also incredibly inconvenient being right between a cricket pitch and a rugby stadium, the other theatres (Clarence St and The Meteor) being on the other side of the CBD. There's no arts hub, no where to eat and make an evening of it and no parking. There are too many problems that cannot be fixed with refurbishment.	No	No	
1894	Build New		It will be a huge asset to our community. Spend the \$50 mill why spend \$30 just to tidy up what we have. The money will easily be recuperated in the not too distant future. Imagine the great shows we could have and the business it will bring to Hamilton from outlying areas.	No	No	
1895	Refurbish	No	I think it would be wasteful to start from scratch again but Hamilton really needs Founders! It allows a scale of performance to go on that can not be done at any other venue in Hamilton.	No	No	
1896	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1897	Demolish		I dont think Hamilton needs it as there are other places. Build sports parks there (hockey and soccer) and then world class cricket hocky soccer and rugby grounds will be in walking distance which would be awesome	No	No	
1898	Refurbish	No	I think that Hamilton definitely needs this theatre but that a new build would be too expensive and long to wait for.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1899	Build New		A new theatre would create more attraction for more international guests, especially since it would be improved on the current Founders Theatre. Even though I have been performing at Founders every year for 13 years, and have grown very sentimentally attached to it, it would be better to have a new one built as it will never be the same anyway, so why not change it? There are a lot of others who are in a similar situation and viewpoint. A new theatre would be more beneficial also for future generations, with the increased flexibility as talked about above.	No	No	
1900	Build New		I believe building a new theatre will facilitate and grow the cultural and artistic scene in Hamilton and the greater Waikato region. By designing a new theatre, we will have a location more suited to our people and more attractive for outside talent. This will enhance the cultural education and experience of current and future generations.	No	No	
1901	Refurbish	Yes	We are a small city. We need theatre. But perhaps not to the extent of spending large amounts of money on a new theatre capable of hosting major touring productions. Yet it is nevertheless still important to retain this theatre in order to extend the value of the facilities for all performing arts in Hamilton and maintain its sentimental value.	No	No	
1902	Refurbish	Yes	The curent theatre did a great job hosting shows. It is good to keep existing buildings	No	No	
1903	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1904	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton is already severely lacking in arts and culture. Taking away this theatre is taking away a huge part of Hamilton life. I grew up with this theatre, as do so many others. Young children have their first dance shows there and families join together to see shows. I have travelled to many large cities (currently in New York forever two more days) and the largest difference is accessibility to art. Even around New Zealand, Hamilton is known as a small and quiet town. If the theatre is taken away, we lose the one thing that could make us special	No	No	
1905	Build New		It would mean a larger industry for up and coming performers to grow into. We would have the benefit of hosting more international productions which would bring in money. Having touring productions come to Hamilton would give the younger generation more opportunities to get involved with them, just as they did in Wellington and Auckland with Lunchbox Productions. Some of those kids who were involved got to perform internationally with the company. It could also be the place to host big corporate events etc. To many people the Founders is like home. Demolishing and closing it would be a stupid thing to do as it would be like tearing down the core of the whole arts community in Hamilton. We need an outlet and a space to be able to create amazing pieces of work for Hamilton to enjoy, and to create a better arts industry here in Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1906	Build New		I work in the Production industry for Above Productions and have been to many venues around the country. Founders theatre has seen better days. Hamilton needs a space that is not as large as Claudelands but still has the capacity to host reasonable size tours. It would be good for Hamilton to have a theatre in the centre of the city that can host not only theatrical shows but also have the ability to be turned into a TV studio, concert hall for all genres of music and other performance uses. While it is an expensive project it would be money better spent than other projects that are being looked into. If Hamilton could have a theatre that not only was versatile for many types of performances, but also had adequate parking for the facility that could be used as pay parking for surrounding businesses when no performance is taking place it would be quite an appealing venue anyone to use and attend. I think that it would be in Hamilton's best interest to Rebuild this theatre but if this is not possible they should at least look at Refurbishing. Closing and Demolishing the theatre would not leave Hamilton in a good place for the Arts industry.	No	No	
1907	Build New		Because the arts in Hamilton, as well as the rest of the country, need as much support as possible.	No	No	
1908	Demolish		Building new one or refurbishing will be waste of tax payers money as I believe the majority of Hamilton to not use the theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1909	Refurbish	Yes	This is the cheapest option in which keeps the theatre going which is really important to me and to so many others in and outside of Hamilton. The theatre changes the lives of many and influences the lives of the viewers so I don't think that demolishing is even an option. I chose refurbishment because it is cheaper, and if it's money that the council are worried about then I'd say refurbishment but if they have a little extra cash to splash out, I'd say rebuild. This would bring in more money with more tours able to come in and would be very nice in Hamilton.	No	No	
1910	Build New		We have been given an opportunity to start fresh for future generations lets grasp it and future proof theatre in Hamilton	No	No	
1911	Build New		I believe that a new venue is required. Preferably on the river, with parking. Founders has for a long time not meet the needs of our community, nor touring groups. The back stage/ staging areas not suitable to cope with many productions/shows. The city in the short time that Founders has been closed, has already started to slip backwards in what is being offered, and already that is affecting opportunities for people and youth in particular. I feel that as a major city of NZ we need to be having a suitable performance venue, to ensure ongoing growth of culture and arts in this city. A new venue would bring a whole new growth to the city centre and would enhance cultural growth right across the city, allowing the city to define itself in new ways.	No	No	
1912	Refurbish	Yes	Its a Hamilton icon - plus is missed	No	No	
1913	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1914	Build New		I believe that having a theater is an integral part to a culturally rich town such as Hamilton, and although there is Claudelands events center and Clarence St. Theater, they both aren't adequate for large scale productions, such as orchestras or dance. A new theater could be placed somewhere that would benefit people more than the current location, somewhere miss central.	No	No	
1915	Refurbish	Yes	Because Founders Theatre is such a well known and well loved area. If we were to get rid of it completely then a whole section of history would be lost. If we just refurbished it instead then we would be able to keep the magic of performing alive for generations to come.	No	No	
1916	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1917	Refurbish	No	It would be a serious mistake for hamilton to take a step backward in its support of the performing arts. However the \$50 million price tag for a new building seems excessive, refurbishing the existing theatre seems therefore to be the best option.	No	No	
1918	Build New		Theatre is a major part of Hamilton culture and the arts are alive & well in Hamilton. This would improve the overall theatre experience for not only our amazing local groups but increase the touring groups.	No	No	
1919	Refurbish	No	This theatre holds many memories to me. I spent many of my childhood and adult years performing in this theatre and seeing shows here too. I know it holds this significance to others and will continue to be a place of sanctuary as it was for me if we keep it. It's a gorgeous theatre and I don't think it needs to be demolished. Definitely refurbished but doesn't need to start over new.	No	No	
1920	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1921	Demolish		Too expensive	No	No	
1922	Build New		We could then have a theatre suitable for all sorts of entertainment with excellent acoustics and other facilities	No	No	
1923	Refurbish	Yes	Because if we lose this theatre then there will no longer be a 'large' theatre in hamilton and we will lose yet another attraction. Already we have been avoided by the likes of the royal new zealand ballet and I would not like to lose more quality shows.	No	No	
1924	Refurbish	Yes	The founders is classic! I have danced there for 15 years, there is no other venue like it	No	No	
1925	Build New		Hamilton needs to celebrate arts and culture with a breath-taking venue which draws people into the heart of Hamilton. Positioned differently from the stadium like venue at the showgrounds. A creative inspiring modern looking venue more like the new Len Lye musuem in New Plymouth than an indoor rugby venue. The existing founders is out-dated, the capacity and especially the acoustics. It is a waste of money to just try and update the existing structure. I want council to consult specifically with the arts groups who perform at founders for practical input from professionals who have to use this space.	No	No	
1926	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1927	Refurbish	No	Because it's the cheapest way for Hamilton to have a facility of that scale which would be great.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1928	Refurbish	No	In my humble option, I think refurbishment would be the best option. I believe that Hamilton, as a thriving city, requires a well designed and up to date theatre with better technology and equipment. Demolish does not seem to be a viable option at a cost to rate payers of \$300,000 to demolish. It does seem like a good option to design for a brand new theatre complex as it could attract more performances in the future. However, it seems suitable in the moment and the option to refurbish sounds very attractive.	No	No	
1929	Build New		Dear Madam/Sir, Building a new theatre seems like the most thorough solution. It would provide the opportunity to create a new Hamilton landmark, be a better theatre, and would give much more design and functional options like a better fly system. I would also suggest to move the building to a different location. The current location has no parking, and finding parking when going to an event is always a stressful process. Especially in winter, as it often rains, and arriving at the theatre wet from the rain is not going to give any patron an enjoyable experience. It could be good to move the theatre closer to the museum and arts waikato because then all the artistic buildings would be close together, like a cultural arts hub. Also it would be closer to the new developments coming along the river in the near future and to the restaurants in the CBD. It would be much better for business. Kind regards.	No	No	
1930	Build New		founders theatre is an eyesaw. demolish it. it leaks, it is cold. I was there many years ago and it was raining hard and the water was running down the walls. move on and just do it. it will be a future assest to the city.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1931	Build New		Over the years I've been involved in events at Founders Theatre it was becoming more obvious that the building was getting tired. The theatre was used for performances by local, national and international performers and companies - some of which now have nowhere to go in Hamilton. The arts has suffered greatly since the closure of this facility and if the facility were to be closed down permanently this would be a huge loss for the arts community not only locally but nationally and internationally. The arts is an integral part of any community and if there's nowhere for these performances to go then community arts will die - and there could be more serious implications of that we're to occur. Listen to your people - not your pen pushers!	No	No	
1932	Refurbish	Yes	Founders has been showing generations of my family fun, heritage and huge shows. It needs a decent refurbishment to be able to handle and bring greater and bigger shows to local people that always have to travel to other bigger cities for shows.	No	No	
1933	Refurbish	Yes	Because I love the theatre and its look, it has so many memories, every time i see the distinct look of it i remember all the good times in there. It would also cost a lot less than building a new one.	No	No	
1934	Build New		Founders as it stands now is too small and limited. The dressing rooms are poky and it is not suitable for many large visiting shows.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1935	Refurbish	No	The existing site is already located within the cbd limits. Public awareness of the space location is already long standing. Shorter period of time to complete refurbishment, meaning the space is up and running faster, less damage to promoters and users. Current location could be developed to tie in more with Seddon Park and the stadium i.e. the park adjacent to Founders could be developed to include cafes/restaurants etc becoming a hub between the venues in the area, also including underground parking if possible for the area/venues. Cost of refurbishment is significantly lower but will still deliver the same results with upgraded technologies and stage house etc to meet future proofing options. Retrofitted options would retain some history within the current walls of Founders Theatre, which already has a lot of historic events through its doors over the past 50 years. An inner city 'new build' location will be hard to find. Keeping in mind a suitable loading area would be required for x2 double trailer lorry trucks to fit in i.e. NZSO etc, with turning bay, parking would be an issue for the public, and general access may be a further issue. Building a new venue at Claudelands Arena site would not be ideal as it's current problems with parking and congestion would cause further problems.	No	No	
1936	Refurbish	Yes	We do need a theatre here in Hamilton as it is the fastest growing city. And this is the most cost effective option. Also the location is very ideal for it with plenty of parking on streets around especially when there are dance school shows and parents need to drop off and pickup kids from the theatre several times.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1937	Build New		A new theatre will bring more international companies to Hamilton. With being able to have a theatre that will be up to standard for complex sets, larger casts and crew, and also creating a better entertainment environment for the audience. Theatre is still a huge part of culture in New Zealand I believe and so there won't be any money down the drain as a result from the new theatre.	No	No	
1938	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1939	Demolish		Save us some money	No	No	
1940	Refurbish	Yes	It's the cheapest option to keep the theatre open.	No	No	
1941	Refurbish	No	This theatre is a part of Hamilton's history. It's a great space and the difference between 20million and 50million is significant. Use what we already have.	No	No	
1942	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
1943	Build New		a new theatre would be able to host more of the acts I would want to see and an acoustically suitable building can be created for orchestral performances.	No	No	
1944	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is a major part of Hamilton. I have been to many shows there and participated in many shows there each year. You need to have a theatre in Hamilton, and refurbishing it is a much better option. The location is good as there is parking available on surrounding streets when shows are on.	No	No	
1945	Build New		In 50 years time, it would be great to have smart new theatre with underground parking. Present theatre not very attractive.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1946	Refurbish	No	It is time to acknowledge the People of Hamilton who gave time and money for the Theatre to be in an excellent area and Memorial to one of our Great Ladies which seems to have been forgotten with Memorial being omitted from the Original Title.	No	No	
1947	Build New		-	No	No	
1948	Refurbish	No	By refurbishing the Founders Theatre, Hamilton we would have a much needed size theatre in operation within 2-3 years or hopefully sooner. Feel building a new theatre on another site would be a long drawn out process from decision, planning, building etc and decidedly more expensive than the stated \$50 million.	No	No	
1949	Refurbish	No	We need a theatre NOW not in 20 years time. The city needs a large venue suited to orchestral and choir work.	No	No	
1950	Refurbish	Yes	It is the least expensive option. Founders Theatre in its present location is central to most residents and there is a reasonable amount of parking nearby. It has over the years been home to a variety of events, shows, ballet, choral events, various performing overseas entertainers, and I think we should retain it.	No	No	
1951	Build New		If we demolish and build closer to the CBD then there would be something to do after having dinner at one of the many restaurants.	No	No	
1952	Build New		It will last for years and don't shift to Victoria Street.	No	No	
1953	Build New		Times have changed and the upgrade to suit modern-day requirements for shows, backstage area etc has changed dramatically but WE DO NEED a cultural performance centre for Hamilton and the Waikato.	No	No	
1954	Refurbish	No	Cost effective and we don't lose the theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1955	Build New		Hamilton needs to be able to attract big names - going to Auckland now. Need a Hamilton 'Vector' venue.	No	No	
1956	Refurbish	Yes	Basically the cost and the ratepayers concern at the expenditure required to run the city. But we do need a Theatre at least the size of Founders. Establish a public funding for donations - as with original theatre. I would also like to see full details fo the costings published as these projects seem so expensive.	No	No	
1957	Build New		It is critical, especially for a city the size of Hamilton, to have a (purpose-built) THEATRE/PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE to catre to the creative and artistic aspects of HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, in our lives.	No	Yes	
1958	Refurbish	No	So we can accommodate smaller acts/shows like the annual Country Music Awards. Smaller shows like musicians as an example cant perform in Hamilton, Claudelands arena is too big. Dont build a new Theatre, refurbish the existing building.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1959	Build New		I have performed in and attended performances at the Founders Theatre for over 10 years, and I think the city desperately needs a facility that is capable of holding all of the events that the Founder's has held to date. Unfortunately over the last few years the theatre has fallen into such a state of neglect and it's equipment has become so outdated that to hire it has been extortionately expensive and to perform in it frustrating. It is not good enough for members of the community and especially the Council to recommend Hamiltonians head to Auckland to attend the theatre. Without a facility like the Founders, Hamilton is incredibly limited. We are one of the very few cities in the country that doesn't have a Town Hall that can be used for events such as school prize givings, concerts, and dance events, and these have all been commonplace events at the Founders Theatre in it's history. To refurbish would simply push back the date on which the theatre will no longer be useful to anyone. To close and demolish simply cannot be an option - Hamilton needs a theatre that can accommodate performances by the NZSO, the Russian Ballet, and the many Performing Arts societies, Dance Schools and High Schools that have used the theatre in the past.	No	No	
1960	Demolish		I have no preference (at my age) but think a city NEEDS a theatre.	No	No	
1961	Refurbish	No	Because a new Theatre would not feel the same.	No	No	
1962	Refurbish	No	It is the most practical and "doable".	No	No	
1963	Refurbish	Not Answered	Because the council is in debt now and Founders should be their next project they undertake.	No	No	
1964	Refurbish	No	If "new" is similar size and scale then refurbish at half the cost and possibly complete much sooner.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1965	Refurbish	No	It is a good venue for shows. We enjoy this its location and size.	No	No	
1966	Refurbish	No	The present Theatre is adequate for the size of Hamilton and we enjoy attending shows there.	No	No	
1967	Refurbish	No	I think the location of the theatre at the moment is accessible for all therefore in a great spot. If the theatre was to be rebuilt new it would take years and by then our theatre population would've dropped. I would love to see a new theatre that could cater to international tours if these problems were avoided. I think even thinking about demolishing it is disgraceful as many people enjoy theatre and it is there passion. You would not consider closing the pools or the stadium if this sort of thing happened there so why should you shut the theatre. There is a population of people in Hamilton and the wider community that love the theatre. It is also used for school and university prize givings so gives a lot to the community.	No	No	
1968	Demolish		-	No	No	
1969	Demolish		-	No	No	
1970	Demolish		-	No	No	
1971	Demolish		-	No	No	
1972	Refurbish	No	The size and situation of the existing theatre is good. Shame on Council for not keeping the maintenance of the building up-to-date!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1973	Build New		I prefer 'Build New' because: 1) There is more than just seismic strengthening and an aged flying system "wrong" with the Founders Theater, it is an acoustic disaster as well. It is therefore a chance to rectify everything, once and for all. 2) It will be a chance to build a facility which is an investment for the future of Hamilton City and the region, but will truly meet the needs of a GROWING city and region. As a longtime supporter of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, where I have attended concerts where the soloist leapt off the stage and wandered around the auditorium to find a 'good' acoustic for his solo violin, and another concert, where the roof leaked appallingly onto the orchestra DURING their performance, it is time Hamilton grew up culturally and its largest performance venue was not an embarrassment. These experiences made me feel this town and our approach to the Arts was provincial at best. Moreover, it only works for those productions that use amplification, and is otherwise 'dead'. This is the chance to do it properly. After all, the Council saw fit to invest much local capital in the Rugby Stadium and The Claudelands Events Center and also supported presumably the new regional cycling velodrome?! It is therefore timely to balance things out for the musical arts with a forward looking and fully functional large/medium music/performing arts facility comparable with the much smaller but excellent Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts Concert Chamber. To do it well, will be a huge enhancement and investment for Hamilton City and the region, and will make us look more than just a provincial rural town. It is the most forward thinking option.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1974	Build New		Hamilton is meant to be a city where it all happens, but nothing happens when we have a substandard or no theatre at all. Hamilton has missed out on opportunities in the past. A new theatre would enable all types of shows to be hosted eg. The Royal NZ ballet, music concerts Hamilton is the 4th largest city in New Zealand and by not having a theatre is not good for the economy. Auckland, Tauranga and Rotorua etc will have the most to gain as people will travel from Hamilton to show that would have normally come to Hamilton had we had full-scale theatre.	No	No	
1975	Demolish		-	No	No	
1976	Demolish		-	No	No	
1977	Demolish		-	No	No	
1978	Demolish		Can Claudelands Arena not be the recipient of some of the \$50M and make it comparable? It seems to make more sense to have one fully functioning centre rather than 2 which aren't (fully functioning)	No	No	
1979	Build New		Hamilton needs a facility that caters for music and drama. If the Founders was safe, I have always thought that a concert hall built adjacent to the theatre could utilise the common facilities - box office - toilets - restaurant etc. Suggestion: deconstruct and reconstruct from proscenium arch backwards - retain front of house and auditorium and build a concert hall adjacent, utilising the existing services and facilities.	No	No	
1980	Build New		The Founders is not adequate for the population that Hamilton has now as when it was built.	No	No	

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1981	Refurbish	Not Answered	My first thoughts were to build new, but only if the capacity of the new one would be greater. But I understand this would not be the case. I believe the present site to be the best and am TOTALLY against building a new theatre in the central city.	No	No	
1982	Refurbish	Not Answered	I personally DON'T want the theatre in the business centre - leave it where it is and refurbish.	No	No	
1983	Refurbish	Yes	Hamilton has the Claudlands Arena.	No	No	
1984	Build New		I think retaining the current theatre and refurbishing it would be too limiting to achieving the best facility.	No	No	
1985	Refurbish	No	Needs doing, but is way cheaper than a new build. Plus I like its unusual shape.	No	No	
1986	Refurbish	Yes	I think it is ridiculous you are surveying people on this. I picked refurbishment but really, no one in the community has enough information to decide which option is reasonable because it would depend on having other information such as the council's other liabilities, how much having a theatre generates for the economy, what other alternatives there are for building or developing a theatre elsewhere. I can't see how the results of a survey can be anything other than a very thin claim that you have "listened to the people". The people have elected the council to make informed decisions on their behalf.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1987	Build New		Hamilton has the opportunity to build a world class Proscenium Arch Lyric Theatre and one of the most advanced in New Zealand. Hamilton's population is increasing weekly and Auckland is getting closer and more accessible. The target audiences are increasing. The RNZB has a loyal audience in Hamilton, who currently have to travel to Rotorua or Auckland to see and RNZB performance. We look forward once again making the Founders Theatre a regular stop on our touring circuit to serve the people of the Hamilton region. Theatre technology and productions are ever developing, and with this comes greater pressures on venues to be able to accommodate these needs. We suggest that building new could insure the best possible outcome for all major stakeholders and theatre patrons of Hamilton and the surrounding areas. It could mean that all major touring shows have the capability of presenting shows without compromise and that the current and future audiences of Hamilton get the best possible experiences. We advocate for strategically creating an agile space, designed and future proofed for future generations. This is a once in a 50-year opportunity to get it right. RNZB recently had the opportunity to utilise the new ASB Theatre in Blenheim; their two-tiered auditorium offered every seat in the house a premium view and an intimacy with the show. Having utilised the current Founders Theatre for over 20 years I note issues with the Founders' FOH, which include suboptimal shape and size of the auditorium seating area, limited FOH lighting positions and poor acoustics. The operating position for Sound and Lighting in the auditorium also disrupt sight lines for some of the audience members. A new auditorium build could facilitate the design and implementation of improved acoustics and would provide the opportunity to implement better FOH Sound and Lighting Positions than currently exist.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			A new two-tiered auditorium could help bring the audience closer to the stage and would also help reduce problems with seating for smaller shows. With regard to the Stage House, we trust that a new flying system will increase the capabilities of the current system and cover all current Health and Safety issues. With respect to large shows, like those we tour, a critical issue to bear in mind is that the current stage is quite shallow and the wing space is inadequate for our needs. For an RNZB show, by way of example, ideally the last flying line would be at least 14 meters from the setting line and each batten would be 20 meters long. Then to accommodate for more wing space for the storage of scenery from other scenes, ideally there would be an additional 4-5 meters from the ends of the battens to the stage house walls. The total width of the stage house would then be between 28-30 meters wide and 15 meters deep allowing for a 1 meter crossover upstage of the last flying line. To best accommodate dance performances, the stage surface should be sprung to accommodate ballet. This would not only serve the RNZB, but would also be useful to Musical Theatre as many productions now incorporate dance. The stage house should be able to be heated to a minimum of 22 degrees. For the RNZB, another issue with the current Founders Theatre technical facilities is the current shared space between Wardrobe/Washing Facilities and the Technical Store. We would hope that in the future development that Wardrobe is a stand-alone space conveniently located to the dressing rooms. I would advocate that a new dock should be able to accommodate level access for two 45' semitrailers simultaneously, with covered access at the rear of the trailers to keep of the weather. Finally, while we have made some early suggestions here, ideally we would welcome the opportunity to provide further input with regards to our touring needs, to support the design phase of a new development and/or refurbishment for Founders Theatre.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
1988	Build New		Remodeling the existing Founders would just be a short term fix. The money would be better spent towards a venue that could be used for more possibilities for a much longer time in the future. Refurbishing ALWAYS takes a lot more time and money than expected and the result is not as good for the long run.	No	No	
1989	Build New		The new theatre should be built to a high professional standard which will have a life of much more than 50 years. Hamilton needs to be served by an attractive and robust theatre where standards have not been compromised. A well intentioned "patch up" will not achieve this.	No	No	
1990	Refurbish	Yes	Primarily I consider that a city the size of Hamilton should not have to wait several years before a new concert hall/theatre can be expected to be completed. If the present theatre can be refurbished to an acceptable standard - Safety wise, acoustically and visually - for \$20 million, within 2-3 years, I would favour this option.	No	No	
1991	Build New		The city has this one opportunity to create something special in Hamilton by building new something sophisticated and unique. Think of Andrew Patterson's design for the New Plymouth Len Lye Centre.....world class. Creating an arts building with fantastic acoustics, as the main theatre in The Performing Arts Centre at the Uni has, provides a venue which artists relish performing in. We have beautiful, world class public gardens to be proud of. Now it is time we had a world class theatre to be proud of.	No	No	
1992	Refurbish	Yes	Close to city centre, easy access & parking - attractive setting - separate from pubs/night clubs and desperates. A safe venue to attend.	No	Yes	

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1993	Build New		as a member of the community involved in musical arts- singing predominantly with a child growing in his own musical talents. I want the city to have a good facility for quality classical musical and dance productions with decent acoustic, stage size, "green rooms" audience amenities, airconditioning. I dont want to perform or hear performed qualiity music in a make-do atmosphere. The PAC at Uni has great acoustic but isnt a big enough stage for a ballet or full orchestra and choir. The claudelands centre is not designed for classical acoustic- more for rock/highly microphoned performance, and Claremce theatre may as well shut too- poor acoustics, poor amenities for audience dreadful catering!	No	No	
1994	Build New		Would just be a good thing for everyone using the stage, even if it does take a bit longer and a bit more money. All the performers and audience would benefit from it	No	No	
1995	Refurbish	No	Refurbishing existing theatre gives has less risk, increasing chances of successful outcome both in terms of cost and performance of the theatre when compared to the Build New option.	No	No	
1996	Refurbish	Yes	It would be less of a cost, it wouldn't take as long and it would mean the theatre would still be available as it doesn't need to changed in many ways as it is perfectly suitable the way it is other than the safety issues.	No	No	
1997	Build New		if we are to call us a growing, happening city, we need to supports the arts as well. I would actually look at building something that is more functional than the current theatre, that is build in the CBD so that all our lovely restaurants and the river are close by and it can breath some life into town. New Plymouth managed a Len Lye centre, we should be able to build something people will come to and be proud of.	No	No	
1998	Build New		-	No	No	

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1999	Refurbish	Yes	Because it revamps the theatre for a cheaper price than just tearing it down and rebuilding it. Founders theatre is a greatly loved arts centre that should continue to hold events.	No	No	
2000	Refurbish	Yes	Many people have treasurer memories in this theatre, since finance would be a problem why completely rebuild when this beloved theatre only needs some tender love and care.	No	No	
2001	Refurbish	No	Need the retain the iconic architecture of the era. It is a statement building that in years to come will be looked on as a piece of Hamilton history.	No	No	
2002	Build New		Long term it is the best option providing theatre space for one of Nz's fastest growing and largest cities	No	No	
2003	Build New		Founders is the central hub of performance for Hamilton and the Waikato. To preserve and promote performing arts within the city and region, as well as be able to attract international performances, we need to have a state of the art venue. Refurbishment will always come down to cutting corners and dealing working to the confines and limitations of the existing structure. To really get it right, and to gain the most long term benefits, a new build is a must.	No	No	
2004	Build New		There is no point spending money to make a shit building usable. It would a better investment in the city to provide a new building that would last a much longer time than refurbishment.	No	No	
2005	Refurbish	Yes	I've performed at Founders Theater for over 10 years and I believe that improving the safety and state of the current theater would not only save money AND a whole lot of time from rebuilding entirely (as I love the current theater and do not find this necessary at all!), but would also retain the rich performing culture of Hamilton. Hamilton is in dire need of this theater as there is such little culture remaining and Founders keeps it alive! I could not imagine not performing there again!	No	No	

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2006	Refurbish	No	There's history in that building. I danced there 10 years in a row when I was a young girl. We would certainly be crazy to knock it down and not rebuild as there is no suitable alternative for performances.	No	No	
2007	Build New		Limited by floor plan so restricted in total size and capacity. Better to spend more and get it right than "save" in a refurb and not be able to provide a really top class venue.	No	No	
2008	Refurbish	Yes	Saves \$30million and still achieves essentially the same results.	No	No	
2009	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2010	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
2011	Build New		-	No	No	
2012	Build New		I grew up in Hamilton and Founders theatre is an icon. It would be sad to see it go completely, but to renovate would mean small dances schools would still have somewhere to perform. It is a great location & size. I graduated there and spent many years going to shows. I vote to renovate Founders theatre! Save some heritage since we seem to be losing many Hamilton icons! Save the fountain out front (not the ones on the big roundabout) too.	No	No	
2013	Build New		Icon	No	No	
2014	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2015	Build New		A new build on the same site would better future-proof performing arts capability in the city. The existing site has plenty of spare land to use, including increased on-site parking	No	No	
2016	Refurbish	Yes	Cheaper to do that rather than build a new one that will be similar altogether and is a great theatre so don't want to knock it down	No	No	
2017	Refurbish	No	Make the building safe and modern. We need a theatre on this scale as claudlands holds larger events and smaller who can't afford that need a theatre.	No	No	

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2018	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is a great theatre in a wonderful position. It is an icon of Hamilton. It stands alone, and stands out, in a lovely park setting, I admire it every time we pass by. The theatre deserves to have the necessary improvements that will give it at least another 20 years of life. It is large enough to seat a good sized audience and Hamilton really needs the facility and a rebuild as soon as possible.	No	No	
2019	Demolish		Claudlands has been built	No	No	
2020	Refurbish	Not Answered	As a child growing up in Cambridge, I have many, MANY fond memories of going to see concerts, shows and productions at the Founders Theatre, including The Vienna Boys Choir, Chris Rea, Split Enz (of course!), Dave Dobbyn and various musicals as well! Last year, my own daughter, born in Christchurch, performed there as part of the Young Women in Harmony (barbershop) festival. It made me SO proud to have her sing there, and was SOO delighted to see how full the theatre was, and how well supported it was. I think it's REALLY important that the greater Waikato have somewhere 'local' to host major events, somewhere part of their own district. Somewhere they can call 'theirs'.	No	No	
2021	Build New		Aspects are so dated, stage gear not safe. Toilets are the worst in Hamilton. Still be a traditional style theatre as opposed to an audioatorium.	No	No	

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2022	Build New		It's not really but the best of the three. HCC haven't offered any option 4 – The vision of the city. Any of the offered options feel like a short term solution, and this needs to be better thought through - with proper evaluation of the possibilities, and a real budget. The key is Location, Location, Location and we would strongly support an iconic building that reflects a 'grown up' Hamilton. We believe that since even a refurbishment will mean a 2 - 5 year gap in the market, we would be better off with short-term pain for the long term gain. Creative people are creative and we would simply have to find alternatives (eg St Paul's, St Peter's, Claudelands) We accept that for many in our community, especially those involved in it's regular use, their Heart is at Founders. This is true for the Orchestras too, especially TWSO however we would still support a real investigation of going to something new. HOWEVER it is vital that this is 'Fit for Purpose' - currently Founders suits only a limited number of groups, and the Orchestras are not one of them, EXCEPT when we present a collaboration with a Choir or other group. The requirements of an orchestra are different to that of a dance group, a soloist, an opera, a stage show. We also know it is very difficult to create something that is suitable for all, however this situation we find ourselves in presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to seriously consider what might be right for our city and our community.	No	Yes	
2023	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2024	Refurbish	Yes	It seems building a new one would have a similar outcome for a much larger cost which isn't reasonable. However from my position as a dance teacher and working backstage with lots of kids, the backstage and dressing rooms need to be considered with possibly expanding out the back for more room? - it's absolute havoc!! More car parking also needs to be addressed.	No	No	
2025	Build New		A pro Arch theatre with a fly tower is necessary for a city of Hamilton's size, so that both local and traveling shows are able to pack in sets, drops and props that are common in all modern and older shows. The stage needs plenty of room on both sides to have props and set easily moved on and off stage without risk to crew and actors and not destroy the illusion. At present Founders auditorium is sufficient, but the city of Hamilton is not going to get smaller nor is the associated parking problem. During day time shows mid week it is impossible to find parking and this a big disincentive for producers. If the season for a local or traveling show clashes with a Chiefs match or a cricket test and this is not uncommon, parking is a very real problem especially if the actors and crew in a show need to come in an hour or two before the show and take up much of the extremely smaller and frankly inadequate parking space. Touring companies, Orchestras and Ballet companies have in the past either, had to reduce the size of their sets or lighting rigs to accommodate Founders' small stage size and the fact that there is old fashion hand lines for a third of the fly floor and this is so time consuming and expensive that many simply choose not to make the effort and avoid coming to Hamilton.	No	Yes	

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2026	Refurbish	Yes	still be good to keep it - able to improve as needed and be more attractive to touring productions and other larger operations maybe? Still will be viable option for productions etc. and still give opportunities to those in arts based activities	No	No	
2027	Build New		This is a long term solution - although it is more expensive I believe it will allow Hamilton to host bigger and better shows and productions. Hamilton deserves a first class theatre.	No	No	
2028	Refurbish	No	It's cheaper and historically significant	No	No	
2029	Build New		hamilton is a expanding city. we need to plan for the future. Founders is out dated and too small to have any significant shows. Nz Ballet company wont even perform due to too small stage! Refurbishing will only paper over the cracks of insufficiency. whilst a new theatre costs more it is an investment for an up and coming city. We need to promote growth for the future not stay in the past.	No	No	
2030	Refurbish	No	I have so many awesome memories from watching to performing that id love to share this place with my Son as he grows	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2031	Build New		Hamilton needs a new theatre with better facilities and acoustics than the old Founders Theatre had. There are not many other performance venue options in the city for large-scale concerts which makes growing arts organisations difficult. If the city wants to attract top level performance groups and grow the arts culture (which it desperately needs to do!) then a top-quality theatre would be a great boost. Amateur choirs and orchestras cannot perform in the theatre, firstly because they can't afford the unreasonable costs, and also because the acoustics are very ungenerous. Even for professional ensembles like the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, the acoustics are not ideal. Acoustics really need to be the top priority. If we just refurbish the old theatre, many of the current problems will last and will end up in a similar position later down the track having made no growth to the arts in Hamilton.	No	No	
2032	Refurbish	Yes	I don't particularly care if it's refurbished or rebuilt. I believe the theatre should stay intact somehow or another because as it is, we are running out of good theatres in Hamilton which is a problem for many, for one I don't know how my school would do it's annual prize giving as everyone would not fit in any of the other small theatres around. Founders is essential to the community.	No	No	
2033	Refurbish	Yes	less cost great location for parking	No	No	
2034	Refurbish	Yes	There is nothing else to do in Hamilton except see plays, so it might as well be a bloody marvelous experience. If the city can spend god knows how much on ugly ass "modern" art around the city, then it can spend as much on quality theatrical experiences.	No	No	

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2035	Build New		We are the fourth largest city in New Zealand, constantly expanding, especially with housing shortages in Auckland, yet cannot put on the large, major productions that would not only build a strong artistic city but also keep and bring in revenue that currently dissipates to other main centres.	No	No	
2036	Refurbish	No	History of Founders Theatre we need to preserve and bring up to todays standard on same site	No	No	
2037	Build New		Hamiltonians and its many visitors and close neighbours need to show what we have to offer. We can be the farming and arty capital of NZ	No	No	

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2038	Build New		Although the current closure of Founders Theatre is a tragic loss to the Waikato population and may mean that a generation of young people miss out on the opportunity to engage with a facility of this size and capability, it could be a blessing in disguise if we use it as an opportunity to build a state of the art facility in a location that revitalises the city centre. A city the size of Hamilton needs a full sized and equipped theatre for major civic events (graduations, citizenship ceremonies), large scale local and touring theatre productions and music events. I am particularly inspired by the idea of a facility that can host major national and international touring shows. I am frequently disappointed when major works tour New Zealand but miss Hamilton out of their schedule due to a lack of appropriate facilities. My family and close friends are prepared to travel to Auckland to attend cultural events but would rather spend our dollar here. The entertainment and hospitality industries are synergetic, and the success of one feeds into the other. By building a state of the art facility in the CBD which utilises the river, incorporates multiple performance spaces (Main performance auditorium with flying system, studio space and rehearsal rooms), and houses high quality restaurants and entertainment we can develop an ecosystem that sustains the heart of the city. Imagine Madam Wu, Palate, or Wonderhorse housed in the foyer of our city theatre building.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2039	Refurbish	No	Like many other drama enthusiasts, I love being able to attend a show at the local theatre in town. While building a new theatre could be great, who knows how long it will take and goodness knows there are other more pressing issues that could be addressed with the additional \$30 million. I think proper refurbishment is enough to sustain the performance culture in Hamilton and continue to promote it in our city. But I beg you to please do not demolish Founders Theatre and the dreams of young performers.	No	No	
2040	Build New		For Hamilton to have any credibility as a city in the full sense of the word she needs a facility for the performing arts which is fit for that purpose. Founders theatre has not met that standard for many years. I believe we need a facility with acoustics and backstage facilities whereby the NZSO and visiting theatre and dance companies will actually WANT to perform in Hamilton rather than turn up reluctantly. The acoustic needs to be of a quality where voices can be heard throughout the auditorium without amplification. I believe that the Claudelands event centre meets none of these requirements. I have heard comment that Hamilton does not need such a facility - we could just travel to Auckland to attend artistic events. This is belittling our status as a city and insults local performers and audiences. The same argument might suggest that Hamilton become part of the wider Auckland super-city.	No	No	
2041	Build New		-	No	No	
2042	Build New		Even though I have grown up with Founders and love it so so much, I believe Hamilton needs to update to attract more arts to the city and become a rising star in the theatre world. Refurbishment is my second option... I will hunt you down if you choose option three....there will be no place that you can hide!!! Yay drama!!!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2043	Build New		I prefer build new because this building looks old and likes like it has add-ons. A new building would be fresh and have all the upto date facilities required for the future, without having to modernize the old building and it still would look drab and old inside and outside. We are a city of the future so lets keep things fresh.	No	No	
2044	Build New		We think this is the right direction for the cities future Build it right, once, and purpose built, catering for ALL productions requirements le ballet, Broadway, theatre, pop, etc. require it to be a multi purpose building, having a multi use facility. Architecture needs to be functional and dynamic, special, timeless, and a place people want to go! At present we travel out of town for NZ Ballet and other Broadway shows x 5 times a year paying for accommodation and transport, potential money lost, as other could do the same travelling to Hamilton.	No	No	
2045	Demolish		Use Claudelands	No	No	
2046	Build New		Hamilton needs a cultural centre. It is terrible we currently don't. At some pointy, we need to take the financial hit to allow future generations enjoy what I have. We need to think of the next 30 years, not the next 5 or we will regret it.	No	No	
2047	Refurbish	No	Utilise the land and the current facility while at the same time upgrade and improve it. Better use of resources and more cost effective	No	No	
2048	Refurbish	Yes	It's slightly cheaper than building a new theatre, and at the same time keeps a well known theatre still in use.	No	No	
2049	Refurbish	No	It is not an old theatre - It was state of the art when it opened and would, in time, become a heritage complex. Hamilton needs a decent theatre and this would be the cheapest option.	No	No	

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2050	Refurbish	Yes	Because Hamilton needs a good performance space and a cultural 'centre' that Claudelands just cannot provide. we need a theatre that can accommodate non-amplified musicians.	No	No	
2051	Refurbish	No	Its an excellent building and the position where it is is A1. This city needs a facility this size and where it is plus the character of this building is excellent.	No	Yes	
2052	Refurbish	No	Cost of new building is not needed. Leave as is where it is.	No	No	
2053	Build New		Would love to see a cultural and performing arts centre down by the Waikato river.	No	No	
2054	Refurbish	Not Answered	Founders has historical value that needs to be acknowledged. Is a good building, the facilities just need to be upgraded and maintained.	No	No	
2055	Refurbish	Yes	Its a no brainer. Besides being the only theatre that is central, iconic, special, with a fountain that means 'Hamilton'.	No	No	
2056	Refurbish	Yes	This iconic venue for Hamilton and surrounding area has served us well, and deserved better maintenance and up-keep through successive councils. The area of green is refreshing in the otherwise built up area. It has a proud presence and should be retained.	No	No	
2057	Refurbish	Yes	It is as central as you can get it, a pretty good place, and why not refurbish there is no sense in relocating and a lot more money is involved, plus more time to build.	No	No	
2058	Build New		Build new but on the current site.	No	No	
2059	Build New		We need an amenity for a city our size. It's pointless refinishing for around half the cost of building new and having only a life of about 10 yrs compared with a life of a new build for at least 30 years.	No	No	

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2060	Build New		Fixing is only a band aid. This city needs a modern, fit for purpose, future proofed theatre performance complex. The city and region deserves a facility of world class specifications not only for the community to enjoy as patrons but also for the arts community to access for performances.	No	No	
2061	Build New		A new build would provide a building that is: Built for now and the future Has the capacity to maximise the latest and future technology Of highest quality acoustics for classical music Of highest quality for musical theatre Has a greater crowd capacity than other venues in the city A showcase of Waikato's design and architecture talents An excellent venue to showcase the talent we have here in the Waikato	No	No	
2062	Build New		Do it once - do it right. Start with a clean slate. The refurbishment process will discover more problems and the costs will escalate - and also the compromises needed (given a cost cap) to make the totality of the old structure safe will invariably lead to an awkward and 'not-quite-right' building. Starting again will give the design process a chance to create a functional and coherent building that we can all be proud of. It is a chance for the city to make a statement about who we are. We are an expanding city - let's plan for the future.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2063	Build New		Do it once - do it right. Start with a clean slate. The refurbishment process will discover more problems and the costs will escalate - and also the compromises needed (given a cost cap) to make the totality of the old structure safe will invariably lead to an awkward and 'not-quite-right' building. Starting again will give the design process a chance to create a functional and coherent building that we can all be proud of. It is a chance for the city to make a statement about who we are. We are an expanding city - let's plan for the future.	No	No	
2064	Build New		It is very worthwhile as the Founders has attracted many international as well as national acts, and it has also been a venue for so many celebrations of our community, like school prize givings/shows and university graduations. If it is an unsafe structure or will cost more money to make it earthquake approved, then it should be rebuilt, not just patched up.	No	No	
2065	Refurbish	Yes	Don't want to see it closed & demolished, new build far too expensive. Refurbishment better option - we absolutely need this theatre for ballet & all the productions not possible at Claudelands. (In my opinion Claudelands a waste of money - bad decision by HCC - Mystery Creek should be used much more.)	No	No	
2066	Refurbish	Yes	There's a lot to like about the current theatre, and if access for people with disabilities was improved it could work very well. But my choice to retain is solely based on whether the refurbishment is able to include drop-off zones for cars and taxis, as well as all the other inclusiveness features appropriate for a modern theatre in a modern city. If this can't be done with the present site, I would support a rebuild somewhere else.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2067	Build New		I have performed in this theatre as musical director for 1982 TVNZ production "Howard Morrison Live" and have attended several world class music theatre productions directed by David Sidwell. The loss of a the current Founders Theatre leaves a gaping hole in the artistic fabric of Hamilton (what ever genre of performance considered) and needs to be replaced as a matter of urgency. On-going benefits to the well-being of the city and surrounding towns are being lost without this venue. Performances and events should be promoted widely to the Auckland market as well the rest of the country. Encourage people to fly/bus/train in for an overnight or weekend 'Event Holiday'. The limit of \$50 million should be considered expandable to allow for the best possible solution and thought should be given to siting the replacement near Hamilton's iconic river. How about a venue that spanned the river! Wayne Senior, Lecturer Wintec Media Arts Dept.	No	No	
2068	Build New		There is very little merit in putting new wine in old bottles! The present building is well past its use date for concerts, ballet and theatre. There is no reason why the structure should not be retained for assemblies such as municipal meetings, graduations etc. The argument that it be retained because of the name "Founders Memorial" is not valid. A name can always be transferred to a new building if the old is demolished.	No	No	
2069	Build New		it would be worth more money to demolish and rebuild as there little flaws throughout the building. Also, it is used constantly and would last longer having had a more thorough build. This could also mean that the Royal Mew Zealand Ballet company would be able to perform shows without having to worry about the space of the theatre because the layout would be more thought out for how much room there is side stage etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2070	Refurbish	Yes	It will take less time to build and refurbish so it can be up and running again for shows, also if a major show is coming to hamilton the claudelands arena will be suitable enough for it.	No	No	
2071	Build New		Hamilton needs a modern, large, future-proof theatre. Founders has a lot of problems and is very small and the full extent of the repair and renovation work and its costs is not known yet. Start again and do it right from the beginning and make something Hamilton can be proud of. This is an embarrassing situation that never should have happened, but let's look to the future and make a performance space that people will be excited about and that performers will want to visit. Founders does not meet the needs of this city. This is an opportunity to do something visionary that will benefit Hamilton forever. Building a beautiful, modern, large performance space is not something that will ever be regretted--not building it is. Don't squander this opportunity.	No	No	
2072	Refurbish	Yes	I actually want 'option 4' which is in my mind Refurb the existing site/building so we have an active theatre space of this size, there is no way our community can do without a theatre space of Founders size. THEN, BUILD NEW - plan with vision and future proof our city, put Hamilton and the Waikato on the map. Build a multi functional arts & cultural centre in the Southern end of the CBD.	No	No	
2073	Build New		the current theatre is an icon, the site is central and easy enough to access. a new theatre with extra parking is preferable to refurbishment, and will last the city for many years to come. It is needed to compliment the current facility at Claudelands - we need a theatre to serve the wider community and it's entertainment program - many of which are not able to be relocated to Claudelands .	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2074	Build New		For Hamilton to be serious about the Arts it needs a venue to draw world-class performances and major touring productions. My preference would be to build a new purpose-built theatre with modern facilities and brilliant acoustics on the current site. Smaller stages within the main building would make for greater diversity of size of performance, and allow groups from the city to utilise the facilities a lot more. An underground car-parking building should be considered with the plans. Heritage is important so the Dame Hilda Ross Memorial Fountain should be retained with the planning, as this honours a woman who did much for the city.	No	No	
2075	Refurbish	No	It is the quickest and most economic of the options as there is urgency in having a suitable venue for performances that are being shifted to other sites or cancelled. The option to build new is also exciting however it needs to be with greater vision than the scope outlined in the Options Document - and thus also require a greater budget. Question 6 below should have IT DEPENDS as a response - Yes or No without more details is unreasonable, so had to select no....??	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2076	Demolish		Hamilton City Council requested that Creative Waikato conduct a series of focus groups with users of the facility from the local creative sector. The objective of the focus groups was to better understand the challenges and aspirations of the sector that inform their preferences for future development. Creative Waikato was selected to undertake this piece of work in the context of its role as a regional arts capability-building organisation. Its staff has expertise in group facilitation, in-depth knowledge of the sector and extensive relationships and networks within it. The closure of Founders Theatre significantly affected the performing arts community in the Waikato, along with its audiences. Groups felt immediate impact with bookings cancelled and venues changed. In some cases, no alternative venue was available or suitable. Now all groups are considering their medium to long-term activities without Founders. They are dealing with less than satisfactory (or no) alternative venues, impacting upon creative, audience, and financial development and social wellbeing. What we discovered in our research was that it is that there is unlikely to be 'one solution' that will work for the whole performing arts sector. This is neither surprising nor unreasonable. These differing needs and wants of the performing arts sector reflect exactly what you might find in any other developed city with a thriving cultural scene. There are however common themes and groupings. Given this complexity and diversity of the arts sector it is not possible to return with a unanimous response to Councils 1, 2 or 3 options question. In other comparable cities, the needs of these arts groups are met by multiple facilities. However, giving full consideration to the focus group findings, the majority of feedback could be responded to as follows:	Yes – Refer to Creative Waikato Focus Group	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			1. Build new. Progress investigation and feasibility for an aspirational, fit for purpose, future proofed theatre 2. Consider general theatre and classical music needs independently 3. Identify and implement an interim solution (now to opening), particularly for community groups. Preferably - get existing Founders back to a minimum operating standard (town hall mode) without fly tower apparatus if necessary. 4. Note that with a new build recommendation, there is strong preference that Founders is not be demolished, but remain and be repurposed to support the community. The sector recognises that getting Founders open again may take time and will be influenced by the results of final seismic testing. The following actions are suggested ways in which Council can alleviate the short-term problem: 1. Supply Clarence St Theatre (and Meteor if appropriate) with technical equipment removed from Founders (lighting, sound equipment, blacks etc.) that will be used by groups that have had to move from Founders to Clarence. Groups currently have to hire in additional equipment at significant cost. 2. Provide an interim affordable community rate for Claudelands for large community events such as Kapa haka, large ethnic events and other large creative events that outsize Clarence but have the ability to be accommodated by Claudelands. 3. Use opportunity to engage in active research. Evaluate the feasibility of an ongoing community based differential pricing model for Claudelands for large community events that would not be accommodated in a new 1200 -1500 seat auditorium. We encourage you to refer to the full Focus Group report to get a in-depth understanding of the impact of the closure of Founders on the Hamilton arts scene and why the above recommendations have been made.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2077	Build New		There is a good chance the refurbishment would blow out in cost to more like the build new option anyway, so I would rather have something new, and perhaps in a different location...with much better parking than exists at the Founders, which is hopeless....bring it back into the central city.	No	No	
2078	Refurbish	Yes	Cheapest option without having to close it.	No	No	
2079	Demolish		Because, from experience, any refurbishment always costs much more than first estimated. From the description of suggested refurbishment details these costs would be almost the cost of a rebuild. For example, the reshaping of the foyer would need much improved access into the auditorium. The quality of sound has always been contentious and improving this would be very expensive. Best to start again!	No	No	
2080	Refurbish	Yes	My main reason is that the venue is perfect in that it is very close to the City centre. If a new theatre was on the same venue, maybe. I also feel that refurbishing would take less time and must admit that I don't want to wait to long to have a theatre of this kind in our beautiful city. .	No	No	
2081	Refurbish	Yes	To me, and my family, Founder's theatre is significant as I have gone to so many shows there. It is sentimental to many people, and a great opportunity for young and old performers to perform in their home town.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2082	Build New		I Believe there is greater scope to place the theatre in a location in the CBD that will enhance the CBD and financially aid the city.the need for access to cafes restaurants and bars within walking distance from the theatre would make it more appealing to out of town punters and also look at carparking. by building the theatre from scratch we can look at the needs of the theatre, a new flying system would greatly benefit the type and breadth of performance, look at seating capacity.	No	No	
2083	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is in a good location , Has large grounds and it is always easy to park and walk to venue. This is a part of Hamilton's history. The building has potential to be added onto in the same 1960's style. Council should appreciate what we have and should have been looking after and improving instead of neglecting this Hamilton icon. It is time to start preserving some of Hamilton's landmarks instead of tearing them down. A Victoria st site makes NO sense	No	No	
2084	Refurbish	No	Founders Theatre is in a good location , Has large grounds and it is always easy to park and walk to venue. This is a part of Hamilton's history. The building has potential to be added onto in the same 1960's style. Council should appreciate what we have and should have been looking after and improving instead of neglecting this Hamilton icon. It is time to start preserving some of Hamilton's landmarks instead of tearing them down. A Victoria st site makes NO sense	No	No	
2085	Refurbish	No	Central location Comfortable seating Acoustic facilities otherwise lacking in Hamilton for music. Hopefully !!!!Quicker than rebuild.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2086	Refurbish	No	For the theatre to be operational as soon as possible: there is a lot happening in Hamilton and there could be more international acts and events coming sooner than later. It is also indispensable for local performers, artists and directors to be as productive and their work accessible to all ages and keep working locally: the sooner the better.	No	No	
2087	Build New		The current theatre is not acceptable as our only major theatre. It has terrible acoustics so that no choir wants to sing in it. I've been at an NZSO concert where there were buckets on the stage because it was raining. The temperature is always awful - usually gets too hot at the top seats & not warm enough near the stage. The stage does not accommodate the different groupings that want to use it - choirs, chamber groups. The backstage area is not very pleasant for large groups. Start again & get the acoustics right. Make it something that will make me proud to attend & get the international acts back to Hamilton. Auckland is too far for a concert or show as frequently as I attend these events.	No	No	
2088	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2089	Refurbish	No	I think this is the best way to get what Hamilton needs- a quality theatre- without spending as much as a new build would require. It will also be faster than building a new theatre and I would like to see Founders theatre up and running again as soon as possible.	No	No	
2090	Demolish		Its an icon of Hamilton and there's nothing wrong with the design, we should preserve it.	No	No	
2091	Build New		My biggest concern about the Founders Theatre has been the poor acoustics and the fact that a number of major touring productions, e.g. NZ Opera can not come to Hamilton because of the limited facilities. Hamilton is a growing city, and surely should have a modern, acoustically sound and aesthetically pleasing theatre such as Tauranga has.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2092	Build New		Because the site is a good location in the Central City, and an alternative to the Claudelands Event Centre. It is also a great Venue for local, National and International Events. Coming from Taumarunui, I think it is a great thing to be able to travel to Hamilton, and not all the way up to Auckland to see shows, such as Foster and Allen, which I really enjoyed when it came to Hamilton.	No	No	
2093	Refurbish	No	The founders theater is an important part of the community. I've attended school events, theatrical events, and orchestral events there. The community would take a huge hit if we lost the founders theater. If the council has money to spend on ugly statues and expensive chairs, then surely they can spend some of our tax money on things that give more back to the community. Overall I think the the refurbish option would me more preferable for me due to my fond memories of the theater. I also don't believe if we made a new theater with a capped cost of 30mil we would get anything that compares to the wonderful facilities the founders theater has.	No	No	
2094	Build New		The sound in the theatre is bad. That can't be fixed without a rebuild.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2095	Build New		Founders Theatre has been a home away from home and a place where people can come together in order to create something wonderful for many people for many years. The rewards are beneficial for all involved as well as the general public that attend. The arts trend is on the rise and without a venue such as Founders Theatre, how can the up and coming generation of theatre people experience what we have experienced at the theatre? The spirit, love and passion is not the building, its the people inside it doing what they love. The building is only the vessel that holds it all. New or old the spirit, love and passion remains the same, just the vessel changes. We need a theater, that is without question. However I believe that if the cost of refurbishment is \$30 million, then surely a whole new theatre for \$50 million be more cost efficient?	No	No	
2096	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	
2097	Refurbish	No	Because the other options take far too long and are an unnecessary expense for the council and tax payers. The 2-3yrs to do the work is bad enough considering how many dance schools, musicians and other performers will need to find alternative venues or miss out Hamilton all together. The theatre is iconic and should continue being used for many years to come.	No	No	
2098	Refurbish	No	Its a cheaper option and will take the least time to get the theatre up and running again.	No	No	
2099	Build New		To build a larger theatre to accomodate touring acts that need a larger area (ballet). And to purpose build the theatre for multi function - smaller productions, art shows, installations, performance art, cultural festivals etc.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2100	Refurbish	No	This option will take the least time and Hamilton should have this iconic theatre available for local and international performers as soon as possible.	No	No	
2101	Refurbish	No	Because it seems to be the most cost effective and common sense option. Refurbishments can look wonderful. The upgrade of all the things that have been mentioned above would mean that at the end of the refurbishment, Hamilton and its surrounds would have a brilliant and usable theatre for hopefully another 54 years. Keeping the Founders open and part of the community would also have many other positive flow on effects for Hamilton. It would be an utter waste of money to rip the current theatre down and build new. Likewise, it would also be a waste of money and resources to demolish the existing theatre with no plans for a new one.	No	No	
2102	Refurbish	No	Cheapest and fastest option. Retains the history of the place. Least amount of inconvenience to those groups wishing to use the theatre.	No	No	
2103	Refurbish	Yes	It is unthinkable that we would not have a decent theatre in Hamilton, yet money is a big issue. Yes I would rather have a brand new theatre, but refurbishment is the most sensible option. I cannot pay any more rates than I currently do. Our rates are phenomenally high.	No	No	
2104	Build New		Because we need to allow for a wider variety of groups using the venue, and also a larger capacity.	No	No	
2105	Refurbish	Yes	This would meet the needs met for Founders Theatre to reopen whilst being the least expensive option for doing so as opposed to building a new theatre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2106	Build New		Founders facilities are out of date. Cold in winter. Very hot in summer. Stage isn't big enough. It's isolated from the rest of town	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2107	Refurbish	Yes	Cantando Choir PO Box 1534 Hamilton 3240 Submission Re: Hamilton City Council Founders Theatre Consultation June 2016 Background • Cantando Choir has been a major musical organisation in Hamilton for 25 years. • At present it has a membership of approximately up to 100 singers, a large database of past members and an even larger network of supporters and “Friends-of-Cantando”. • The choir employs a professional Musical Director and Accompanist • A large venue is hired for weekly rehearsals. The choir performs three major concerts a year as well as community charity performances. • The choir uses a range of performance venues including Hamilton Gardens Pavilion for an annual ANZAC Day concert, Clarence St Theatre, Gallagher Performing Arts Centre, St Pauls Collegiate Chapel, St Peters School Cambridge, Waikato Diocesan School and Founders Theatre. • The type of concert determines the size of stage that is required. • We frequently combine with TWSO with a choir of up to 120. At the end of 2015 we combined with TWSO to perform Carmina Burana at the Founders Theatre. We sometimes include children's choirs from around the city (as part of our brief to encourage young performers) and thus there is a requirement for a large space for performers. • It is part of our brief to encourage young performers by giving them the opportunity to participate in concerts. • For each performance the choir needs a space large enough to meet together beforehand for a “warm-up” rehearsal.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			• None of the performance venues in Hamilton provide all the facilities needed by the choir. Our preference Hamilton needs a large auditorium suitable for choral and orchestral performances and a separate theatre production space, seating between 800 and 1000 people. A suitable venue would have leading edge design and content that will serve the community for years into the future. Orchestral and choral performances require a specifically acoustically designed concert space. The stage must be large enough to accommodate full orchestra and a choir. This would enable choral and orchestral collaborations. We suggest a stand-alone concert chamber either as part of new development in the city or up at the University with Council contribution. Adequate parking needs to be available close to the new venue. Problems with Founders theatre § Currently the Founders Theatre stage is not large enough to accommodate choir and orchestra and is not well designed for concert performances. § The very poor acoustics considerably lessens the quality of the sound heard by performers and audience alike. This is particularly disheartening for the performers who have put countless hours of hard work rehearsing. § For each performance the choir needs a space large enough to meet together beforehand for a “warm-up” rehearsal.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			§ The charges (hireage and ticketing) for the Founders theatre are seriously concerning and they are now stopping us from holding concerts there. We believe we have only once made a profit from a concert at this venue. § The only time we had good feedback about being able to hear the choir adequately over an orchestra was when our own assistant conductor managed the sound system during the concert in 2015 § Lighting is an issue as it is geared for theatrical productions. Other concerns • We would also like to express our concerns about the estimated funding promoted by the HCC for all 3 options. The costs appear to be grossly underestimated. • Other main NZ centres have attracted Government funding and Hamilton City Council needs to lobby the Government for funding for this facility. • This situation must be addressed as soon as possible. Yours sincerely Sandra Neil and Delwyn White for Cantando Choir committee On behalf of Cantando Choir			
2108	Refurbish	No	I love the idea of building a new theatre but I worry about Hamilton being off the performance grid for five or six years. The two to three year timeframe of the refurbishment would allow us to book performers within this very common planning window.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2109	Refurbish	Yes	I'm stuck between refurbishment and building a new theatre, I just know I want it to stay. We can't completely get rid of such a beautiful theatre	No	No	
2110	Refurbish	No	Faster turn around and less cost Respect for the original designers	No	No	
2111	Refurbish	Yes	I feel that founders theatre is too iconic of Hamilton to simply remove or replace	No	No	
2112	Refurbish	No	This is my preferred option as I want the same site to be used. It is Central and within walking distance to Accommodation and Public Transport. A number of us can remember when this was built and there is some sentimental and historical value.	No	No	
2113	Refurbish	No	Hamilton has an atrocious habit of demolishing it's old heritage buildings. Enough is enough!! Hamilton is turning into an ugly city of high rise buildings. We need to start retaining our character buildings. The Founders Theatre is one of these buildings. Upgrading it is a cheaper option than rebuilding and the buildings character will be retained as well.	No	No	
2114	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre is a Hamilton icon and it needs to be kept as near as possible to the original. A complete rebuild is out of the question.	No	No	
2115	Refurbish	No	There is nothing structurally wrong with the building it seems a better financial option to modernise what we have and fix the flying floor.	No	No	
2116	Build New		The existing venue never was up to scratch. Go for a quality venue that truly meets our needs. An please, ensure we have way better acoustics than we currently have	No	No	
2117	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2118	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2119	Build New		Hamilton deserves a new theatre to cater for its expanding population	No	No	
2120	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2121	Refurbish	Yes	My real preference would be to demolish the present theatre and rebuild a bigger theatre that was acoustically sound and would be able to accommodate choral and orchestral groups, and touring shows. I feel that as Hamilton expands we need a theatre that will take us forward into the future. My only reason for choosing the Refurbishment option above over the Build New option was the extra \$30million involved. I had written all this before I read No 6.	No	No	
2122	Refurbish	Yes	igger facilities to house bigger musicals and shows	No	No	
2123	Build New		Hamilton needs a new fresh look. I love the history of founders but unfortunately it is really looking shabby and it is unsafe.	No	No	
2124	Build New		If you refurbish the old one you still have an old theatre.	No	No	
2125	Build New		Acoustics and the opportunity to build a flagship building to represent the region. I believe this to be particularly important as Hamilton's growth over even just the next 25 years, as Auckland continues to overflow.	No	No	
2126	Build New		In order to continue strengthening the Arts in the Kirikiriroa community, it is imperative that we as a city and as a region have a performing arts venue that is capable of attracting top level performers. It is vital that school children have exposure to dance and music. How great it would be if our tamariki could perform in a festival in a beautiful venue and also be taken there to watch inspirational and aspirational performers from NZ and overseas! I had that opportunity as a child in Christchurch, and it has shaped my life. I believe it is vital that the community has a venue that they can be proud of and that can enhance the beauty and cultural life of our city and region.	No	No	
2127	Build New		Hosting major touring productions	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2128	Build New		A city the size of Hamilton needs a fully functioning theatre which includes a fly tower. The withdrawal of availability of Founders has had a huge, immediate impact on the theatre scene in Hamilton and limits the scale of shows we can put on or host. Hamilton also needs a venue suitable to take a large choir and full orchestra, and it would also be good to have the New Zealand Ballet with a live orchestra in the future. Hamilton is growing, not shrinking. The arts culture needs to be able to grow too.	No	No	
2129	Build New		You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.	No	No	
2130	Build New		The better business case seems biased towards refurbishment. The Financial Case takes into consideration the depreciation approach for capital investment instead of other financial appraisal techniques. Surely the zero depreciation rate applies to the Founders property whether refurbished or not having a long estimated useful life. This would work in favour of a rebuild as would longevity and adapting to the latest technology if aimed at a building to suit the needs of society beyond the life span of a refurbished building. There doesn't seem to be much clarity around costs to the rate payer per annum for the project, projected cashflows and operating deficit or why this is refurbishment the best solution and what are the trade-offs. The report lacks a balanced set of options to consider. I get the impression from the report the 'preferred' option project has been pre-determined.	No	No	
2131	Refurbish	Yes	This is the most cost effective option. It would update and improve facilities and maintain the large performance/ theatre space that the Waikato so clearly needs.	No	No	
2132	Refurbish	Yes	Keeps the history of the building whilst improving it for the future.	No	No	

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2133	Build New		Founder's has reached the end of it's life. Back of house is worn and old. Nothing has been done in years.	No	No	
2134	Refurbish	Yes	Cheaper than new build. Stays in same location.	No	No	
2135	Refurbish	Yes	It is the cheaper option in which we still have an amazing theatre to host many events such as graduations, shows, competitions	No	No	
2136	Refurbish	No	It's the most economic and sensible suggestion	No	No	
2137	Refurbish	Yes	Because I feel as if Founders Theatre did the job already really well and we don't need to spend the money on a completely new theatre. It needs adjustments, that is all. 20 million is a reasonable amount, I don't think people would be prepared to pay 50 million for a different theatre of the same size	No	No	

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2138	Build New		Objective 10 in the Hamilton Plan is: "Celebrated for our arts and culture". A theatre consistent with current world best practice is needed to help achieve this objective. I have performed on stage many times in Founders Theatre, including in choirs and dance school productions. My observation is that the backstage accommodation for performers involved in these types of events, including dressing rooms and green room space, is extremely cramped and inadequate. The existing Founders Theatre is remote from food outlets. This largely precludes performers during protracted rehearsals or between performances, and patrons and performers before or after shows, walking between the theatre and restaurants or cafes. Building a new theatre would provide an opportunity to locate it closer to restaurants. Performers for dancing shows, for example, often arrive at the theatre with stage make-up applied and hair done. Having covered access to stage doors, which would enable performers and equipment to be delivered to the theatre without getting soaked during periods of rain, would be a desirable feature. Features such as this could be incorporated into a new theatre.	No	No	
2139	Refurbish	Yes	We really need a performing arts place like this. It is essential that if Hamilton were to maintain its Arts and Cultural heritage that the theatre be upgraded rather than be demolished and become another car parking area.	No	No	
2140	Refurbish	Yes	It is the most cost-effective, and gives us what we need without the few-year wait that we would have if we were to build an entirely new venue.	No	No	
2141	Refurbish	Yes	The founders theatre is an amazing place which is where a lot of young children develop the courage when performing on the stage at such a young age in different dance recitals or plays.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2142	Build New		Clearly closing the Theatre without an alternative is not an option for the cultural center of the Waikato. Having performed in musical performances a couple of times in the Founders and with my backgrounds as sound engineer I only can imaging that refurbishing would only be a patchwork - and not a solution for the future. Give the expected growth of the entire region, I believe that rebuilding a Theatre tha is up to standard for all sorts of performances is a well spent investment for the future.	No	No	
2143	Build New		Hamilton is a fast growing city and needs facilities which reflect it's importance within the Waikato and further afield. Having a central city location is essential. This links Founders Theatre not only with easy transport and accommodation access but also to other venues, creating a central entertainment hub which could be the envy of other cities - given a little foresight..	No	No	
2144	Build New		Because Hamilton needs something that size and new!	No	No	
2145	Build New		This is my preferred option because I think that we need a new theatre that will include all the features that people need to perform and be able to host the audience well. If we build new we wouldn't have any limitations from the previous building so we would be able to accommodate for bigger audiences and new rooms for people to practice and get ready in.	No	No	
2146	Refurbish	No	I think that we should refurbish Founders Theatre because in our community there are heaps of people that have musical talents and so we should have a place where we can showcase these talents. So by keeping this place and refurbishing it we won't be missing out.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2147	Refurbish	No	1) Cheaper, faster and less wasteful of resources than a new build 2) Better for the Waikato than having no theatre this size (option 3)	No	No	
2148	Build New		Submission attached.	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 2148 Insert – 2 pages long



Have Your Say
Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton 3240

30 June 2016

Dear Hamilton City Council

Re: Founders Theatre – The University of Waikato Submission

The Hamilton City Council has set out three options for the future of Founders Theatre – refurbishment of the existing theatre, construction of a new theatre, or demolition of the existing Founders Theatre – and has asked for feedback from the community.

In the event that it is determined that construction of a new theatre is the preferred outcome, the University of Waikato requests that consideration be given to the location of the new theatre adjacent to the existing Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts on the University of Waikato's Hamilton campus.

Already regarded as a top facility for music, theatre and dance productions, the addition of a 1,000 to 1,500 seat theatre alongside the Academy's purpose built dance studio, Te Whare Tapere Iti, Playhouse Theatre, and Dr John Gallagher Concert Chamber would create the largest comprehensive performing arts venue of its kind in New Zealand.

Such a premier facility would significantly enhance Hamilton's and the wider Waikato region's ability to attract international performances, such as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Royal New Zealand Ballet, both currently unable to utilise Founders Theatre due to size and safety issues. International touring companies require a capacity in the range of 1,000 to 1,500 seats and a facility of this size alongside the existing smaller venues would provide world-class amenities for practice and performance on all scales. The Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts is already home to several renowned music groups, including Orchestras Central, Dame Malvina Major's opera and voice students, and the University's Conservatorium of Music.

The University of Waikato's location offers existing infrastructure and opportunities such as:

- The current Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts amenity, including entrance, foyer, dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms and function spaces can be used to service the new theatre
- The University's Halls of Residence provide opportunities for the hosting of residential programmes
- Substantial existing parking, including for buses, with potential for expansion
- Public transport links via the Orbiter and other key bus routes
- Park environment, suitable for outdoor performances and large-scale concerts and cultural events, e.g. kapa haka competitions and festivals
- Access to the Calder & Lawson Gallery, the Academy's diverse visual arts programme
- Access to campus cafes and social spaces
- Spaces capable of holding catered dinner events

- Access to student labour and volunteers
- Direct transport links into the CBD (5 minutes)
- Easy transport links around the city using the Wairere Drive arterial link, allowing patrons to travel to and from the venue easily from anywhere within Hamilton.
- Access to the Waikato Expressway (once completed), allowing patrons on the eastern city periphery easy access to the venue (Cambridge Morrinsville, Matamata and beyond to Rotorua, Tauranga and the wider Bay of Plenty).

It is acknowledged that such a development would provide significant opportunities for the University of Waikato including:

- Attraction of high-quality staff and students in the area of performing arts
- Opportunities for new academic programmes in the performing arts
- Access to world-class performers (masterclasses)
- Reputation benefits garnered by close association with a premier facility
- Work experience and volunteering opportunities for students

The costs indicated by Hamilton City Council to demolish and rebuild Founders Theatre (\$48m - \$52m) or to redevelop the existing site (\$20.4m) will put financial pressure on the city. The cost of expanding the Academy to include a new theatre would be comparable with building a new facility elsewhere in Hamilton. However, in the scenario proposed, the University of Waikato would provide the land to the project and would, at a minimum, contribute the costs already allowed for in its current expansion plans (\$5m) towards a new theatre on University grounds. Utilising the existing Academy infrastructure, such as the entrance, foyer, rehearsal rooms and function spaces into the theatre design has the potential to reduce the cost of the project substantially. Partnership in on-going operating costs with the University would mean that the Council is not solely responsible for ongoing costs. These benefits would make the University's proposal attractive to ratepayers and Council.

The University of Waikato is part of a community with strong support for its vision, having successfully raised \$10 million for the initial Academy build, which officially opened in 2001. This experience, combined with development-ready land and access to university funds, makes the redevelopment of the existing Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts a logical choice for a major theatre development.

I hope this option forms part of any conversation around Hamilton's new theatre build.

The University of Waikato wishes to speak to this submission at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely



Professor Neil Quigley
Vice-Chancellor

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2149	Refurbish	Yes	A large theatre, that is acoustically sound, that will accommodate a large choir and orchestra, and have excellent access would be a step in the right direction towards supporting the wonderful musical/arts community we have here in the Waikato.	No	No	
2150	Build New		Because building a new theatre as stated would allow for large scale touring productions to be put on in Hamilton. It'd be great to be able to see the big shows by touring companies such as The Royal New Zealand Ballet being put on in Hamilton rather than having to go all the way to Auckland.	No	No	
2151	Refurbish	No	You get to keep it and it costs less then demolishing it	No	No	
2152	Refurbish	Yes	It is the cheaper option so more money can be put into other arts venues or resources for future growth.	No	No	
2153	Refurbish	Yes	Founders Theatre is a very important historical part of musical Hamilton culture. If we got rid of it then we would be destroying decades of history.	No	No	
2154	Refurbish	No	An upgraded theatre would attract more people to come and perform, offering more opportunities for music lovers to come and enjoy what they love	No	No	
2155	Refurbish	Yes	A city of Hamilton's size needs a large good theatre. If we build a new one we will be able to incorporate all the features needed in this day and age. Lets just get on with it!	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2156	Refurbish	No	Because I believe that Founders Theatre is an amazing venue, as I have performed there and enjoyed a lot of the biggest shows in Hamilton. There are/were a lot of memories for me at Founders that have taught me that Performing Arts was what I wanted to do and I wouldn't have discovered my passion for performance if it wasn't for The Founders Theatre. I also had some scary experiences with Founders and they have shaped the person I am now, teaching me that life can offer obstacles but ultimately the theatre is my happy as i have had extensive involvement with The Performing Arts as most of my family members are very involved with this industry and I am always encouraged to go and see as many Performing Arts Events as possible. The last time I performed there I was a Year 9 student in 2012 at 14 years old and if Founders is permanently closed, where do all those childhood memories go? I was 3 years old when I saw my first show there and I would find it very heartbreaking if it was not available to bring not just me, but the people of Hamilton joy.	No	No	
2157	Refurbish	No	Because of less cost; retaining the good of the theatre while improving those areas that need it.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2158	Build New		Theatres as a component of the economic and cultural sectors of cities have been shown to return benefit beyond the financial outlay. Studies of Bilbao (the Guggenheim effect) and Columbus, Ohio urban renewal, plus economic studies from closer geographies (Victoria, Australia) define the benefits of notable architecture and cultural destinations that have a broader effect than the intrinsic benefit of attending live arts performances. To benefit the people of Hamilton and the wider Waikato, national and international community we must provide an infrastructure to support that. That infrastructure not only includes the venue itself but the associated facilities (parking, access) and the after show entertainment options. The current location of Founder's Theatre is not conducive to ease of access, is aligned with sporting venues (which can be considered cultural activities but are not 'the arts') and has very few easy options for after show entertainment - spaces to relax, converse, compare and absorb the personal effect of the performance experience. Resiting a theatre to align with the River Plan proposal and with the downtown dining precinct and including parking in the building design would seem a more sensible option. Council owns land in the area which could be utilised and the sale of the current site used to generate funds to offset the cost of building. Similarly a model of public/private partnership must be considered to ensure that the burden on Hamilton ratepayers (while probably the majority of attendees) can be spread to all audiences through ticket pricing for cost recovery, parking etc.	No	Yes	
2159	Demolish		-	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 2159 Insert – 3 pages long

Founders Memorial Theatre

The 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 Council proposed to spend \$774 million, the emphasis on infrastructure, together with some lovely aspirational goals – more ‘wants’ than ‘needs’.

“Have the best garden in the world”,

“Become an urban garden”,

“Establish the Waikato as the capital of high performance sport” and

“Celebrate our arts and culture”.

Council appears to adopt the philosophy of ‘borrow and spend’ and ‘build it and they will come’. But are they really so critical that we have to increase our debt, during this period Council have continued the compounding rates rise at 3.8% pa.

Since then numerous plans have been foisted on the ratepayer:

The Hamilton Plan, Hamilton Gardens Plan, River Plan. Central City Transformation Plan, and the Frankton Plan, to name a few, all of these are unfunded or more correctly funded by borrowings.

2015 Council budgeted \$13.9 million for the upgrade of Founders Memorial Theatre in year 7-8 (2021-23). Now Council is asking “What should we do?”

Refurbish current theatre at a cost of \$20 million

Build a new theatre similar size and scale for \$50 million

Close and demolish cost \$300,000.

In view of the \$774 million spend proposed over 10 years plus the unfunded (borrowed) Plans the Founders Theatre question should be:

Can ratepayers afford either of Founders Theatre proposals of \$20 - \$50 million?

With a little seismic information the cost of refurbishment has escalated by \$6 million to \$20 million, in just one year. Doesn’t give the ratepayer confidence in the cost figures proposed.

The consultation appears to be premature i.e. it is being conducted prior to a seismic report. The seismic report could have a major impact, particularly regarding work required and the cost.

As part of the 10 year plan Founders Theatre is one of a number of “more discretionary projects. Although they are important we can live without them” The \$13.9 million would reduce debt \$20.2 million.

Council will also go outside Hamilton for viewpoints, seeking the input of residents and groups in neighbouring districts such as Waipa and Waikato. Stating that events at Founders draw audience members from around the region and so it's important they have a say too. Hamilton residents attend events in Auckland, Tauranga and Rotorua those cities don’t allow us to have a say.

This stance is morally corrupt, giving a free ride to the neighbouring districts. If they are to have a say they should also bear some of the cost. The Process looks remarkably similar to the Velodrome fiasco with people who would never be asked to contribute submitting in favour and worse children submitting. A cynic might contend that at the end of the day it won’t matter as Council will do what they like!

Hamilton Operatic Society Inc. advises that:

- a. Not being able to perform at Founders Theatre will negatively impact on 13,000 patrons per year (8.66% of the population),
- b. The City will not have large scale productions from other users such as the Royal NZ Ballet, Russian Ballet and large scale touring productions negatively impacting in excess of another 100,000 residents. No evidence presented to support this figure, and
- c. They question the amount budgeted is sufficient to future proof the theatre and the City's needs into the next 20 years. It should not be a Band-Aid that will need further work in a limited timeframe.

Creative Waikato advises low growth is expected in younger people attending and participating in creative sector exhibitions and performances, the need for so many creative facilities would appear to be diminishing.

The improved highways make it easy to access events and performances venues in Auckland, Manukau, Tauranga and Rotorua which are outside of the region.

Creative Waikato chief executive has been lobbying for some time for a dedicated performing arts centre she said "Founders' sudden closure had sent shockwaves through the arts community. Early feedback from within the arts sector was people favoured a new theatre, with the city boasting many potential prime sites".

A strong view was expressed by some 'arts community' at Information sessions that it must be on the river, neglecting the fact the large vehicle access is required especially for touring events.

Isn't ironic that the 'arts community' want a purpose built venue funded by the ratepayer at the same time as Finch Rating agency was wary of city finances.

Ratings agency Fitch has maintained Hamilton City Council's credit ratings but lists the city's debt as a potential Achilles heel. On a cautionary note, Fitch said Hamilton's debt to revenue ratio was weak relative to that of its international peers. Growth rates exceeding forecasts would exert pressure on debt levels due to the need to accelerate capital spending programmes.

Just where do they think the money will come from?

Particularly with the proposed City Plan, Victoria on the River, the Hamilton Plan and Hamilton Gardens Future Plan, all unfunded to name a few.

There is no mention of the 'arts community' dipping into their own pocket.

More recently Waikato University announced a proposal to build a theatre as part of their marae development, which would conduct all of their graduation ceremonies, another loss of a user at a City Council venue.

The funding options proposed for Founders Theatre are by borrowing, borne solely by Hamilton ratepayers. No mention of any regional funding advocated by Creative Waikato by the glib proposal of "the development of an improved creative infrastructure via a possible shared regional funding model". Alternatively it could be crowd funded that would give a realistic and accurate indication of the 'willingness to pay'.

Creative Waikato has had and continues to have a disproportionate influence on this proposal. There is also a perceived conflict of interest, as Creative Waikato administers funding rounds on behalf of Hamilton City Council and Creative New Zealand for art projects taking place in the Hamilton area. There is no mention of the creative sector assisting financially, only insisting on criteria.

The consultation process is flawed, the 'Have Your Say' - online and 'What Should We Do? – Hardcopy is different, the hardcopy has an extra question at number 10

"Do you wish to attend the hearings for Founders Theatre on 7 Jul 2016?" presumably for seating purposes. Plus number 10 is duplicated.

The online submission omits the attendance question but has provision for an optional receipt. Submitters not wishing to speak at the hearings or requiring a receipt is not identifiable therefore able to submit multiple submissions. It provides the ability for vested interests to skew the result.

An alternative option, one that has worked successfully for the Meteor and Clarence Street Theatres and a slightly different option for Riverlea Theatre would be to gift Founders Theatre to the creative sector. The creative sector could have the facility exactly as they want it, where they want it with little or no negotiation(s)/compromise with Council regarding its future.

Summary:

Founders Theatre is a more discretionary project, we can live without it. The \$13.9 million (now \$20 million) cost saving would reduce debt \$20.2 million,

There is a lack of information provided by a seismic report to make a more informed decision,

One of the users of Founders Theatre seriously doubt that the amount budgeted for refurbishment is sufficient,

The low growth of younger people attending and participating in creative sector exhibitions and performances, therefore the need for many creative facilities would appear to be diminishing,

The ease of access to events and performances in Auckland, Manukau, Tauranga and Rotorua,

Unfair consultation with neighbouring Districts, have a say but at no cost,

The proposal to build a theatre at Waikato University losing another user at Council venues and potentially negating the need for Founders Theatre,

Submitters able to submit multiple submissions, vested interests are able to skew the result, and

Gifting Founders Theatre to the creative sector is an alternative option, similar to that of the Meteor and Clarence Street Theatres. The creative sector would have total control of the future of Founders Theatre and it would relieve the ratepayer of an unnecessary burden.

Recommendation:

Is recommended that Founders Theatre be gifted to the creative sector.

For your consideration.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2160	Build New		This is my preferred option as I believe that with a new and more elaborate theatre, people will be more interested to see the shows and performances that are held there.	No	No	
2161	Build New		A new 800 seat theatre could be built in a more suitable location where there is plenty of parking eg: on the university campus. The current situation of Founders means that people need to firstly find a car park and then walk long distances to the theatre. A new theatre could have an underground carpark.	No	No	
2162	Build New		I think a new theatre in a prime location will best serve Hamilton for years to come. It will attract a range of touring top-quality performances (from comedy to music to theatre to ballet) to entertain the people of Hamilton and will bring people to Hamilton from surrounding areas, increasing local business. A new theatre will also provide the best opportunity for Hamiltonians to develop their performance skills, from dance school end-of-year shows and high school productions through to huge Hamilton Operatic Broadway-style shows. A new build also provides the opportunity for excellent facilities and great proximity to (for example) the dining sector of the CBD - Founders' current location is very awkwardly located for patrons looking for dinner or drinks before or after a show and the facilities at Founders itself are minimal and cramped.	No	No	
2163	Build New		It's an important thing for Hamilton to have, but the current theatre is not fit for purpose and is terribly dated. If it's going to cost \$20 million to refurbish it, it's probably better to build from new. I like the existing site, however - it's central, close to the parks and transport centre.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2164	Build New		This would allow for the needs of an acoustically sound venue, enough room on stage for a large choir and orchestra, easy access, suitable for stage productions as well as choral events etc to be incorporated into the plans of the new venue. Even though this theatre holds a lot of significance to many Hamiltonians, I think there are many features or ideas that could be incorporated into a new venue which would still hold sentimental value for people who love the original theatre such as original wood from the building used as a design feature, keep the fountain out the front etc. I think this is an excellent opportunity for Hamilton to have a high-class convention centre that is accessible for everyone and provides more opportunity for people to enjoy the artistic exploits that many other cities in New Zealand also get to enjoy.	No	No	
2165	Build New		Refurbishing the old founders theatre will only delay closure later down the track. Opting for newly built structure on the same site as the old one. This way any future performances are safe, build to cater for more people and profit will be returned through ticket sales.	No	No	
2166	Demolish		We have attended lots of shows had graduations and fond memories of Founders but the cost of refurbishing and the parking problems, I feel that Claudelands is our new option. It should be made to cater for all the occasions and shows that Hamilton have.	No	No	
2167	Build New		Hamilton needs a a theatre of a reasonable size. Without a theatre like founders the city will suffer. The artistic culture of our city will greatly diminish. I have been involved in Hamilton Operatic Society's shows at Founders theatre over the past few years and thousands of people filled the theatre to support the arts in Hamilton. A new theatre would be used by locals and touring companies. Theatre has a unique way of bringing people together. Hamilton has sports grounds and stadiums, why can't we have a theatre too?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2168	Build New		Hamilton needs a larger Theatre venue then the existing ones. I am a NZ citizen but all my family live overseas, and when they come to NZ the first thing they want to do in Hamilton is go to the Theatre in Hamilton. They have been every single time and it is the draw card they have for coming here. what sort of time frames are we talking about to build new or refurbish?	No	No	
2169	Build New		The ability to host touring shows would be good for Hamilton as a whole, it'd bring more people and money into the city. A new and better theatre in Hamilton could change theatre in Hamilton for the better! Hamilton has a massive theatre culture and the people of the city would benefit greatly from a new and bigger arts venue. Founders Theatre is an integral part of Hamilton!	No	No	
2170	Refurbish	Yes	this is my preferred option because it is a win win solution. We get to keep a large scale theatre in Hamilton for theatrical productions and for visiting ballet, music concerts without MASSIVELY HUGE cost.	No	No	
2171	Refurbish	No	Would be a travesty to lose the Founders Theatre totally. This is a big part of Hamilton and its history. We absolutely need a central arts venue!! Where do the Hamilton population go if they want to see some culture? Performing arts st the Uni is not suitable or big enough to accommodate NZSO, Ballet, etc. This is my preferred option as it is way less expensive than a total rebuild.	No	No	
2172	Refurbish	Yes	The aspiring musicians in the Waikato need a decent place to be able to share the skills they have with others. Founders Theatre provides an acoustically sound venue for us. It gives us a feeling like we've really gotten somewhere with our musical careers. It would be sad to lose a memorable place where many of us have made unforgettable memories, whether young or old.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2173	Build New		As a major city, we need a decent theatre! It makes sense to build new and not be constrained by current floor plans etc. a new theatre with a new vision would be a great addition to our city, and would mean we could enjoy larger touring shows. I wouldn't be surprised if a 20 mil refurb became a 30 mil refurb....so we may as well spend the extra from the start and build a really fantastic exciting new venue.	No	No	
2174	Build New		Would prefer new but need to ensure scope is appropriate for a growing city (plan for the future) and location is appropriate to support Central City Transformation Plan (ideally more centralised to support local food and beverage, etc). Second preferred option is to refurbish as I think a large growing city needs this kind of facility.	No	No	
2175	Build New		develop a facility that can cater for the years ahead and provide a multi functional facility	No	No	
2176	Build New		A future-proof option - that will support our future needs as a city and ensure that there is less likelihood of having to address other constraints with the existing building in the near future. It also opens up the opportunity for a new site, closer to the entertainment areas of the city.	No	No	
2177	Build New		I would like to see the city take this opportunity to build a theatre closer to hospitality options and the River to create a cultural and entertainment area that brings Hamilton's many great features together. This will benefit visitors, performers, and residents as well as assist with business and tourism growth.	No	No	
2178	Build New		Close and demolish is not an option. The fourth largest city in New Zealand needs an appropriate venue for arts and music. Claudelands Arena will not cater to those artists. Refurbishment is an expensive option with hidden costs that will only eventuate once more time and introspection is invested. A new build with an experience Contractor is the way to go.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2179	Build New		A modern purpose built theatre in town by the river and amenities would be ideal.	No	No	
2180	Build New		Would be good to have a theatre close to town or the river	No	No	
2181	Demolish		Refer to attachment	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 2181 Insert – 2 pages long



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SUBMISSION TO HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL ON “FUTURE OF THE FOUNDERS THEATRE”

June 2016

1. We wish to make a verbal submission on 7 July
2. Statement of Proposal – “What should we do?”

This response is to that direct question. The options in the ‘consultation/engagement documents’ in an inadequate template/cookie cutter format focused on funding rather than sustainable community benefits. It discourages deeper understanding, and narrows down relevant discussion.

3. Timetable

Final decisions should be left to the incoming council (after October 2016)

4. University of Waikato project

The current council should take a strong stance against the proposed Academy/performing arts expansion project at the University of Waikato, and publicly advise philanthropic interests (including Momentum) to support a central city venue – this facility to be developed in collaboration with the wider community.

NB It is disturbing that Tertiary Education interests bravely access funds to develop significant campus oriented facilities – including Wintec’s Ramp Gallery and the UoW’s Academy - while the City Council cries poverty...

5. Founders Theatre

Establish a community-based review group – to include representatives from the three community theatre trusts (Meteor, Operatic and Riverlea) and theatre users (past and present – music and dance, plus schools), plus individuals with ‘audience’ interests and engineering expertise (and open to public applications)

- To evaluate the theatre’s prospects as a Community Arts Hub and determine an upgrading plan. This to consider
- Integrated uses, including
 - ‘Hotere Gallery’ around the famous painting, for exhibition of the city’s collection...emerging artists from the vibrant schools’ programmes
 - ‘Club Space’ for revenue-generating café/bar for 24/7 gatherings
 - Rehearsal space
 - Prop/costume storage and hire services
 - Fly tower issues (including usage and new technology....)
 - Earthquake strengthening
 - Redevelopment of the original ‘twin-space’
- Community Trust or CCO management (based on the Meteor experience etc), and to include the benefits of a ‘consortium’.

6. Claudelands Event Centre

Either enable the above group to Review Claudelands, its management and financial statements, or establish a second review group, and include the city's rugby and cricket stadia.

7. Hamilton Club

Evaluate the purchase of the former Hamilton Club building to add to the Museum precinct as a Heritage Centre to feature Waikato-themed displays and items from the museum collection.

8. CBD Group

Formalise a CBD focused community based group (involving CBD Association, Property Council, Riff Raff Trust & property owners)

- to manage and support the Riverbank Redevelopment project and
- to foster redevelopment of the Hamilton Hotel and Embassy heritage sites and
- to evaluate concepts and benefits for including performance and exhibition space

There is a need to work in harmony with the community and special interest groups, and to restore faith in the city council, its planning, its financial operations, and its theatre services.

Thank you

TOTI Charitable Trust

Margaret Evans

Mavora Hamilton

Kate McArthur

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2182	Refurbish	Yes	Having a thriving arts and entertainment scene is important for any major and growing city. Without having a theatre like Founders we are missing out on events in the region which has a direct impact on the economy. We support either refurbishment or building new, with a preference to build a new modern theatre, ideally located more centrally to add further vibrancy to the CBD and to support local food and beverage venues. When considering new, it is important to carefully review the required size and scope of the theatre to ensure we future proof the facility and meet the needs of our growing population.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2183	Refurbish	No	The facility requires cosmetic refurbishment especially around the amenities, seating and stage area. Money over the years has been removed from the long term plan by elected members, creating the position they are into today. If council was smart enough they would also realise that over a period of 2-4 years prior to the latest reports condemning the facility, that the main roof has been replaced, with major structural assessment carried out to ensure the existing structure could support the new roof. They would also realise that there were also assessments, both mechanical and structural assessments carried out around the winches and flying system. The result of this was positive with the only comment around the age of the equipment. These audits, and assessments came about when management decided they wanted something else (a new theatre), and a theatre consultant condemned the winches and flying bridge to find after qualified assessment that only general maintenance was required. The consultants reports are scare mongering. Around the earthquake assessments, the fact is that the IEP is well above the legal requirements, with no further action required. The current changes before parliament will more that likely extend the process for work required to earthquake prone buildings and keep the threshold the same. Normally an detailed assessment will exceed an IEP assessment not lower.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2184	Refurbish	No	The Founders Theatre has been part of Hamilton for many years and is a well known building to many. I have attended many great shows here and we need to have a venue for the large shows that otherwise would not come to Hamilton. It does need work to make it better and be brought up to date with current standards but it would be well worth it. It is good to keep an iconic building alive.	No	No	
2185	Build New		Because as a city we need to be looking to the future. The Founders Theatre was not a very good venue for musical events. A new theatre would not only serve Hamilton but the surrounding districts as well. Thus bringing in people from out of town. It is important that we have suitable facilities to house the NZSO, touring ballets, overseas performers, opera etc. If the City of Hamilton wants people to come here we have to provide both theatre and art gallery facilities. This is the opportunity to provide both in one centre.	No	No	
2186	Refurbish	Yes	After polling our members the response we received was firstly comments around the lack of a needs analysis. Concerns were also raised as to the future population, arts trends and the time it will take to rebuild. However the overwhelming response was to refurbish the existing building.	No	No	
2187	Refurbish	No	In simple terms it is the most affordable for ratepayers while retaining a facility for people to attend quality performances. It is highly regarded in terms of a theatre on the international front with excellent sound and small capacity seating. A lot of entertainers favour a small theatre atmosphere as opposed to larger less intimate surroundings such as that provided by Claudelands. It has significant historical merit and is really owned by the people of Hamilton who originally founded it and funded it. It should be retained for it's significance to the history of Hamilton.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2188	Build New		New theatre on the same site	No	No	
2189	Refurbish	Not Answered	Refurbishment / New	Yes	No	

Submitter 2189 Insert – 5 pages long

30 June 2016

Hamilton City Council
Private Bag 3010
Hamilton 3200

THE FUTURE OF FOUNDERS THEATRE

Hamilton & Waikato Tourism welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission regarding Hamilton City Council's public consultation regarding the future of Founders Theatre in accordance with the document "Founders Theatre – What Should We Do?".

Tourism contributes \$29.8b of visitor expenditure to the New Zealand economy, an increase of 10% on the previous year (MBIE March 15). The industry is experiencing exceptional growth with visitor arrivals and expenditure at its highest level ever. Tourism is now New Zealand's largest export industry. The Hamilton & Waikato region has shared in this growth with visitors generating \$1.23b of expenditure, up 7% on the previous year.

As an industry, it is important that we welcome visitors to our region, towns and communities and ensure that they enjoy their stay, stay longer and spend more while they are here. This in return provides economic benefits and employment within the community.

HWT believes that there is a need for a high calibre theatre in Hamilton that will be a key asset for the city and has the ability to attract events of national and international significance. The art sector is integral to creating a vibrant city and therefore the theatre should play a fundamental role in strengthening and supporting the region's value proposition and visitor attraction strategies.

HWT supports Hamilton City Council's investment in providing a theatre of suitable size and nature to meet the purposes of the performing arts sector. The theatre needs to be of significance, not only to Hamilton, but to the surrounding regions. With a population of 2,362,00 living within a three-hour drive radius of our city, the theatre needs to be able to attract and cater for visitors from our neighbouring regions and further afield.

HWT sees the merits and challenges of two of the options presented: refurbishment of the existing theatre or an entirely new development. Whilst a new development has appeal, HWT believes that the refurbishment option is likely to be more easily realised and can progress at a faster rate. Whilst the CBD/River location also holds great appeal, the current location of Founders within the sporting/cultural precinct of Hamilton also works well and is within easy reach of supporting accommodation, retail and the hospitality precinct of the city.

Should the refurbish option be the most preferred option by Hamilton residents, HWT would encourage the Council to ensure the theatre is fit for purpose, be viable/sustainable in terms of council's standards for such key community assets. Ideally it should provide flexible spaces and have a strategy for growth should future demands require a larger building/provision. Appropriate food and beverage options, parking and accessibility all need to be factored in. HWT would also encourage modernising the exterior and of the building so that it becomes an attractive contemporary feature for the city.

Lastly it is critical that Founders Theatre provides an overall outstanding experience and makes our city and community proud.

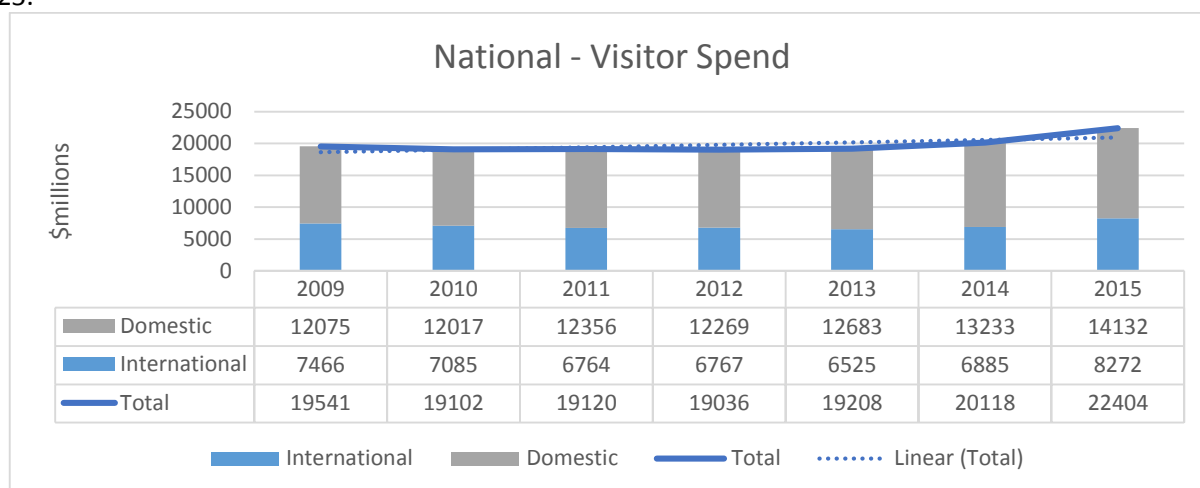
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Goulter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kiri Goulter
Chief Executive

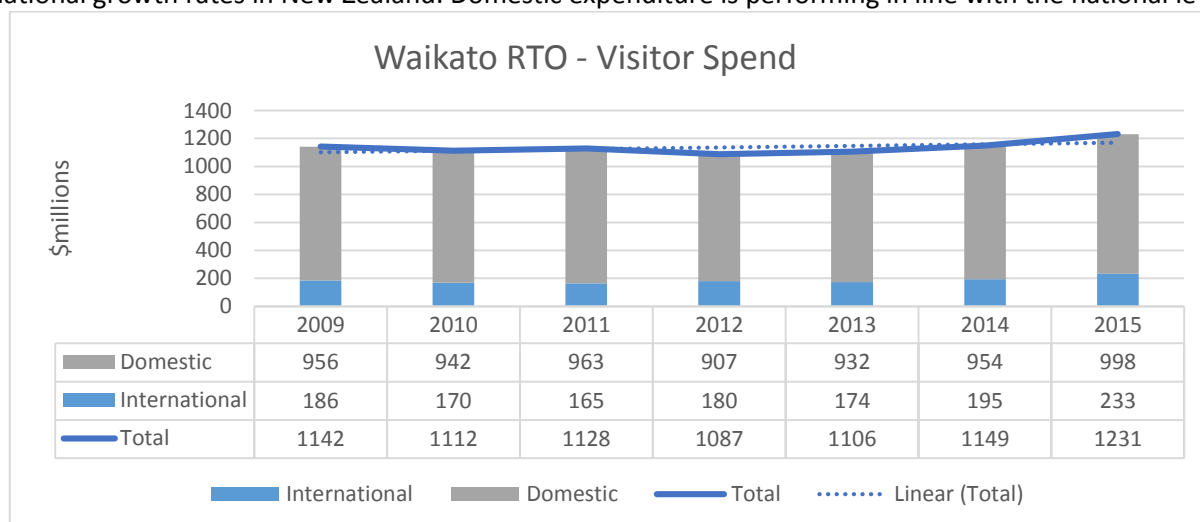
TOURISM OVERVIEW

New Zealand's tourism industry contributes \$29.8b per annum to the New Zealand economy (YE March 2015). International visitor arrivals have reached their highest level ever with 3.2 million visitors (YE March 2016), an increase of 23% on the previous year. Domestic tourism continues to perform well due to a stable national economy and high consumer confidence levels. As a whole, New Zealand's tourism sector is experiencing unprecedented growth which is forecast to continue and the sector is well on its way to reaching the national growth target of \$41b by 2025.



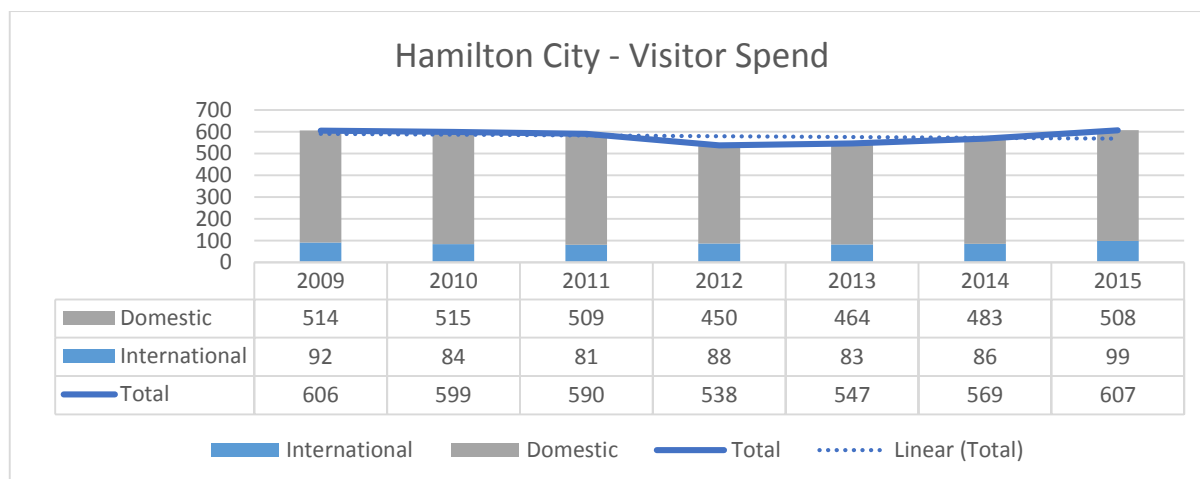
Source: MBIE, YE March 2015

The Hamilton & Waikato region is sharing in this growth and is currently the fifth largest in New Zealand for visitor expenditure at \$1.23b per year (YE March 2015) up 7% on 2014. \$1b is derived from domestic visitors and \$233m from international visitors. International expenditure grew by 19% and the region has one of the highest international growth rates in New Zealand. Domestic expenditure is performing in line with the national levels.



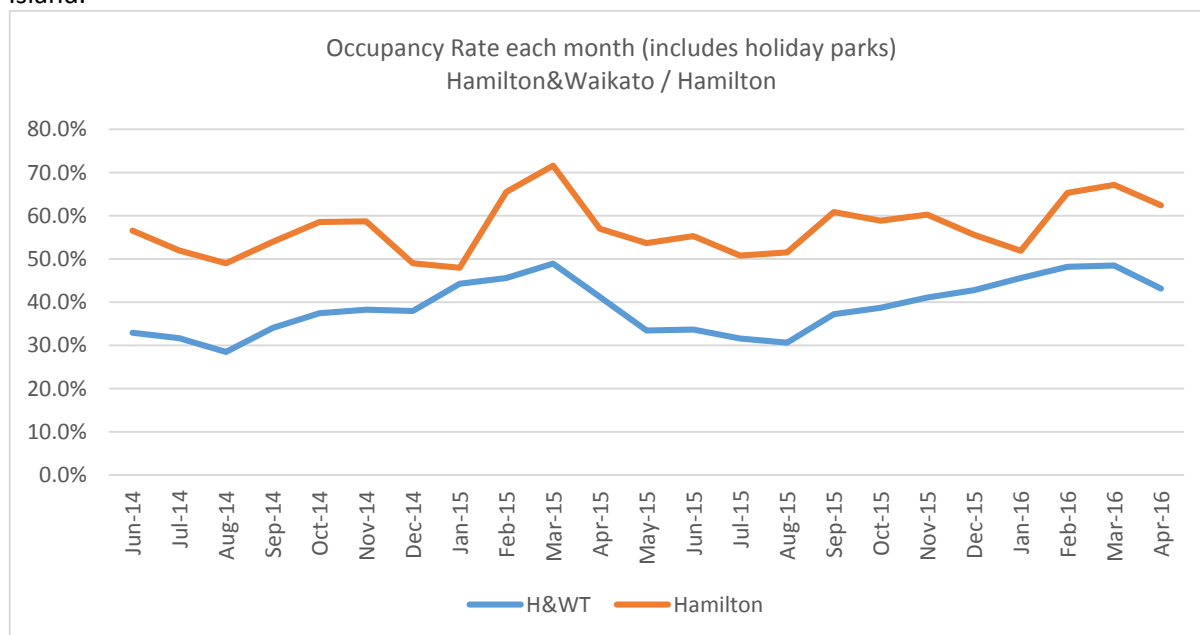
Source: MBIE, YE March 2015

Total visitor expenditure in the Hamilton City grew from \$569m to \$607m (March 2015), an increase of 6.3%. International visitor expenditure grew from \$86m to \$99m, up 13% and was above the New Zealand and regional trend. Domestic spend grew from \$483m to \$508m, an increase of 5%.

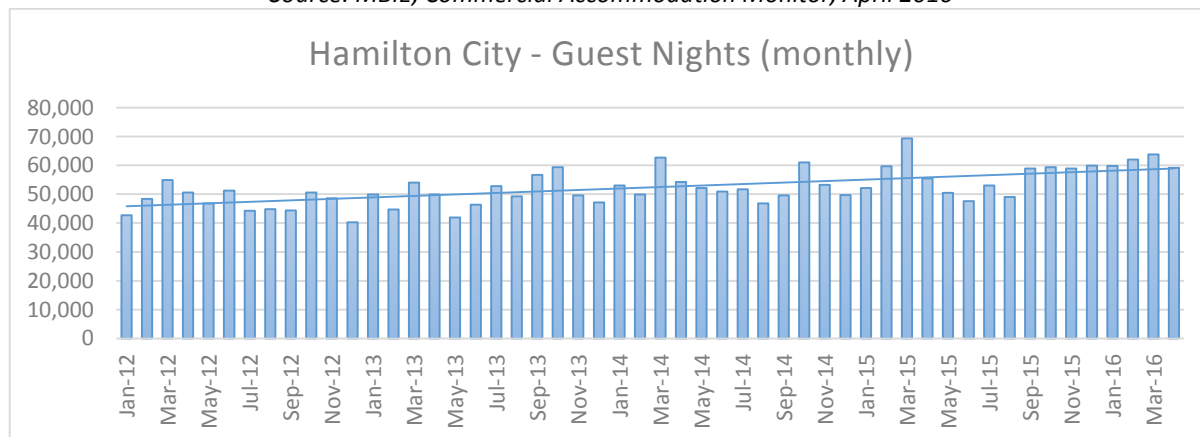


Source: MBIE, YE March 2015

The Hamilton & Waikato region is well located geographically in terms of source markets and visitor flows with 75% of international visitors arriving into Auckland and flowing into the region. This is further strengthened by the region's growing population and robust economy, as well as its proximity to large centres in the upper and central North Island.



Source: MBIE, Commercial Accommodation Monitor, April 2016

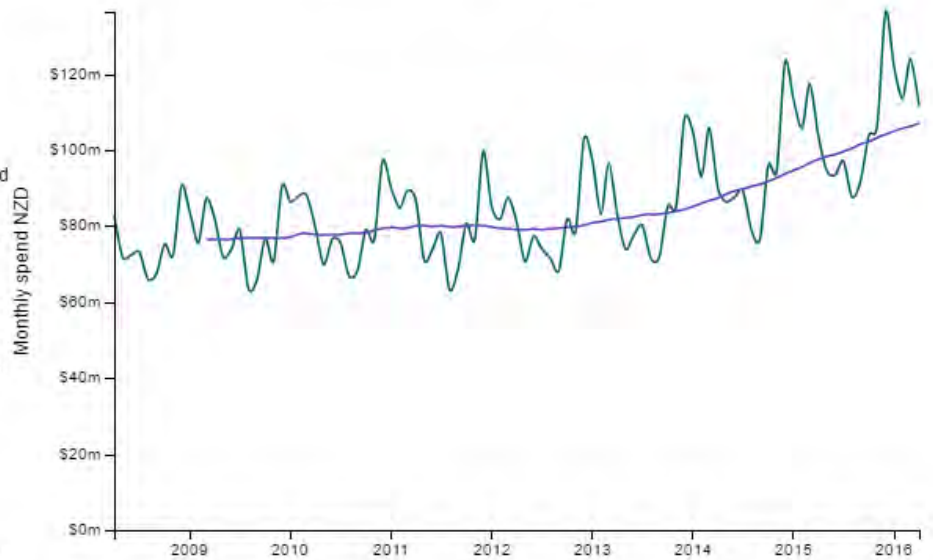


Source: MBIE, Commercial Accommodation Monitor, April 2016

Spend by Product



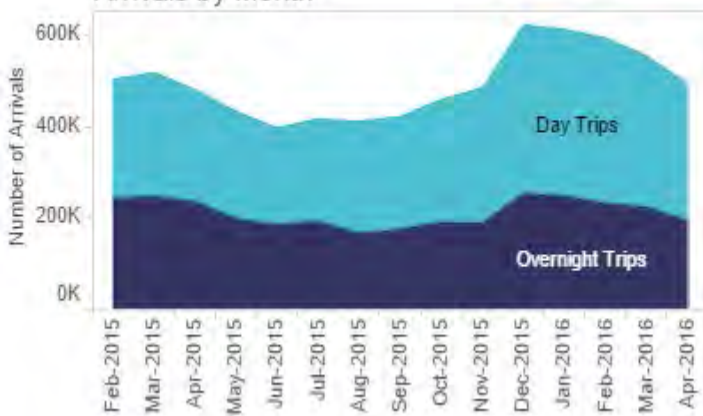
Historical spending pattern



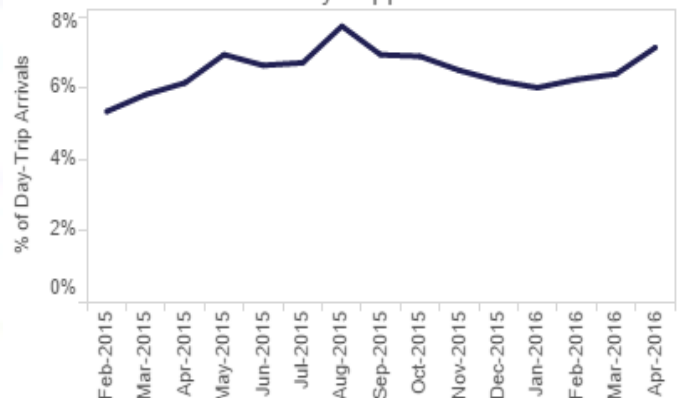
Regional Tourism Estimates, MBIE, April 2016

Hamilton & Waikato Region

Arrivals by Month



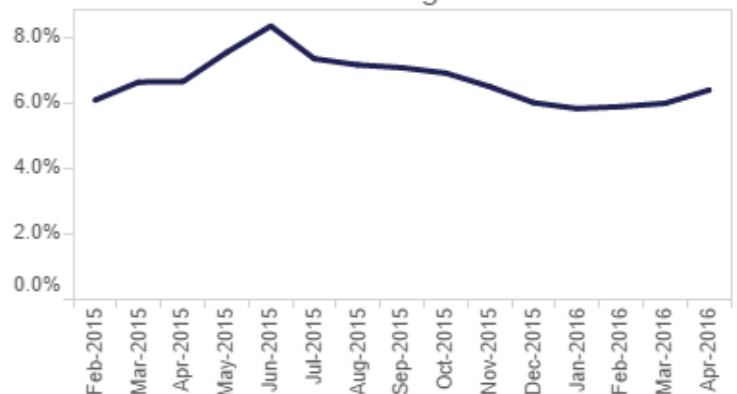
Market Share of Day Trippers



Qrious Guest Nights vs CAM



Market Share of Guest Nights



Source: Qrious Voyager, 14 June 2016

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2190	Build New		Hamilton needs a decent theatre! The old founders served our city well but its time for a fresh start. The arts deserve a beautiful and I also beeline we could attract more high class shows if we had a high class theatre to perform them in.	No	No	
2191	Refurbish	No	A refurbishment will provide everything that we have had up until now but with better facilities that would make it more modern and user friendly. It could be done more quickly and more cheaply. Parking is easier (and cheaper) in the existing location than it would be in the CBD. A rebuild will not offer significant extra value (it is like for like), and there has been no allowance for parking.	No	No	
2192	Refurbish	Yes	Because new build would take too long and by the end of 5 years new venues in other cities would be found.	No	No	

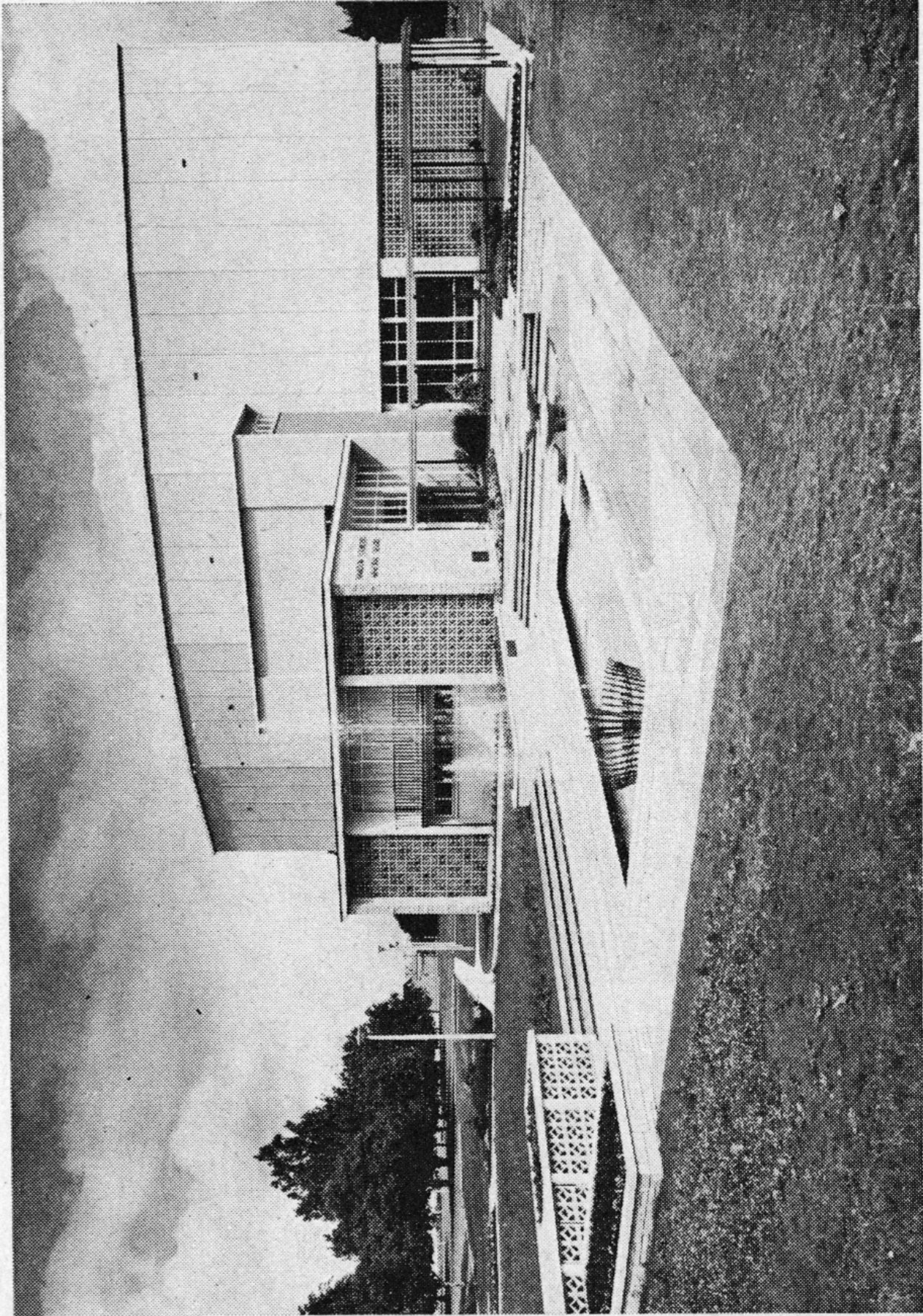
Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2193	Demolish		The Founders Theater has been part of my musical life. When the Founders Theater was opened and the Piano arrived I was fortunate to be able to play the piano for many times a week and that lasted for many weeks. The day the piano arrived the piano tuner and I were photographed by the Waikato Times and I have a copy of the photo in my music room. When the Song of Norway was on I and my husband [since died] where in the pit for many, many weeks. The Grieg Piano Concerto was the climatic finish to a very popular show. My daughter received her University Graduate Certificate at the Founders, and her daughter was in a ballet performance. The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's performances were always at the top of my list. The Claudelands Arena is not a suitable performance...I have been there for some performances....once the sound-system stopped and took a while to be fixed and I do not wish to have to hear such a wonderful orchestra as the NZSO. I feel that the HCC has not looked after the musical communities right to have a proper performance venue. Sincerely, Cecilie McShane. Cecilie McShane 3 MacDiarmid Road Beerescourt Hamilton 3200 ceciliemcshane@gmail.com 07 8381826	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2194	Refurbish	Yes	I believe Hamilton & surrounding districts definitely do need a theatre and this is the most cost effective way of keeping what we have got and making it safe.	No	No	
2195	Refurbish	Yes	I know people who have been impacted by the closure of the theatre and would prefer it to remain open and relevant to Hamilton's cultural scene.	No	No	
2196	Refurbish	Not Answered	The present position is an ideal site and is well known and popular with the public of Hamilton.	No	No	
2197	Demolish		Too expensive	No	No	
2198	Refurbish	No	It is the most sensible solution to a convenient location and a price that is affordable.	No	No	
2199	Demolish		Crowd fund it	No	No	
2200	Refurbish	No	Because it si an existing Hamilton asset which adds value to our city and is used by many entertainers.	No	No	
2201	Refurbish	No	I've seen Founders from behind the scenes, most of it is solid as a rock. It's beautiful, its got character and it caters for all kinds of performers unlike Claudelands. I'm all for spending the money to do her up. 'She' belongs to Hamilton and we owe it to her to look after 'her'... for future generations.	No	No	
2202	Refurbish	Yes	The public are missing so much and at 88 I feel I could be pushing up the daisies by the time a new and perfect one was built!	No	No	
2203	Refurbish	No	Cheapest option.	No	No	
2204	Build New		I don't want to have to travel again up to Auckland to see shows. It's a long way to take children, battling the city traffic and inevitably ends up so much more expensive, petrol and food.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2205	Build New		Best long term option - do it properly.	No	No	
2206	Build New		Opportunity to build a world class venue, with the right acoustics, which founders is sadly lacking.	No	No	
2207	Build New		Hamilton needs a great theatre, we have the opportunity to start again and I think we should grab it.	No	No	
2208	Build New		Hamilton is a growing city with a huge potential to raise the profile of arts. It's one of the great things this city offers.	No	No	
2209	Refurbish	Yes	Best value for money.	No	No	
2210	Refurbish	Yes	-	No	No	
2211	Refurbish	Yes	Close and demolish is not an option as the community would suffer and the city would be the cultural backwater as already perceived nationwide. We have lost two heritage theatres already - the Embassy and REgent. The current building is a prime example of Modernist Architecture, which many citizens helped to fund - obviously the Council should engage architects with sympathetic views as while, Leigh, de Lisle and Fraser to undertake the refurbishment and oversee the consutruction of same. I want to see the RNZB touring shows coming here again soon as possible as well as having access to other touring shows and our outstanding local productions especially those of Hamilton Operatic.	No	No	
2212	Refurbish	No	It is the most sensible option and affordable.	No	No	
2213	Build New		Hamilton needs a performing arts venue that is suitable for the wide array of performancea it has for a city of this size. We need a venue that has good acoustics for orchestra concerts, a venue that is suitable for theatrical productions and a venue that is versatile for any other kind of musical performances.	No	No	
2214	Refurbish	No	-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2215	Build New		Fundamental problems with acoustics and stage size (eg. too small for ballet etc) will not be fixed by refurbishment.	No	No	
2216	Refurbish	No	The theatre was built in 1962 at a cost of 250,000 pounds with no debt. The money was raised by commercial organisations & private citizens of Hamilton. "Founders" of our city hence the name. A great achievement I think. Based on the Coventry City Council Theatre it had many novel features for the times. The building & its coming about represents Hamilton of the 1960's era & the community coming together. It has History not just for my generation but my parents & my children's generation. I had my tertiary prize giving there, went to concerts & other events. Memorable times in my life. It may be a young history when you compare it to historic buildings in Europe but it is our history & the beginning of a longer history. It has a presence & if my eleven year old can comment "But that's a nice building why demolish it?" then it is recognisable to even those who aren't experts. Its location is key being positioned close to the city. Placed in a greenbelt with other community facilities. It serves particular types & ranges of events & even if other venues can do some of what it caters for as our city & region grow we need more facilities. Up grade & take care of our history & public facilities for years to come. Provide the ability for Hamilton to host a greater range of events. We are growing in population but also we need the ability & opportunity to grow in other ways. Become more worldly, cultured, aware, sophisticated & urbane. Theatre & events make our city lively, exciting & altogether more cosmopolitan. Keep Founders Theatre its worth it!	Yes	No	

Submitter 2216 Insert – 1 page long



The Founders' Theatre, Hamilton was completed in 1962 at a cost of £250,000 and contains many novel features based on the Coventry City Council Theatre, England, which was the first of the new theatres built in England after World War II. The Founders' Theatre was debt-free when completed, thanks to the generosity of commercial organizations and private citizens of Hamilton.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2217	Refurbish	Not Answered	I delivered a copy to the Waikato Times expecting to write something.. I will advise my name if needed but don't want to interfere I am only a bloody pensioner nearly 90 years old. There is a luck for the city with the university, not the ratepayers paying but the taxpayers some expenses. There is possibility at Claudelands to establish the other in existing bad involvement. The circus can occupy the open air space. If no, burn it down and cremate the organisers alive in it if no profit! Where's the profit from the 50 years operation? How do the truest leaders of the city dare to suggest to spend 50 million when the citizens already in the past 50 years by not attending the theatre in sufficient numbers. I consider the Serious Fraud Office have some work to do in the ?.... matters of the city. Consider no picture theatre but TV,s internet.	No	No	
2218	Build New		Be great to retain the Ralph Hotere art. However be good to have a stage that can accommodate large ballet companies.	No	No	
2219	Refurbish	No	The refurbishment will give us all that is required. The manager of the Founders Theatre gave an excellent presentation of what \$20 million will provide.	No	No	
2220	Refurbish	No	This is the cheaper option.	No	No	
2221	Refurbish	Yes	Budget/economy.	No	No	
2222	Refurbish	No	Get the Founders Theatre back operating quickly. It is in a good position with plenty of parking around. Whatever is done, do not change the site.	No	No	
2223	Refurbish	No	We badly need the Founders Theatre and we need it NOW! IT is in a good spot, away from the main CBD and there is lots of close parking around it, at night.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2224	Refurbish	No	Founders is a great theatre. It needs a spruce up/upgrade asap so we can have shows back. The maintenance should never have got down to such a state that HCC has had to ask public opinion what they should do about Founders. Your management & up keep of this building should sham you. Seating, sound, parking, accessibility is v. good.	No	No	
2225	Refurbish	No	- Founders would be back in operation sooner. - Opportunity to attend shows like Miss Saigon, Momma Mia etc in Hamilton rather than have to go to Auckland, Tauranga etc. - Build new would cost way more than estimated - think Stadium over-run.	No	No	
2226	Refurbish	No	Option A: This is because it cost less and will not take as long to fix, which retains some of the good things whilst still ensuring profit through knowledge.	No	No	
2227	Build New		A new theatre with a new mandate for building an artistic identity for Hamilton would go a long way to elevating Hamilton's and the Waikato's identity within New Zealand, we should be looking at this as an opportunity to bring new people, businesses and personality into the city. Hamilton's arts community is a vital part of our city's identity, we need to continue building Hamilton's identity that it may become an arts capital of New Zealand, bringing in revenue to the city and the region. The arts have the potential to create opportunities and build identities for those in our region who lack the resources and opportunities to create their own pathways and therefore making the Waikato all the richer.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2228	Refurbish	No	Refurbishment seems to offer pretty much the same qualities as 'Build New'. I also suspect it has more significant meaning to the older generation (who have lived in Hamilton a while) and would not like to see it go.	No	No	
2229	Demolish		Waste of money trying to fix it when we have Claudelands Arena.	No	No	
2230	Refurbish	No	Because I like it - keep the theatre. It definitely needs refurbishment/upgrade in areas, esp women's toilets! But it is in a good location, nice greenspace and easy parking.	No	No	
2231	Build New		Because the old one is very old and past its used by date.	No	No	
2232	Refurbish	No	I think this is the best option because it has the shortest build time meaning the theatre can be used again sooner.	No	No	
2233	Refurbish	No	It would be cheaper and the theatre would be able to be used sooner than the 'Build New' option. However, I think that once it is refurbished plans should also be made for a new larger theatre for the future and money put aside for that.	No	No	
2234	Build New		I have attended a lot of events at Founders Theatre over the years. Any singing is lost in the stage wings - the acoustics are dreadful. When the NZSO play the sound can be uneven unless you are in the very front and then you get a sore neck from looking up. Refurbishment would be a waste of money. There have been attempts to upgrade the theatre over the years - abysmal results. Please demolish and build again.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2235	Build New		The Council is seeking ideas to re-vitalise the city centre. With the Casino, restaurants and bars in the local vicinity and good accommodation options this is an opportunity to place the Founders Theatre in an area to support the Council Plan as a major attraction for an overall entertainment precinct. Overseas experience says that to revitalise central cities requires innovative thinking. Hamilton City Council is looking to develop new tourism opportunities and such a precinct, with quality shows and audience capability of 2-3000 might just be the inducement for regular visits from the Waikato and as far afield as Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Taupo populations. If Hamilton could attract 20,000 visitors per annum at a net cost of \$20 (conservative estimates) the Founders would generate \$400,000 revenue per annum as a basic starting point for assessing real revenues, costs and opportunities through tourism.	No	Yes	
2236	Demolish		Submission attached.	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 2236 Insert – 28 pages long

41 MALCOLM STREET
HAMILTON 3216

Email: sredwards@xtra.co.nz Phone: 07 8567498

To The Hamilton City Council regarding the current closure and the future of *The Founders' Memorial Theatre*

I hereby submit my paper on its future.

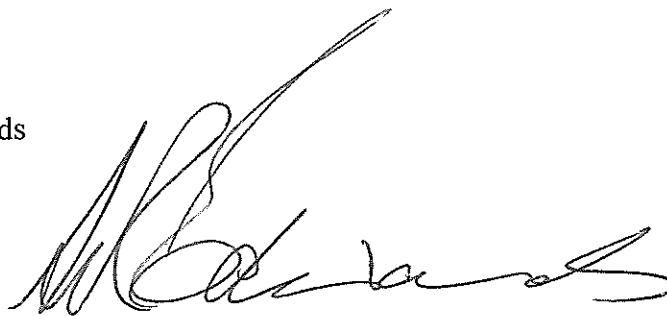
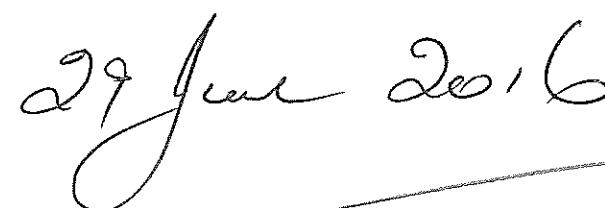
My background is in research, teaching, and criticism of the arts.

I have been an arts critic for the *Waikato Times* since the early seventies, covering music, drama, photography, and cinema. I was the founding chair and primary course developer for what is now the Department of Screen and Media Studies at The University of Waikato, and retired from that department as an Honorary Fellow of the University of Waikato. I write regularly for The *Waikato Times*, have been singing bass in The Hamilton Civic Choir for more than forty years and other choirs before that, have chaired what was the Hamilton Community Arts Council, was a member of the advisory committee to the Waikato Art Museum as it then was, and have been active in the arts as a performer, a receiver, and a critic / commentator for most of my life.

I believe that there is an unfortunate schism in the Hamilton community relating to the arts, a schism driven both by individual opinion and by a lack of adequate performance centres. Now that the University Music Department has made such inroads on the National scene, and has such student success internationally, in addition to organisations such as Riverlea Theatre, The Hamilton Operatic Society, the Hamilton Festival of the Arts, and other singular arts organisations, I believe that the time has come to take the future of the city seriously. Farming and sport has its place, but so too, equally, does The Arts.

Sincerely

S. R. Edwards

A SUBMISSION TO THE HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL ON ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CLOSURE OF
THE FOUNDERS' MEMORIAL THEATRE DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF 2016

From: Sam Edwards
41 Malcolm Street
Riverlea
Hamilton 3216

Email: sredwards@xtra.co.nz
Phone: 07 8567498

Date:
29 June 2016

Title: Phoenix or Adam

The fundamental issue facing the closure of Hamilton's only significant arts venue with its over 750 seats is threefold.

*Should the shell of the building - the Founders' Memorial Theatre - be used as the foundation for an improved performing arts centre, or

*Should it should be razed and another, newly designed building erected on the same or a different site, or

*Should the Founders' Memorial Theatre remain and both buildings be completed with different and clearly established performance characteristics as complementary venues for a growing performing arts culture in Hamilton and the Waikato.

If that third possibility is followed, the essential difference should be defined by:

*appropriateness for community use ranging from, say, dance studio recitals to high grade musical theatre, for The Founders Memorial Theatre, and

*appropriateness of venue for presentation and recording of performances by the NZSO and the NZ Ballet, and instrumental and vocal performance by recognised artists who are outstanding local and international figures, in addition to performance in a rewarding venue by established drama groups and choral and other vocal performance by established groups and organisations.

The essential issue is whether the city can bring itself to recognise and then accept that differences truly do exist between live and amplified performance, difference which is defined by acoustic properties of one building and the quality of electronics in another, but always recognising that the two are mutually incompatible.

I emphasise that the fact that many people, for reasons of their own, reasons ranging from a lack of education or experience, or a simple lack of opportunity in this city, to

an unwillingness to fly the face of the conforming pressures of the social media and the enormous energy and often unprincipled practices of the commercial music industry, or

a philistine belief system which does not include recognition of the essential cultural and economic values of the arts

do not recognise that difference, and do not even want to acknowledge that it might exist.

They are entitled to their position, and are also entitled to be offered the opportunity to see its limitations, but they are not entitled to stand in the face of progress in this city when both history and every definitiojn of civilised society says that they are wrong.

What is seriously unacceptable, then, is for influential figures in this city's population to reject the significance of the arts in the life and development of a city like ours. It has become politically unacceptable to inform the naysayers of their ignorance, or even to tell them they are wrong. We live in a crazy society which insists that every point of view is equally valuable, every pronouncement of equal importance, even when it is demonstrably wrong.

An iconic difference between the acoustic and performance properties of the two venues can be identified in the need for the purchase and installation of a first class pipe organ for the city. It could not be housed in the existing Founders Memorial Theatre because the presence of such an instrument precludes two things.

The first is a fly tower for productions requiring such a technical element, because the architectural requirements of a permanently installed pipe organ are diametrically opposed to those required for a fly tower.

The second is to see that the term 'multipurpose', because all municipal buildings need to be available for more than one purpose, is not seen to be the same as the cliched and dollar determined idea of the four walls and a roof being all things to all citizens.

In noting this, it should be remembered that the Claudelands venue fills any need the city has had, or is likely to have, for sporting fixtures which need to be held under a roof. It should also be noted that the term multipurpose, as it is applied to the municipal grounds at Rugby Park, aka whatever naming rights are currently identifying the grounds, is a useful indicator of the way one might define a similar multipurpose performance venue where, instead of rugby, audiences can enjoy first class music and dance, as well as a variety of stage productions.

In noting this, too, we need to engage in considered and informed discussion, in the presence of knowledgeable architects of the order of Hamilton's Antanas Procuta, performers, and experienced audience representatives, to arrive at consensus about differences between the arts and popular entertainments and the requirements of both in the best interests of the city and the recognised need for informed leadership in fostering the arts.

In conversation, an acoustic guitar player with recent experience told me that he had been wondering about the fate of the Founders' Memorial Theatre. He noted that there was a clearly identifiable difference for a guitar player in his genre between the clear and stunning sound of the guitar played live and unaided, and the jangly, even tinny sound of a guitar when it is amplified.

That led to a discussion of the need for giving people the opportunity to hear music at its best, because so many people had come to believe that "music" should sound as it does when amplified - even though the nuances of timbre and pitch are obliterated by generalised noise. The conversation provided a pointed summary of the way many people think, (and many more than we realise,) - but rarely have the opportunity to express those thoughts, because it has become unfashionable to do so. That lack of expression is exacerbated by the marketing practices of the commercial music industry where profits could be adversely affected by serious music education.

But that education has become a singular necessity. Schools are trying, and with some success as the recent (June 2016) secondary schools chamber music competitions have demonstrated in the exceptional quality of performance from the contestants. The local heats of that competition took place in the acoustically reassuring auditorium of the Gallagher Centre for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Waikato, where full houses for major concerts demonstrate a clear need for a well designed, acoustically superior, performing arts centre in the city of Hamilton.

At the other end of the education spectrum, The University of Waikato Conservatorium of Music is hosting an International Cello Festival in August of this year, 2016. It has the acoustically acceptable auditoria of the Gallagher Center for the Performing Arts on the campus in which the music will be heard at its best, but many visitors will miss the opportunity because it is anticipated that there will be far more members of the public wishing to attend than there will be seating available. I unashamedly quote from the festival prospectus in case there is anyone who may doubt the international standing of the event.

Our international array of guest cellists include: Li-Wei Qin, international soloist and teacher at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore; Wolfgang Schmidt, acclaimed concert cellist and teacher from the Hochschule fur Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar Germany; Richard Aaron, the 'rock star' American professor, who teaches at the Juilliard School in New York and the University of Michigan; and, Philippe Muller, one of the most esteemed cellists and professors of cello in Europe, who comes via the Paris Conservatoire and the Manhattan School of Music in New York. We also welcome the return of two of the University of Waikato's brightest lights in the international concert scene, Santiago Canon Valencia and Edward King, as well as the appearance by an all-star grouping of the university's exciting and unique cello ensemble, Cellophonics.

The City does not have a City Hall in the traditional sense of that word, although the Founders' Memorial Theatre could well still, as it was originally intended, fill that bill. It would mean a fundamental shift in thinking to relocate the formal administrative and celebratory elements from the existing City Council buildings around Garden Place to a rethought Founders' Memorial Theatre, while retaining the day to day administrative elements *in situ*, but the costs would be comparatively insignificant.

The problem which the City of Hamilton has never faced is how to achieve the highest standards of performance from buildings which have always been required to be cost saving, multi purpose venues, standards which to date, like all good lies, contain a combination of truth and fiction, and never the purity of truth or the clarity of focus which different arts and entertainments require.

These issues were canvassed widely both before and during 1985 before a report on the construction of a purpose built performance arts venue for Hamilton was presented to the Hamilton City Council in May of that year. That report highlighted most of the questions being canvassed in the current debate. Many answers were agreed on, and the building, erected at a cost at the time of around four million dollars could have been in use as an alternative to Founders at this time.

A feasibility study was completed with the recommendation that the City Council proceed without delay. The response to a recent request for the papers covering the investigation and the feasibility study filed with the City Council, and required to be archived under then, and existing legislation, was negative, with the note that there is no such record held by The Hamilton City Council. One possible explanation is that before he died, former Mayor Ross Jansen, himself a strong and informed supporter of the arts and in favour of the tenor of that report, told the writer of this paper that a council official, whose name was supplied at the time, and who had a strong association with The Hamilton Operatic Society, had the papers "lost" in order that what is now the Clarence Street Theatre would proceed without the diversion of an alternative proposal.

A copy of the essential proposal from 1985 accompanies this paper, but, sadly, without the primary documents, originals of which were required to be handed over to the then council officers. Note the terse letter of response as a footnote to this submission

What was clear at the time, as well as significant competition for performance space and support frameworks, was that the bias of the then city council was not inclined towards the arts, but rather towards city infrastructure and sports grounds. Not until the agreement on and construction of what is now the Gallagher Performing Arts Centre produced that excellent performing venue did the city have any patience with the performing arts other than musical theatre. Since the establishment in recent years of a major centre within The University Of Waikato, the Music Department's Conservatorium which is attracting international attention and, concomitantly, international performers, and under the intelligent support of the current, but outgoing Mayor, Ms Julie Hardaker, many members of the Hamilton City Council have begun to accept, and even support the development of a strong and well recognised artistic heart for the city.

Already in the current debate, councillors King and Mallet have made it clear that they will oppose any proposal for significant expenditure in the arts sector. I have named the two councillors because they are skilled campaigners, able to influence an uninformed opposition, and have already attacked the problems posed by the closure of The Founders Memorial Theatre with questions and comments suggesting a clear

oppositional mind set. Their arguments fly in the face of current town planning principles and contemporary beliefs, also emerging in education, in the absolute importance of creative thinking, and the creative arts which foster it, in the development of urban landscapes and the citizens who inhabit and run them. Of course, the same applies to rural planning and development, but in this instance the focus is on an essential development within the city of Hamilton, and initiated and developed by its own citizens - with, of course, any assistance they can get.

I would remind you of the sentiments of an earlier paragraph in which I suggested that it is inappropriate for some people to act in opposition to a development when they have no interest in what it provides, and when their opposition is couched in the points scoring rhetoric of political language rather than genuine and informed analysis of a situation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **That the Founders' Memorial Theatre be immediately restored as a fly tower performance venue with appropriate upgrading of acoustics and sound systems and redesigned so that it could carry the formal requirements of a City Hall**
2. **That the Hamilton City Council proceed immediately with a brief to produce concept drawings by an architect with the informed arts background of an Antanas Procuta for a Performing Arts Venue. The concept should include a seating capacity of over 1000, capacity for the installation of a City organ, and provide an acoustically acceptable auditorium fit for recording performances of non amplified music of the highest standards as well as first class audience experiences.**
3. **In the light of those needs, the Hamilton City Council should put on hold, until Tainui's financial contribution is known and deemed to be sufficient, any financial support for the Meeting House concept proposed by the University of Waikato. Such a building will not meet the needs expressed above and should not be considered as a multipurpose equivalent to the real needs of the city.**

Yours faithfully

S. R. Edwardsn koj

Appendix 1:

Dear Mr Edwards,

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2016 regarding the Council Report relating to the feasibility study for a performing arts centre. I am now able to provide Hamilton City Council's response.

You requested:

The "associated papers, correspondence, and accounts - including the cost of payment for a professionally conducted feasibility study, somewhere around the end of April 1985, and formally dated and received as a submission on 1st May 1985" , which related to a Council Report regarding a feasibility study into

a concert and conference centre for Hamilton.

Please be advised that staff have now checked both the formal archives located in the library building in Garden Place and the document storage area in the basement of the Municipal Building, Civic Square.

Unfortunately, no documents relating to the 1984/85 Working Committee for Facilities for the Arts in Hamilton or the feasibility study into a concert and conference centre for Hamilton have been located. Regrettably, having thoroughly searched both these areas, I am unable to provide the documents that you have requested.

Therefore, this information has not been provided under Section 17(e) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – in that the document that contains the information requested cannot be found.

If you have any concerns with the decision referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. For your information, the Ombudsman's contact details are:

Email: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Post: PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143

Telephone: 0800 802 602

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

On Behalf of the Privacy Officer

Mary Birch Team Leader | Democracy DDI: 07 838 6772 | Email: mary.birch@hcc.govt.nz



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**A
CONCERT
AND
CONFERENCE
CENTRE
FOR
THE
CITY
OF
HAMILTON**

**-A SUBMISSION
1st May 1985**

FOREWORD

When the Founders Theatre was opened, it met the multipurpose needs of the city of the period. As Hamilton has developed, so have the requirements for additional facilities. This provided a focal point for discussion during the sixties and seventies, especially among people interested in the growth of the arts, and was the basis for the Clarence Street plan presented in 1979. Since that time the City has progressed to the point where the Waikato Museum of Art and History is able to provide one municipal focus for the arts, and an acoustically designed auditorium, with appropriate additional facilities, is seen as a requisite complementary development.

This thinking was reflected in the deliberations of a public meeting held on 26 July 1983. The meeting set up a small working committee to initiate action which would lead to the building of a performance venue with the following characteristics being both essential and compatible.

- * acoustic quality
- * economic size
- * multipurpose availability
- * appropriate location

The committee was also required to investigate public funding of, and support for, the project to ensure maximum support by the Hamilton City Council which would be the legal owner and administrator of the facility.

The members of the committee have much pleasure in presenting the following brief, realisation of which will enable the City to take its place in the forefront of cultural development in New Zealand, establish a venue of international quality for performing artists, and provide a conference and exhibition hall to meet the needs of a developing and lively city.

S.R. Edwards
Chairman, Working Committee
for Facilities for the
Arts in Hamilton

THE SUBMISSION

This submission has a five fold function

1. It provides a summary of the findings of the Facilities Working Committee investigating priorities for the performing arts in Hamilton.
2. It provides a report and recommendations for the Mayor and Council of the City of Hamilton.
3. It identifies the need in the City of Hamilton for an acoustically viable conference and concert centre.
4. It reports on a fundraising feasibility study which shows that a one million dollar contribution could be made by public subscription.
5. It demonstrates a tangible attempt to meet the responsibilities imposed on the Working Committee by the public meeting of July 1983.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

- 1962 *Founders Theatre opened.
- 1979 *Clarence Street plan proposed.
- 1983 *Hamilton's population doubles since
the opening of the Founders Theatre.
- July 1983 *Public meeting attended by Hamilton
performing arts groups called for
an acoustically designed auditorium
to be put on the Hamilton City Coun-
cil Capital Improvement plan.
- October 1983 *The working committee presented two
recommendations to a public meeting
which passed them unanimously - "that
the concept of a centre for the per-
forming arts as outlined in this paper
be accepted as the basis for continued
development by the working committee"
and
"that the present working committee
continues to function and should pro-
ceed expeditiously to instigate plann-
ing and fundraising procedures in
association, as appropriate, with
the Hamilton City Council."
- November 1983 *Meeting to discuss Hamilton facilit-
ies for the New Zealand Symphony Orch-
estra - confirmation of size (1800-
2000 seats) and reinforcement of
the need for fullest design consulta-
tion with interested parties.
- November 1983 *Concept clarification and preliminary
discussions regarding funding.
- November 1984
- December 1984 *Feasibility Report presented by Nat-
ional Fundraising Counsel of Australia.
- April 1985 *Submission printed.

OBJECTIVES FOR A PERFORMANCE FACILITY

1. To provide, as the Waikato Museum of Arts and History does for the visual arts, and the library complex for recorded and literary works, a cultural nucleus for the performing arts for the region. This would be a point of focus where people can experience performances in an acoustically and aesthetically superior environment.
2. To recognise a large facility for city use and needs ranging from conferences to boxing tourneys.
3. To recognise and help cater for the development of tourism and entertainment in a changing social and economic climate, and thus provide additional creative and employment opportunities.
4. To complement and support existing performance facilities, particularly the Founders Theatre and the Riverlea Trust, private auditoria such as Hamilton Operatic Society's Clarence St complex, and the Left Bank Theatre, and those facilities owned by state or city such as Claudelands and school facilities.
5. To involve both citizens and business houses in the arts, both by patronage and by attendance, and thus continue to develop the cultural life of New Zealand's fourth city.

THE FACILITY

The Committee has gained general approval from interested art groups in Hamilton for a staged building programme based on an initial forty thousand square foot, 1800-2000 seat capacity auditorium, minimum cost four million dollars, of which one million is to be raised by public subscription.

The first and primary need is for the construction of an auditorium, acoustically designed to accommodate choral and orchestral performance, such design permitting other performance modes as well. Such acoustic design would prohibit the construction of a fly tower, but would permit, with the installation of appropriate lighting, seating and furnishing, small audience performance - when such is appropriate. It would also be able to accommodate the needs of broadcast and recording television from its inception, and not by consequent alterations.

The primary artistic functions are to facilitate live performance of such art forms as

- orchestral and chamber music, choral performance opera, ballet and dance
- jazz, rock, and bigband performance, as well as performance by international artists
- recitals, festivals, competitions, examinations, including school music festivals

Other uses incorporate the same design principles:

- sporting functions - boxing, wrestling, gymnastic display
- public meetings and political rallies
- ecumenical and religious gatherings
- conferences and lectures
- exhibitions - fashion, textiles, Field Days

The Waikato has been listed as one of the four areas in which a third television channel can be established. The auditorium would provide an important venue for recording purposes - a venue which the city does not possess at present. B.C.N.Z. will not build a recording facility of this size, and would expect to use a municipal facility.

The initial design should show an awareness of future needs, incorporating, although not necessarily including in the initial programme:

- a smaller, 500 seat, auditorium with fly tower, primarily for the performance of drama and the spoken word, but with other performance possibilities, designed so that the fly tower could be closed for some performances, permitting the use of an acoustically superior, intimate performance venue
- a recital room, acoustically designed, seating up to 250
- rehearsal, workshop and storage space, together with meeting rooms for associated groups
- restaurant, bar, and parking facilities
- covered ways and parking areas

Administration: Ownership would be vested in the City, and the facility would be administered either directly by the City, or under its guidance and control. (c.f. ownership and administration of Founders Theatre.)

Location: On city owned land - and consideration should be given to incorporating with, or associating with, existing facilities, viz. Clarence St, Founders Theatre, Waikato Museum of Art and History, as well as the possibility of separate siting.

PROCEDURE

Establish with Council a general planning committee (from which the site, design, and fundraising committees would come). Such a committee to consist of :

- a representative from the Department of Recreational Welfare
- three members of Council nominated by the mayor - which could include chairpersons of the Management committee and Recreation and Welfare Committee - or these may be additional members
- three members from the business section of the city
- three members from arts and university interests
- such people who may from time to time be co-opted on to the committee

The role of this committee would be :

- to prepare a plan for arts development in the city
- to ensure cohesion among the various interest groups in the city
- to act as trustees for money raised or donated
- to maintain oversight of the committees required during development and fundraising
- to maintain the impetus of the immediate project and ensure long term planning is acknowledged
- to establish the subsidiary committees for site, design, fundraising

The general committee establishes a site committee and a design committee, to bring down working drawings by August 1985.

The Site Committee: three members, one each from Council, business, the arts to select site within the principles of the overall plan.

The Design Committee: four members, one each from Council, business, arts, broadcast media - having some experience which will ensure design principles are followed for economy, acoustics, aesthetics. This committee would provide the brief from which the architects will prepare working drawings.

The general committee establishes a fundraising committee to prepare a plan for fundraising late 1986 or early 1987.

Architects retained to prepare full plans.

Fundraising campaign.

Construction begins.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR THE MAIN AUDITORIUM

Primary Factor: Acoustic design for acoustic music performance.

Principles:

1. Simple inexpensive design based on the acoustically sound Victorian hall principle - rectangular box interior.
2. A 2.5 second reverberation time (natural). (When the auditorium is full, this requires a volume of 300 cubic feet per seat, obtained by ensuring adequate vertical volumes.)
3. The performance area must be within the auditorium thus eliminating both fly tower and proscenium arch from the design.
4. Optimum audience capacity for symphony orchestra is 1600, allowing for 200 performers on a 50' and 50' stage, i.e. a total of 1800 seats.
5. Plain interior finishing - simple plastered concrete, permanent timber reflection around choir, timber facings as appropriate on balcony and other areas, wooden floors, timbered ceiling, NO carpeting.

N.B. Construction must consider acoustic separation between interior and exterior.

Secondary Factors:

The building is suitable for a variety of other purposes, e.g. conferences, exhibitions, rock concerts, drama, selected sports events, school, university, and community purposes where a large audience needs to be housed under one roof.

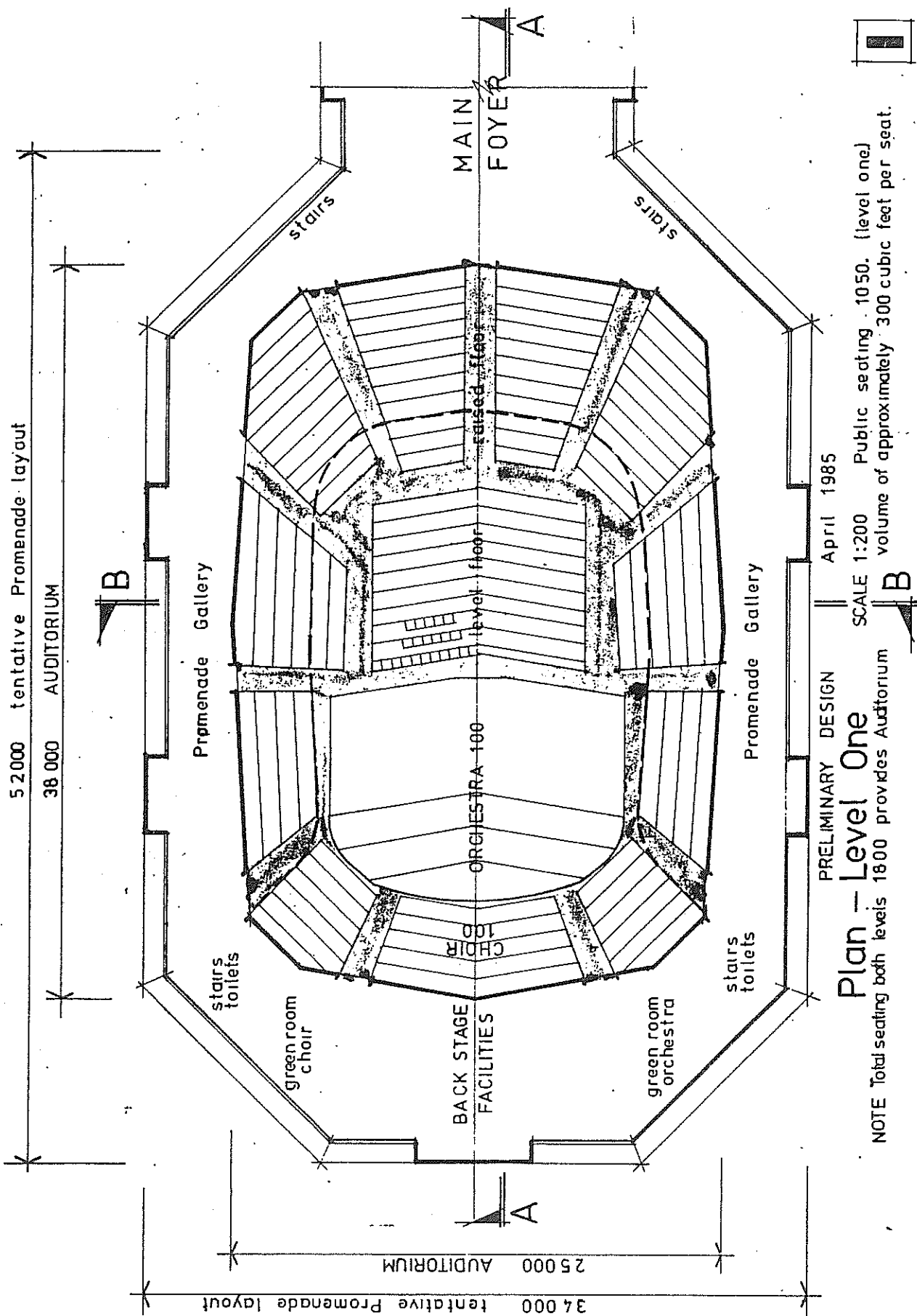
Audience capacity for such events can be increased to 2000 by lowering movable sections of the stage to auditorium floor level, and by utilising the choir area.

This requires a large area of flat auditorium floor forward of the balcony line which with the stage lowered would increase versatility. Movable seating also gives greater potential use.

Acoustic considerations. A suitably shorter reverberation would result when the audience was increased to 2000 for the purposes enumerated above.

General:

A plain uncluttered interior and exterior design should be the aim giving not only economy of cost and low maintenance but also a sense of occasion. Materials such as aggregate faced concrete, ceramic tiles, timber and glass must be considered as the primary materials. Natural weathering of a suitable exterior should be considered instead of a painted finish.

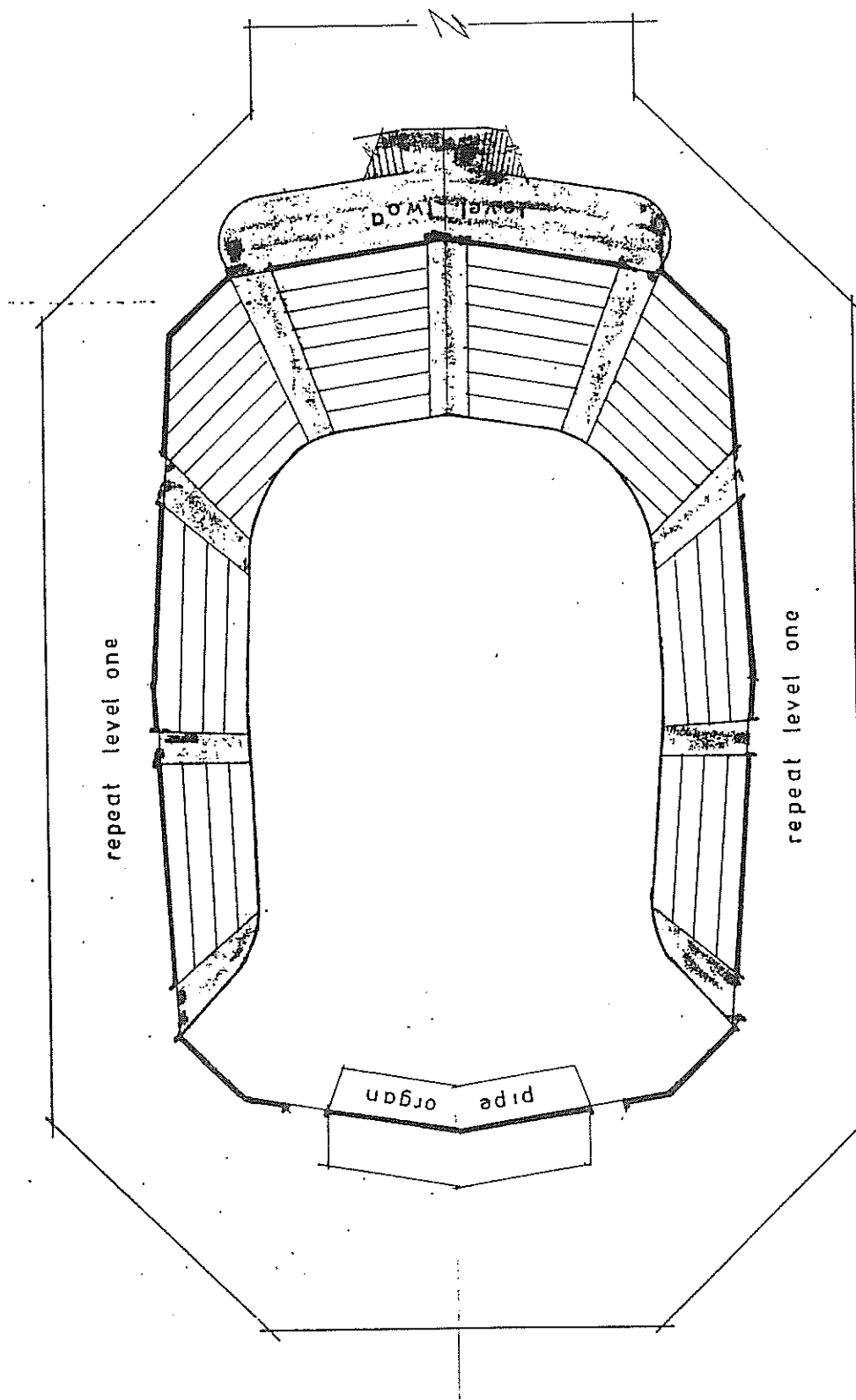


PRELIMINARY DESIGN April 1985

Plan - Level One

SCALE 1:200 Public seating 1050. (level one)
 volume of approximately 300 cubic feet per seat.

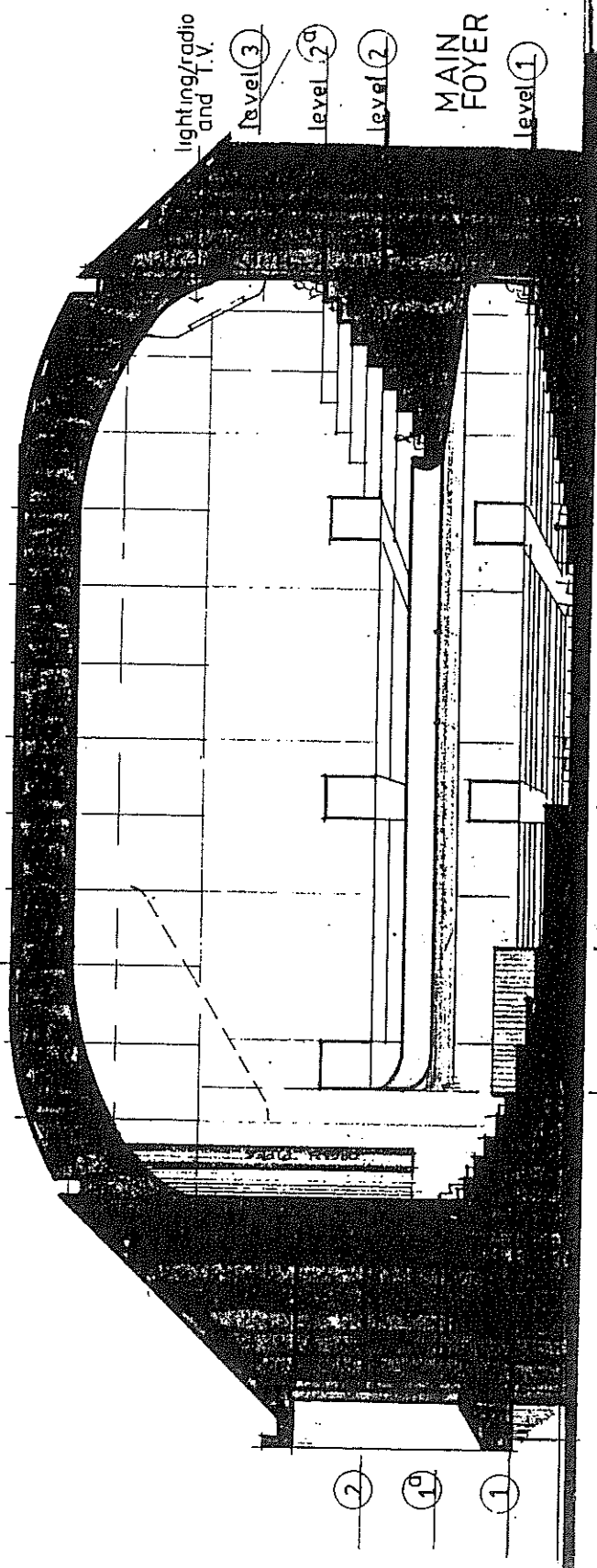
NOTE Total seating both levels 1800 provides Auditorium



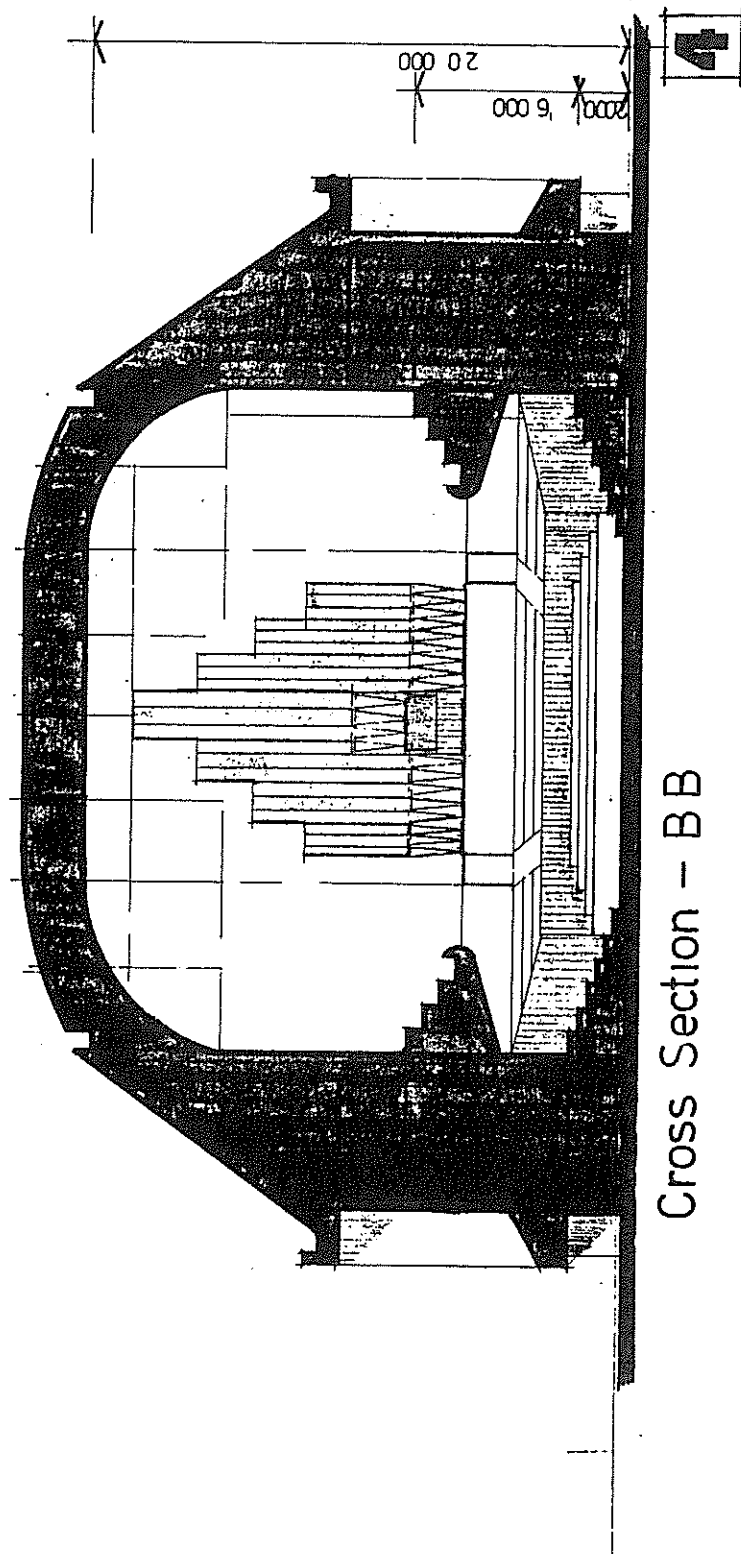
2

Public seating 600

Plan - Level Two



Longitudinal Section - A A



Cross Section - BB

FUNDRAISERS REPORT - SUMMARY

There is an apparent need for a centre for the Performing Arts in Hamilton. To develop a site so that all the needs mentioned in the brief could be satisfied, would not only be to the enhancement of that part of the City of Hamilton, but would provide ancillary services which would facilitate the support of the public to each performance or presentation. Restaurants and carparking as an addition would not only be more viable and economic, but would also tend to present an atmosphere of assiduity, due to the close proximity of each other and the full utilization of each of the amenities named.

During our investigations we found considerable quantities of enthusiasm, energy and goodwill. We also found fragmentation of purpose. In essence, we found each group pursuing its own objectives, somewhat oblivious of the needs of others. We are therefore led to the conclusion that the first essential would be cohesive planning. This could be carried out realistically by the following steps.

- A) A governing body with sufficient influence in the City and impartiality when dealing with separate artistic groups to be appointed to ensure that a keen supervisory body could generate the cohesiveness so vital to a project of this magnitude.
- B) The supervisory group should be given full authority to decide on the following points.
 - 1. The most appropriate site.
 - 2. The relationship of any new buildings with existing amenities, such as the Operatic Centre, Founders Theatre, Riverlea etc.

3. The primary function of obtaining cohesion among the various art groups in existence and thereby obviating fragmentation in artistic circles in Hamilton.

From an analysis of the situation, it would appear that 1987 could be a realistic time to begin this major project. The City Council is at present involved in several major development schemes and it is unlikely that serious consideration would be given to a major construction such as the suggested auditorium before that time.

The citizens of Hamilton have been exposed to intensive fund raising, especially during 1984 and while it is expected that more campaigns will take place in the future, an activity of this magnitude would need the support of influential citizens who may now be readily available.

We believe that the suggested goal of 2 million dollars may be outside the scope of the groups involved when confined within such narrow boundaries. We are therefore inclined to suggest a target of 1 million dollars from a direct fund raising appeal with the remainder of the cost under-written by the City Council. This target of 1 million dollars could be raised by combining all the physical resources at the disposal of the various groups and by entering into the proposal with enthusiasm, Hamilton would be provided with a suitable venue for the performing arts.

We have found a strong case for a larger auditorium than at present exists in Hamilton. Several smaller auditoria, which are now in existence, are providing a worthwhile service and these would not be reduced in value to the public.

SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT

There has been consistent support for the principle from all groups contacted, although naturally, there is some variation in the detailed analysis of need. The support is summarised in a letter from Helen Young, Concert Programme Manager for R.N.Z. , in which she says :

"Hamilton could develop into an exciting cultural centre, and a new concert hall with good acoustics would add a further dimension to life in the Waikato and would become a symbol of civic pride."

Representative of support also are letters from the Secondary Schools Inspectorate, the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama, the Competitions Society, Chamber Music Society, the Civic Choir, the Waikato Orchestral Society, and the Hamilton Community Arts Council which liaises among all arts groups in Hamilton. Support has also been given by the Chairman of the Campus Culture Committee for the University and the Chairman of the W.T.I. Council.

Such support reflects a remarkably cohesive viewpoint from normally quite disparate groups.

SOME BASIC QUESTIONS

1. Who can use the facility?

Anyone who wishes to make a booking. For performances where smaller numbers might be expected, careful attention to lighting and design will assure an appropriate sense of intimacy.

2. Will it affect Founders Theatre?

No. Because Hamilton's population has doubled since Founders opened, pressure on that facility has increased to the point where the City requires another building to meet its needs.

3. What will it do for the business community?

As an essential adjunct to the growth of tourism, it will bring many more people into the city with happy consequences for business houses. It will also boost the image of the city overseas and thus act as valuable publicity.

4. Who controls it?

It is expected that it will be a self supporting facility administered by and under the legal ownership of Hamilton City Council. As such it would not be a continuing cost on ratepayers.

5. What immediate benefits are there for the city?

- Tourism and economic benefits
- Publicity and civic pride
- Centrally situated conference and performance facilities which will bring people into the City

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The working committee which was elected in 1983 to carry out this task did not come to the committee as representatives of special groups. Nevertheless they represent a wide range of contacts with the performing arts.

Bobby Alderton - Artistic Director, Hamilton Operatic Society

Andrew Buchanan Smart - Conductor, Waikato Orchestral Society

Sam Edwards - Chairman, Hamilton Community Arts Council

Kerry Stevens - Senior Producer R.N.Z.

Ken Sandford - Playbox Theatre

Alan Wilson - Riverlea Trust

Mike Martin	)	- Director and
	)	Assistant Director
	)	Department of
Murray Douglas)	ex officio	Recreation and
		Welfare

The committee members have pleasure in presenting this submission.

S.R. Edwards
Chairman, Working Committee
for the Arts in Hamilton

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2237	Refurbish	No	It is in a very central position. Also plenty of parking in nearby streets and ample parking for Buses. Beautiful lawns, trees surrounding the Building and the unusual water feature in the far corner of the grassed area. Work must begin immediately as we are losing out on good Shows, Hamilton Operatic productions, Orchestras and Choral Festivals. A disgrace that a City the size of Hamilton should be suffering through a lack of this facility. \$20 million compared to \$50 million plus will prove to be the sensible solution to this problem in the long run!	No	No	
2238	Demolish		Sell Theatre and property. Build again eg, Claudelands area. Theatre to be capable to house opera, staging, orchestra, ballet and other arts. We/I am looking to next 50-70 years! Funding needs to come from No.6 below and a huge effort from other sources.	No	No	
2239	Demolish		Not viable to keep it going.	No	No	
2240	Build New		Not necessarily on the same site. Car parking, good acoustics for signing, choirs at back of stage and good floor for dancing. More tiered/sloped than the current theatre, so that you are not so far from the stage at the back.	No	No	
2241	Demolish		Do not believe we need a theatre in the central city. Don't think that missing out on some shows is a big deal.	No	No	
2242	Build New		Reasons and views attached.	Yes	Yes	

Submitter 2242 Insert – 1 page long

Hamilton City Council
Founders Theatre Review.

Ladies & Gentlemen ,

A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR HAMILTON.

Hamilton City is now faced with the unpalatable fact that the present Founders Memorial Theatre no longer meets the cultural requirements of the city.

The theatre was built with enthusiastic support but with the planning and funding was for the immediate need and possibly lacked the vision and planning required for well into the future. In less than 60 years sadly it is no longer adequate for the future years.

The opportunity that has now arisen offers for a long term future with careful design and financial planning of a building to last at least a 100 years and with the funding spread over that time by the generations using that facility. This is not a plan to saddle the present day City with debt but rather the concept of the users pay – for the first 100 years anyway ! In 2116 , It is quite possible Hamilton-which has easy geographical space to expand , the population could easily be 350,000 to 400,000 inhabitants along with the associated cultural requirements of that era . The location of Hamilton and its future in association within the “ Golden Triangle of Trade” with Auckland ,Hamilton and Tauranga assures our future and our prosperity. Even if today the cost is up to –at least \$100 million future generations would be grateful for such vision..

Planning considerations to meet these expectations should be created now with vision and no little courage.

The current site is quite superb with sufficient room for a substantial imaginative theatre with a possible underground parking of at least two levels with lift/escalator access . Space provides for a sweeping curved grand drive way entrance and with a glass covered drop off point-(occasional showers do occur) The entrance area could be flanked with flower beds and fountains in a similar manner and design as the world renowned Hamilton Gardens’ Renaissance Pavilion . Should the theatre building itself be an expanded version of the Gardens Pavilion it would provide a link with the two- one already established– and the new Founders Theatre to follow.

Contemporary or “trendy” style architecture easily identifies an era –some good , some not quite so outstanding whereas- in this writers opinion, the timelessness of some neo-classical and Mediterranean architecture achieve this sympathy . Many UK buildings of substance reflect this aspect and the grandeur such as the Capitol in Washington is over 152 years and still impresses with its style and dignity.

The scope for Hamilton to reflect ^{and} its acknowledge its founders , the wealth from the endeavours of all its citizens is worthy of a building to recognise the past and the confidence of its future

Yours respectfully,



David A Mannering 29 June 2016.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2243	Refurbish	No	We have a duty to provide a venue for the arts. The Founders Theatre is a well known venue and is acoustically sound. Having performed there in 2015 with a large choir and orchestra, I found there was nothing to be upgraded behind the scenes. I would believe an upgrade in safety would be the only outstanding necessity. Being a business owner, having a mind to realise that there is real spin off for local businesses when events are held locally, such as food and accomodation and other retail necessities, reducing attractions in the Waikato will have a negative impact on the economy.	No	No	
2244	Refurbish	No	Hamilton needs a theatre like Founders and this is cost wise and time wise the best option.	No	No	
2245	Build New		The current theatre has terrible acoustics for singers, and the stage is too small for large dance groups.	No	No	
2246	Refurbish	No	Hopefully refurbishment would see a fully functional proscenium arch theatre with a modern flying system and fly tower, available for use within the next two years.	No	No	
2247	Demolish		-	No	No	
2248	Refurbish	No	The existing Founders Theatre is still an adequate size for the needs of the city since the advent of the Claudelands Events Centre which can cater for larger audiences. A new rebuild it appears would be the same size as the old so additional benefits would be marginal.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2249	Demolish		Build new is expensive...so depends on availability of money. However, Hamilton is a growing area with more and more folk coming to live in the city from Auckland and out-lying areas. Our daughter and family live in Hamilton and we do come through to Hamilton at times for shows, and orchestral concerts. As parking is often at a premium around the Founder's Theatre, this needs full consideration. If a new building isn't possible, I definitely would opt for a complete refurbishment as Hamilton's thriving city deserves an excellent venue for the arts/music/ballet productions that could then be staged/performed with ease and give the whole venue/city the status it deserves for the Performing Arts.	No	No	
2250	Build New		-	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2251	Build New		I think the build new option is the best option, but it I need to qualify that IT SHOULD BE REBUILT ON A NEW SITE. I will explain more below. Firstly - looking back. The area around the Founders Theatre has always been a bit of a 'dead area'. While it is nice to have performances in the city, the venue is effectively cut off from the city and it has always been an isolated place. You have to actively be aware of it and make an effort to visit it. It does not integrate well with the city and there is no passive connection to it. That is, there is no casual passing of the theatre and people would effectively have to be aware of it and go out of their way to make it a destination. This is biased towards people who make an effort to find out what kind of events are on at the venue. Secondly - looking to the future. I believe very firmly that Hamilton would benefit from a theatre and that IT SHOULD BE BUILT IN A NEW LOCATION, SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY. It is important to recognise this debate about Founders Theatre as part of a much, much bigger conversation and plan for council. For varying reasons the city centre of Hamilton is dead and there are a range of plans that seek to turn this around. The City Centre Transformation Plan is one of these as is the River plan etc. I believe that the challenge of deadling with the Founders Theatre should be viewed as an opportunity to link in with addressing the other challenges that Hamilton city centre faces. Serious action is needed in Hamilton city centre, not just the development of more plans and landscaping. The CCTP outlines broad areas of possible entertainment, CBD and residential use in the city centre. I think some effort should go into make a new theatre an important part of some of the city's redevelopment. While it could go in the enertainment precinct or possible even in the CBD prescinct, I would not want to pre-determine where the best place needs to be in this submission. However opportunities abound for it to continue to build on the redevelopment potential starting to be realised by the Victoria On The River and the Ferrybank redevelopments.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			I would also press for Council to not be constrained only by options that involve land that they own. Other avenues should be pursued. Possibly purchasing appropriate land or working with an existing land owner/developer to make a great venue in the city. Please do not interpret this as a suggest that this theatre could become a new core of the city, that is not the intention, but it could become a key building block in redeveloping the city centre. I would like to make a note on mixed use buildings. It is imortant to not view the theatre solely as a theatre. The current building really only engages with people in a physcial way via the main entrance (excluding the necessary service entrance). I think that a venue, if placed in the city, is a wonderful opportunity to have mixed use shops/restaurants around it, so that it is not just a solid ediface that is ONLY used for theatre. I would suggest that councillors look to other good examples elsewhere. The fantastic Civic Theatre in Auckland is a busting hub of shops around it's outside and is linked to other cinemas and restaurants and shops. The Q Theatre in Auckland also has a popular eatery and cafe/bar in its foyer that runs a thriving business completely independent of people attending the theatre. It is important to recognise this as an opportunity to support many parts of Hamiltons economy and society. If the theatre is placed within the city itself it is more likely that MORE people will decide to enjoy a meal before going to the theatre and a dirnk afterwares, and many surrounding shops will also benefit. THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A DECISION ABOUT A THEATRE.			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			With regards to the type of theatre that it should be, I would again encourage council to not be constrained by single theatre use. It would be great to consider a venue that could be easily reconfigured internally to accommodate varying types of events. For example again look to Q theatre. Q can be reconfigured to various different seating arrangements, suiting both small and large audiences, and both can host cinema as well as theatre. The Civic can also host cinema and both tend to be used for special screenings during festivals etc. If these aspects are considered it becomes less of a clunky old theatre that sits as a boring edifice when not in use, and more of a building that has multiple uses and links with theatre goers as well as a range of other people not connected to the theatre. If it was well thought out it might even have several floors of other space above it (office space, accommodation or a small hotel even). This could take it to a moderate 3-5 stories perhaps. If council did have some kind of ownership this would be a fantastic way of maintaining various streams of income from rent for the building and only continue to make it a more viable and vibrant part of a revitalised city centre. I hope that council will make the right decision. Please do not be constrained solely by the easily quantifiable dollar figures that are estimated for each option. To retain a theatre the cheapest way would be to refurbish the existing. However, although a new theatre in town would cost more, I believe that it would bring a much larger amount of both quantifiable economic benefit (\$\$\$) as well as intangible benefit (in terms of people reconnecting with the city centre and spending more time at many of the other shops and restaurants) to the city centre. I hope that council recognise this challenge as the wonderful opportunity that it is, and makes a decision accordingly. Kind regards Justin Connolly			

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2252	Demolish		Founders theatre is a good venue but you can clearly see that the income that the building has generated hasn't been spent on it's upkeep which is irresponsible and dissapointing. The toilets have always been disgusting in there and yet you want to attract patrons to watch world class performers and orchestra's etc. I would have said to refurbish it but I'm concerned that #4: Option One refurbishment cost has said \$20,000,00 but then in the click to expand part says it will be capped at \$30,000,000? It's alarming that you're allowing a \$10,000,000 budget over run!!! This would totally rule out a new build at \$50,000,000 for me because no contingency or "cap" has been stated in those costs. What would the budget over run for that be??? \$20,000,000??? Council has just approved a 3.8% rates increase-this is before they might commit to an extra \$50,000,000. What would the rates increase be after this spend??? The Hamilton City council should do what they need to do to make Claudeland's a more viable option for shows that they think Founders theatre would and is currently missing out on. Make it a viable option for graduations and other shows and ceremonies-sell itself more as a viable venue for things like that. Start making more use of the other facilities that we have. How often is Founders theatre used? Once a month, maybe twice a month on average? This would not justify a \$20,000,000 to \$70,000,000 spend although I'm sure that any contractors who are hoping that this much will possibly be spent on this project will disagree.	No	Yes	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
			I'd rather that the money be spent on facilities that are used multiple times during the week e.g. Minogue Netball park needs much improved/more parking and it would make perfect sense with netball being played there 5-6 TIMES PER WEEK that the courts be covered so that it could be an all weather multi-sport power house facility like Rotorua and Tauranga have. If you were to offer to spend \$20,000,000 here to upgrade I'd definately say YES & I'm sure multitiudes of Hamiltonians would say the same because this facility caters for 5 year old children to 55 year old adults!!! So, keeping my comments above in mind I'd say demolish it and use the money elsewhere that will benefit more of the community. Founders theatre will never be able to serve as many of the community as Minogue Park for example and yet our children and adults play in driving rain while their families drive around that car park looking for an elusive car park.			
2253	Build New		Because "Close and demolish" isn't an acceptable option, and "Refurbishment" doesn't solve the problem of the poor location for the theatre. A new theatre, closer to the CBD, in my preferred option, because it will provide a better experience for audiences and performers.	No	No	
2254	Build New		While this is more expensive an option, this would be best as it would give the opportunity as said above to be more flexible with plans and suit it better for future generations.	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2255	Refurbish	No	I am satisfied as an audience member - all seats give good visibility and hearing, the volume of the space focuses on the stage, matches the stage size and is not an adapted cavernous space, and the steps to the seating are not precipitous. The Founders provides a good middle-sized choice to the range of theatre venues in Hamilton. I believe that the improvements to the stage and back of house areas would address the problems and serve the community well. Events will resume at a refurbished building far sooner than a new one. Hamiltonians could miss out for a very long time and artists/shows may get used to bypassing Hamilton because of other venues. The Founders is significant to many Hamiltonians and adds to Hamilton's 'story' as many personally and publicly significant events have taken place there. Whatever financial plans are agreed to, a new theatre would prove more expensive than planned. Refurbishment would allow better cost predictability and avoids wastage of good elements. The Founders site is on display and brings interest and activity to an inner city that is struggling to maintain that very thing.	No	No	
2256	Refurbish	No	Far better access and safer parking options near the current site. I, whether alone or if meeting friends at the theatre, would be most uncomfortable parking anywhere at the south end of the CBD and especially having to return to my car through the "revellers" found in that area. I would be most unlikely to attend any function if the theatre was moved from the present site. My friends and I find plenty of cafe's and places to meet near the theatre for a light meal prior to an event/performance. How much Disabled Parking on flat terrain would be available at another site?	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2257	Build New		The resulting Theatre could be built in a better location, be more user friendly and have more parking options. The design would be less restrictive than the reburishment option. More attractive to investors who may be interested in a joint venture!	No	No	
2258	Refurbish	Not Answered	Submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 2258 Insert – 2 pages long

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2259	Build New		Creative New Zealand strong supports the intention of a new theatre (option two) but we believe further options need to be developed and discussed to decide what form a new theatre should take. Submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 2259 Insert – 3 pages long

SUBMISSION ON FOUNDERS THEATRE OPTIONS

Introduction

I am the Director and Principal Tutor at Directions School of Dance. Our main Dance Studio is in Hamilton, and we also run a branch in Cambridge.

I have been party to the Focus Group for Dance Schools, but have other considerations which I would like to add to what has been submitted as part of the focus group.

Preference

To refurbish.

Use of Founders

As a dance school, we have held annual productions at Founders Theatre for the past 30 or so years. It is a highlight of our dance calendar and one which our students enthusiastically look forward to. I have personally danced on the Founders Theatre stage since I was a child and it's fair to say I have very fond memories of the theatre as a result.

On speaking to all of my students, there has been an outpouring of emotion that the Founders may cease to exist in its current building. These children are the future of our city and as such have not been party to the survey conducted by the City Council. As a spokesperson on their behalf, it is fair to say the idea of having to wait 5-6 or more years for a new theatre to be built is not at all attractive to a child. A lot are upset to think they will never dance at the Founders again as most will have left Hamilton to attend universities elsewhere. Some are particularly upset as they are now more senior dancers, with all the extra benefits that come with that role. The fact they will now be dancing in a smaller theatre (Clarence Street) is disappointing, but the fact they may never be back at the Founders is extremely upsetting.

While I fully appreciate these are emotive reasons for refurbishing the existing building, they are nonetheless real and in my view have merit. The existing theatre is part of Hamilton's history. When you walk into the Founders there's an aura which is very real – a feeling of "coming home" to the theatre we all love. This feeling has been built up over several decades of performances which we have all either been part of or have attended as patrons. For dance students, the Founders Theatre is the epitome of all their training and while "making do" with a smaller theatre is acceptable in the short-term, the time-frame of 5-6 (at least) years until a new theatre is built is unreasonable.

Future theatre use

A refurbishment of the existing theatre will provide the community with an updated, modern facility, all housed within the building which was fully funded by the community back in the 1950s. With the benefit of hindsight and working experience over several decades, there will now be the ability to improve the interior of the building to make it more user-friendly, both backstage and front of house. The existing theatre is well placed in Tristram Street, with easy access and parking (although attention should be given to providing more adequate parking areas).

I understand one of the options Council is to look at is to build a new theatre in the CBD so it would be close to bars and restaurants. While I can see why some in the community would favour this option as it would possibly bring in trade to their businesses, the safety of theatre-goers should also be a consideration. At present parents are able to drop their children at the theatre on the morning of a rehearsal and know they will be safe throughout the day. Even if they do venture outside, the open space around the existing theatre in Tristram Street allows for children to be easily visible and to be easily supervised. I would certainly not be comfortable with having children dropped off in the

centre of the CBD, amongst patrons from neighbouring bars and restaurants spilling out into the streets. As a city, we need to be vigilant in keeping our children safe from harm and not expose them to the social scene of downtown Hamilton – especially as our Shows are held on weekends and after dark.

Financial considerations

From a financial viewpoint, a spend of \$20m is far more attractive than the possible \$50-\$60m to build new, especially as the rebuild is to be on a “like for like” basis. There seems to be little advantage in building new if the theatre is to be the same size as the existing building. If it is considered beneficial to link the theatre with a restaurant and bar, perhaps consideration could be given to building a restaurant on the Tristram Street site, with the Council leasing that building to a suitable client. Not only would that provide patrons with a dining experience, it would also bring in extra income for the Council. If the restaurant was a separate entity, and separate from the theatre building, it would not be solely dependent on theatre patrons for its business.

If the Council were to set aside part or all of the balance between a refurbish and a rebuild, that surplus could then be assigned to maintenance of the Founders so that we do not find ourselves in this situation again in a few years time.

Lynne Gabolinscy

Lynne Gabolinscy
Director
Directions School of Dance
Hamilton

29 June 2016

Submission on the: Founders Theatre: What Should We Do? Statement of Proposal

Made to the: Hamilton City Council

From: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to consider and make submissions on Hamilton City Council's *Founders Theatre: What Should We Do? Statement of Proposal*.
2. Creative New Zealand doesn't wish to be heard in support of this submission.
3. The key contact person for matters relating to this submission:

Name: David Pannett

Title: Senior Manager, Planning, Performance and Stakeholder Relations

Email: david.pannett@creativenz.govt.nz

Phone: 04 473 0772 (DDI)

Mobile: 027 671 2286

Overview

4. Creative New Zealand **strongly supports** the intention of a new theatre (option two) but we believe further options need to be developed and discussed to decide what form a new theatre should take.
5. The location of a new theatre will be a vital consideration. Evaluation and consultation will be needed to determine whether it is appropriate to build a new theatre on the existing site.
6. Serious consideration should be given to finding a new site that is better integrated into current retail, hospitality and other cultural activities in Hamilton City. It is our understanding that the existing location is currently quite isolated in this regard.
7. It is also important to consider community access to alternative facilities during the estimated five to six years it will take to open a new theatre. Many community groups in Hamilton relied on the Founders Theatre and it will be essential for Hamilton City Council, Creative Waikato and other stakeholders to ensure alternative venues are accessible and affordable.
8. Creative New Zealand is concerned that the information regarding patronage numbers and revenue for the Founders theatre since 2003/04 is underexplored. The report presented (Council Meeting – Agenda 31 March 2016, pg. 26) states *patronage has been declining over this period and reasons given for this are: the limitations resulting from aging infrastructure and the declining customer experience*. However no further information is given to justify this position. It will be vital that Council has the requisite evidence and can demonstrate a strong case that a 1250-seat theatre in Hamilton is sustainable and fit-for-purpose for the next 50 years.

9. We note that an “updated like-for-like” rebuild of the Founders Theatre risks carrying forward several of the issues that plagued the Founders Theatre. Therefore, we believe it is important that Council explores all the possible forms that a new theatre might take.
10. While it is likely that the cost of a new theatre will largely fall on Hamilton City Council, we do encourage Council to explore a mixture of funding sources. The government’s recently announced Regional Culture and Heritage Fund might be one possibility, alongside neighbouring councils and corporate sponsorship. The soon to be opened ASB Waterfront Theatre in Auckland is a prime example of successful fundraising through a mixture of private and public sources.
11. We note that Creative Waikato is assisting Council in eliciting feedback and submissions from the arts sector in the Waikato and we commend Council for this level of engagement. Considering the multi-faceted interaction a theatre of this scale will have with a variety of stakeholders, a broad range of input is an absolute requirement. We hope this level of consultation continues until the ground breaking.
12. Creative New Zealand looks forward to hearing from Council regarding the feedback from this consultation as well as on the next steps for this project. We are ready to continue the consultation process with Hamilton City Council through the multiple stages this project will take.

Background on Creative New Zealand

13. Creative New Zealand is New Zealand’s arts development agency, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We are an autonomous Crown entity continued under the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014. We receive our funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage, and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board. In 2014/15, we invested over \$41.5 million in the arts sector nationally.
14. Creative New Zealand’s Strategic Plan 2013–16, Te Mahere Rautaki 2013–16, identifies the four outcomes we are seeking to achieve on behalf of all New Zealanders:
 - New Zealanders participate in the arts
 - high-quality New Zealand art is developed
 - New Zealanders experience high-quality arts
 - New Zealand arts gain international success.
15. Creative New Zealand contributes to achieving these outcomes by delivering programmes in the following areas:
 - funding for artists, practitioners and organisations
 - capacity-building for artists, practitioners and organisations
 - advocacy for the arts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Pannett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Pannett
Senior Manager, Planning, Performance and Stakeholder Relations

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2260	Build New		Because Council think about themselves, when they patch up things, it makes Hamilton look cheap. Make a solid choice with a new theatre, move forward. Smaller towns do much better than Hamilton. Smarter Councillors required, get rid of the old persons club.	No	No	
2261	Demolish		The theatre and shape seems to be fine I think we should look a re furbishing the areas as the size for functions of 1200 seats is an ideal size as the arena can accommodate larger functions. Many shows such as Operatic ballet and orchestra do not need more seating than 1200 persons.	No	No	
2262	Demolish		NZSO submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 2262 Insert – 4 pages long



30 June 2016

Richard Sutherland
Business Development Manager – Events
Founders Theatre
H3
Hamilton City Council
Hamilton

Dear Richard

Founders Theatre Options

The NZSO has considered the three options for the future of the Founders Theatre for which feedback is sought and these are considered later in this submission.

The consultation is restricted to options that result in either the demolition of the theatre or the opening of a theatre which reproduces the current theatre in scale and capability through either refurbishment or a new build.

From the perspective of the NZSO which is an international standard full size symphony orchestra of 90 musicians this perpetuates the constraints that limit the range of concert experiences the Orchestra can present in the city. One critical deficiency is the inability to mount large choral works as it is impossible to set up a large choir behind the orchestra in the layout required for such performances.

The current Founders Theatre has insufficient stage area to accommodate the full NZSO which results in artistic compromises and, from time to time, an inability to present preferred repertoire in Hamilton in a season.

The Founders is a proscenium arch theatre. Such theatres have poor acoustic characteristics for symphonic music. Sound is attenuated in the fly tower behind the proscenium arch whereas instruments before the proscenium arch are reflected into the auditorium making for an unsatisfactory listening experience. It is common for proscenium arch theatres to install demountable sound shells to overcome these problems but these arrangements provide limited benefit.

Hamilton is New Zealand's fourth largest city and a rapidly growing major regional and cultural centre. It has a university with a thriving music department and local orchestras which are growing steadily in stature and capability. Between 2013 and

2040 the population is predicted to increase by approximately 40%, taking it to 215,600 and the projected increase for the Waikato Region is expected to be 30%.

This is an important opportunity to make a bold gesture and create the cultural infrastructure which will nurture and fuel the future growth of the sector in a way that is appropriate for a city of Hamilton's size and importance.

All of New Zealand's major cities have both a major proscenium arch theatre and a major concert hall and in some cases more than one. These facilities include Auckland's ASB Theatre, Civic Theatre and Auckland Town Hall, Wellington's Opera House, Westpac St James Theatre, Michael Fowler Centre and Town Hall, the Town Hall and Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch and Dunedin's Town Hall and Regent Theatre.

It is appreciated that Hamilton has limited resources and has to be prudent in delivering value for money to its local community. However, it would be remiss of the NZSO not to advocate for a better outcome for live symphonic and a wide variety of other live music performances.

Hamilton is an important city in the NZSO's annual touring programme and the Orchestra will always come to Hamilton and work with whatever venues that are available. However, the Orchestra can deliver far better music experiences and more varied repertoire than is possible using the current range of venues that are being presently adapted to orchestral use.

This is the right time for Hamilton City to consider establishing a purpose built Concert Hall capable of staging full scale symphonic concerts with audiences of up to 2000 people.

Our feedback and comments on points drawn from the three options are below;

Feedback on Option A – Redevelop Founders Theatre

- Infrastructure is upgraded
Essential upgrades the NZSO would require: Heating and cooling systems; stage lighting; effective acoustic treatment such as a custom build sound shell, or an electronic assisted reverberation system such as the Meyer Constellation system used at the ASB Theatre in Auckland Aotea Centre; upgraded dressing room and players' facilities; upgraded loading and storage spaces; and upgraded front of house and hospitality facilities.
- Allowing 'full scale' versions of productions
This may not be the case for the NZSO. Large scale Orchestral works require a usable stage size of around 20M wide x 14M deep. Choral works would require a deeper stage area. It is common for large scale Orchestral works to call for forces of 100 players or more, often requiring a battery of larger percussion instruments. The NZSO is currently restricted to programming

works using forces of around 80 players at the Founders Theatre.

- **Modern version of like-for-like**
A proscenium arch theatre of any size presents considerable acoustic challenges for Orchestral performance. The key acoustical deficiencies at the Founders Theatre are a lack of reverberance and a lack of reflective surfaces. Reverberance of around 2.2 seconds is ideal for Orchestral performance (1.5 seconds for opera) whereas reverberance of around 1 second can be expected in the Founders Theatre resulting in the 'dead' and dry sound experienced by both performances and concert goers.
- **Expanded Stage Area**
Increasing the stage size (and therefore the number of players who can perform on stage) is not expected to improve the acoustic experience. It may allow the Orchestra to achieve a lift in maximum volume but will not improve the reverberance. The addition of considerable acoustic treatments would be necessary to gain noticeable acoustic improvements.
- **No additional seating or car parking**
A seating capacity of 1249 does not allow for growth in audience numbers aligned with the expected growth in population.
- **Expanded stage area**
Current usable stage is approx. 15M wide (13M at its narrowest point) by 14M deep (excluding wings). Usable stage size would need to be expanded by around 6M in width to allow for full scale Orchestral repertoire to be performed. This would also necessitate considerable widening of the proscenium arch.

Feedback on Option B – Demolish and build a new Theatre

- **Same or new site**
The NZSO supports the building of a new facility on the same site as the Founders Theatre. This centrally located and easily accessible site provides a suitable location for a new theatre complex.
- **Updated like-for-like**
Issues around the acoustic performance of a new theatre are similar to those considered in the refurbishment of the Founders Theatre. These issues could be addressed in the design stage of the new theatre by considering both reverberance and reflective issues.

Other issues including usable stage size, seating capacity, dressing rooms and facilities, loading and storage spaces, front of house and hospitality provisions could also be addressed in the design stage.

- Completion in 2020
The build time for this option is only slightly longer than in Option A. The NZSO considers the use of Claudlands Arena is tolerable over the term of this option.

Feedback on Option C – Permanently close Founders Theatre

Permanent closure of the Founders Theatre would limit the NZSO to performances in venues which are not fit for classical performance. Experience of performing in Christchurch Horncastle Arena over the past five years show a downward trend in audience numbers due to the inferior concert experience using the adapted sports arena model. Despite the large investment in staging these performances the acoustic and audience experience remains compromised.

Should the decision to build a purpose built concert hall not be available then the NZSO would support Option B – Demolish and build a new Theatre. This option gives the best possibility of Hamilton benefitting from a modern Theatre better placed to address the historic and inherent issues of the Founders Theatre.

Regards,

Christopher Blake
Chief Executive Officer



p.p. Craig Thorne
Head of Orchestra Management

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2263	Build New		Hamilton desperately needs some exciting, vibrant architecture. Not only could the city have a new theatre, the new building itself could be a tourist attraction. Call in architects from throughout New Zealand to put forward a concept.	No	No	
2264	Demolish		Submission attached.	Yes	No	

Submitter 2264 Insert – 3 pages long

From: Hamish Davies
Sent: Friday, 1 July 2016 17:06
To: Have Your Say
Cc: Sheryll Davies
Subject: Founders Theatre Feedback Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to make a submission for the decision for the future of Performing Arts in Hamilton.

I understand I am late as it is past the 30th of June in New Zealand but I am currently studying acting at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York City, and I am 16 hours behind New Zealand time so it is still the 30th June here. I have also been tied up with my studies and haven't had a lot of time for anything outside of rehearsals. I hope you will look upon my error favourably and accept this submission for the future of Founders Theatre as it is very dear to me.

I'm not entirely sure if there was a specific format I had to follow for this submission so I will just submit my thoughts about the topic- moreso from a performer's point of view.

Firstly, I was set to be part of the cast of Mary Poppins with Hamilton Operatic Society, playing Valentine, and also Bert's understudy. The closure of Founders Theatre was a huge shock to myself and the rest of the cast and crew of Mary Poppins as we were extremely thrilled and honoured to be bringing Mary Poppins to New Zealand audiences for the first time as part of the New Zealand Consortium Tour. Something that would have been incredible for both those involved in the show and the audiences who came to enjoy it. Our flying umbrella was quite suddenly taken away from us (mid-rehearsal, might I add). However, with good reasoning- a person's safety is of the utmost importance. I would hate to think of the terrible possibilities had the fly floor collapsed or not been able to support Mary as she flew through the audience.

Before Mary Poppins, I stood in the footlights of the Founders stage in Mamma Mia, The Phantom of the Opera, Hairspray and I also danced in Valerie Lisette's end of year ballet school shows. Founders Theatre has been a pivotal part of my life over the past 5 years. It has helped me develop as a person and as a performer, giving me the confidence to perform in front of a large number of people, exposing me to the experience of a large theatre and, thanks to Hamilton Operatic Society, allowing me to participate and enjoy being part of large blockbuster musicals, as mentioned. I couldn't have had all of these incredible experiences, on such a grand scale without the presence of Founders Theatre. Of course, I wasn't the only person Founders Theatre affected in this way. There are hundreds, or thousands of children, teenagers and adults that have had these similar experiences on stage or off stage that has possibly inspired a life of passion in the performing arts.

I am one of the children/teenagers/adults that has been inspired to explore a career in the performing arts and specifically in theatre. As mentioned I am currently studying acting at a top acting school in New York City (alumni includes Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Meryl Streep etc). The motivation to apply for this programme came after the closure of Founders Theatre and the cancellation of Mary Poppins. There was a certain emptiness inside of me and felt I needed more training in the area. I was recommended this school after completing the Christchurch International Musical Theatre Summer School in January this year with celebrated Broadway tutors Sutton Foster, Andrea Burns, Peter Flynn and Carmel Dean. I wanted to explore the possibilities outside of New Zealand, as unfortunately there isn't the same calibre of training in New Zealand as there is here in New York. However, closing a theatre is closing the possibility of having the same quality of training in Hamilton, New Zealand. I spent two weeks in Christchurch with globally successful tutors from New York learning an immense amount about the industry. I cannot see why this Summer School could not have been in Hamilton, with the correct space to work in.

My favourable option for the future of Founders Theatre is to build an entirely new space. I have read a lot of the submissions by architects, cafe-owners, business people and the like and I think the idea to build a theatre at the

South End of Victoria Street is a fantastic idea. The Municipal pools are not needed. I do not understand why they are there. They are purely an eye sore these days. I believe they were closed in 2012, and have only attracted vandals. Can you imagine a performing arts space equipped with full flying capabilities, a fully equipped black box theatre, a full scale auditorium, a dance studio (with sprung floor and barres and a high ceiling), a recording studio, an orchestra pit, sizeable changing rooms, a foyer area with a glass fronting that looks out over the Waikato river? Actually utilising the beauty of Hamilton City. And all in a location that is close to parking and the hospitality industry. The city needs to be brought together. Founders Theatre is out on a limb, just like everything else in the city (The Base, Chartwell). There is limited parking, you can't combine drinking and the theatre - which is such a common experience these days - because it's out of town slightly.

If I could re-design the city, I would place the Council building where Founders is, and the Theatre where the council building is. I have always had this thought. I would love to see Garden Place alive at night with restaurants and people drinking cocktails at bar leaners on the footpath with fairy lights hung over the whole piazza before and after they see a show at the Theatre. Instead people are afraid to walk through Garden Place at night, and sometimes during the day.

If neither of these are an option, what is the space next to the casino going to be used for? I think it might be a car park at the moment? That would also tie in with Garden Place nicely, the casino, hospitality, parking.

If you look to other cities around the world, or in New Zealand, their theatres are often in the heart of the city. Performing arts and theatre brings people together. Whether that be the ballet, orchestra, musical or play, the usual objective is to entertain patrons. Even during the hardest times, people still want to be entertained. 1930-1945 was the Golden Age of musicals. This was not the 'Golden Age' in history. It would help Hamilton, and Hamilton theatre to re-build the community by building a new performance space. I understand that this will cost a lot of money. But there are investors out there that would believe in the future of performing arts, and as long as the correct shows are being put on, people will want to see them.

Closing the theatre completely should never have been and should never be an option. I understand there are other theatres in Hamilton, but they are no longer council owned. So if Founders was to be closed for good and no theatre to replace it, that would tell the community that the Hamilton City Council doesn't believe in a holistic educated community encompassing all areas of life. Re-furbishing what you currently have is a waste of time and money. That would be like putting a bandaid on the problem when in a few years time, you would have to fix the problem anyway and it would cost more. The Royal New Zealand Ballet probably still wouldn't come to Hamilton unless you widened the wing space which most likely wouldn't happen.

Therefore, as mentioned a new theatre is the better option. This way, the designers can approach all the groups that would potentially use the space and ask their requirements. I.e. Request minimum wing space needed for the New Zealand Ballet, what acoustics do the NZSO need, What do touring musicals need in terms of stage height? This way you could build a multi-functional, adaptable space for all types of groups. Therefore you would be catering to more clients, more audiences, and have more bookings which would help pay off the costs. The Lion King can't go to the Civic because the giraffe's head doesn't fit...how amazing would it be to host The Lion King in Hamilton for 4 weeks?

Living in New York, you can really see the importance of the theatre. I understand it's on a much grander scale but if you do not build another theatre, the big blockbuster shows cannot happen. Clarence St Theatre is a great space, and so is the Meteor Theatre (I've performed in both of them). But Founders Theatre allowed for minds to wander into the wonderful and extraordinary of big sets, lighting and fancy costumes and don't look too big on a small stage. Without the big blockbusters, the audiences aren't so enticed. In New York, someone is always buzzing about seeing a show, or looking forward to seeing a show. There are always queues to get tickets to see shows. I would hate to see the performing arts in Hamilton die because the Hamilton City Council, or some councillors can't see that a theatre is a necessity for a city's culture, just like, as a non-sports person, I see a stadium's importance for a city's culture.

After my training is completed in New York City, it would be fantastic to come back to Hamilton and share my training with my peers. It would be even better to share it with an audience in a large scale production. Do not kill performing arts in Hamilton. There is so much talent in Hamilton that is undervalued. It needs to be used! Imagine the possibilities if there was a world-class performing arts facility on the river bank. Don't send people out of your city to find training or to see a show. You should be tempting them to your city. To grow and nurture.

"Growth as an actor and growth as a human being are synonymous". Stella Adler

Please continue to allow young (and old) actors and actresses to grow as artists and as people in a space that is safe and comfortable for them.

I apologise again for the lateness of this and the length but I feel very strongly about this topic. Thank you for taking time to read it.

Kind regards,

Hamish Davies.

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2265	Refurbish	No	This building was built to honour the founders of our city with a substantial amount of money given by the citizens of the city.	No	No	
2266	Refurbish	No	Need venue Less cost than now Keep character and history!! Acoustic sounds fine as it is.	No	No	
2267	Refurbish	Not Answered	My preference at this stage is for keeping and updating the existing theatre at a cost of approx \$20m. Time - I understand this may take up to three years to complete, which is quite long enough for a city the size of Hamilton to be without its main theatre. To be six years without such a theatre , means many,many young people will miss out on this theatre experience as they grow up. And six years is too long for everyone. Cost – The 50m quoted for a new build seems to represent a no frills replacement,so it seems this figure could end up considerably higher. Hamilton City is still supporting in a big way the impressive Claudlands Arena . Future Planning – If we update the Founders as soon as possible, then future thought ,planning ,debate,and fund-raising could look toward a new theatre in say 15 to 20 years time.	No	No	
2268	Demolish		Save money. Source cheaper options for rebuild	No	No	
2269	Build New		Refurbishment could end up costing more than a new build.	No	No	
2270	Build New		So we have state of the art up to date Buildings	No	No	

Submitter Number	Option	Rebuild with \$30m Cap	Submitter Comment	Attached a Document	Speaking at the hearing	Notes Section for Councillors
2271	Build New		Hamilton is a fast growing city. The city is lacking in the arts.	No	No	
2272	Build New		A city this size needs a theatre!!! Building a new one ensures it will last for years to come.	No	No	
2273	Build New		Our city needs a top line large capacity customer built theatre to articulate the billings.	No	No	
2274	Build New		Hamilton needs a beautiful new venue for theatrical events. I think a new theatre for the new age would be the best option by far.	No	No	
2275	Build New		We need a theatre capable of housing world class productions.	No	No	
2276	Refurbish	Not Answered	Cost of new building is not needed. Leave as is where it is.	No	No	
2277No	Refurbish	No	It is a vital icon for Hamilton	N	No	
2278	Refurbish	yes	We need a theatre and this is cheaper than a rebuild.	No	No	
2279	Refurbish	NO	Because I feel it doesn't need demolishing. Coucil waste too much money	No	No	

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