

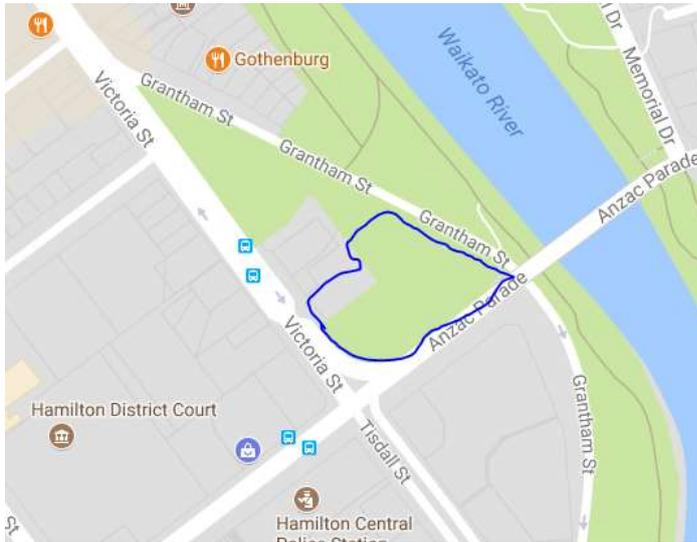
Appendix 1

What to do with Founders Public Consultation

Additional material in support feedback

My thoughts on a new location for a theatre.

A new theatre could be located between Grantham and Victoria Streets as marked below.



The land has a natural incline suitable for seating, reducing structural costs.

It's near the highest concentration of eateries and bars.

It lends weight as to why the old swimming pool needs to be removed.

Just something to think about.

Thanks

David Mans

The Founders site should be turned into a heritage park similar to the Founders Heritage Park which is in Nelson:

- <http://www.founderspark.co.nz/>
- https://www.tripadvisor.co.nz/ShowUserReviews-g255678-d2187412-r496016532-Founders_Park-Nelson_Nelson_Tasman_Region_South_Island.html

There are many advantages to the concept of a Founders Heritage Park for Council's existing Founders site:

- It acknowledges city founders by displaying an assortment of types of historical buildings around at the time of the many city founders.
- It provides a more tangible relationship to the 19th century city founders than a theatre built much later in the 20th century.
- It will enable families to experience the heritage of the city first hand and in one location (currently many historical properties are privately owned so access is not available).
- Historical buildings will not only be protected but maintained as they will be kept under the control of an organisation as opposed to a private individual (although certain heritage buildings are protected, the District Plan appears to be the only current source of protection for character homes owned by private individuals).
- There may be provision to ensure it functions as a commercial operation with a café, brewery and provision for festivals/performances in the historical buildings to support events at neighbouring FMG/Seddon Park (this will help to ensure its financial viability).
- There may be provision to include a central city playground to compliment the Heritage Park and to compliment the residential development occurring in the north of the central city.
- In future there would be provision to rename the park to acknowledge any prominent heritage orientated community leader(s).
- It will support any discussions which advocate for future proofing in terms of housing where suburbs close to the heart of the city currently have restrictions which are at odd ends with intensification.



Submission to Hamilton City Council
Founders Theatre
November 2017

Please find below a submission from Creative Waikato on behalf of **Creative Waikato, Meteor Theatre, Clarence St Theatre and Riverlea Theatre.**

The purpose of the submission is to provide clear feedback to Council that the Theatre community does not believe Founders should be preserved as a performance or rehearsal space, and that investment in the performing arts should be directed to development of the new Regional Theatre and to ongoing support of the above mentioned theatres.

Recently a meeting was held at Creative Waikato to bring together leadership and governance representatives of major theatre facilities in Hamilton. Attending were Riverlea Theatre, The Meteor and Clarence St Theatre.

The purpose of the meeting was to share each organisations strategic and operational objectives and determine, when viewed collectively, how these theatres support and develop the Hamilton performing arts sector in the city (and region) as a whole.

The discussions took place in context of current changes in major theatre infrastructure in the city, namely the development of a new Waikato Regional Theatre (WRT) and the question over the future of the existing Founders Theatre building.

The result of the discussion was a clear picture that performing arts infrastructure in Hamilton is now in good health and supports the wide range of community and arts sector needs.

The Hamilton theatres collective identified and agreed:

1. Each theatre in Hamilton had a specific role in the community which was unique and tailored to its purpose and audience
2. Each theatre works in synergy with other theatres and there was a noticeable increase in the instances of sharing talent, recourses and audiences
3. The development of the new Regional Theatre was not identified as a threat to the business of each theatre. Clarence St shared the most in common with the proposed theatre however felt there was sufficient creative activity and potential audience to sustain both facilities.
4. The development of a new theatre fills an important gap and would build creative activity and audiences to the benefit of the whole sector
5. There was a potential for the community funding required for WRT to put pressure on the philanthropic and funding community which may negatively impact other facilities.

And finally, specifically to this submission:

6. With the exception of the current absence of a regional large-scale theatre, there is an excellent theatre ecosystem in the city. There was no perceived requirement to see the old Founders building re-established into a theatre or performing arts centre.

Geoff Kreegher

Founders Theatre

The feedback from the original consultation of Founders Theatre from the 2279 submissions, 1600 telephone survey responses and 126 workshop participants showed:

- overwhelming support for a performing arts theatre in Hamilton
- refurbishment option as the most favoured (49 per cent), followed by building a new theatre (34 per cent)
- If a new theatre is constructed, and the Council's contribution is capped at \$30 million, 58 per cent of respondents supported that approach.

The new build may still take place on the current site then the old building becomes a non-issue, however if it is to be built at a new location then the current Founders Theatre needs to be demolished. This is in keeping with recent history with the closure of Founders Theatre; the art luvvies were shocked and advocated for a replacement purpose built new theatre with their preferred location 'on the river'. Replacement is just that – not in addition to. There was never any mention from the luvvies (or the community) to repurpose Founders Theatre prior to the public engagement; therefore if a new theatre is built in the CBD then Founders Theatre is surplus to requirements and should be demolished.

The Hamilton City Theatres Review (The Stafford Report 2013) and the Waikato Creative Infrastructure Plan identify Founders Theatre as an important regional facility and have suggested the loss of this Theatre would create a significant gap in the region's creative infrastructure. If Founders Memorial Theatre is an important regional facility then ideally it should be funded regionally, not just by Hamilton ratepayers. However the likelihood of gaining any funding from the regions is remote because Council have left their run too late. Council should have approached councils in the region prior to or at least at the time of closure. Councils in the region have already completed their budgets and most unlikely to be amenable to a request for additional expenditure.

Creative Waikato and Hamilton's arts sector have signalled strong concern that the loss of Founders Theatre would have significant and negative impacts on their ability to grow and profile performers, arts events, and audience participation in a wide range of performance activities. They also suggest that the permanent closure of the Theatre would be perceived as a lack of support for the Arts by Council. Current proposals (driven by Creative Waikato) put lie that.

Creative Waikato has the dual focus of helping individuals and groups to attract funding, as well as driving more funding for arts into the region overall. Creative Waikato administers funding rounds on behalf of Hamilton City Council and Creative New Zealand for art projects taking place in the Hamilton area.

Council borrows \$4 million per year to fund the day to day running of the city. It was identified in March 2017 that there was a \$12.1 million hole in the city finances requiring a 11.7-12% rate rise to stem the 'bleeding'. This was confirmed by the Financial Strategy Assessment from PricewaterhouseCoopers in July 2017.

Geoff Kreegher

Council was investigating methods of increasing revenue, by introducing targeted rates and a general rate (11.7 – 12%) increase (no mention of reducing costs/staff/services). To spend \$1.2 million to \$12 million on anything other than demolition is morally corrupt and a sad indictment of the lack of concern for the ratepayers of Hamilton.

The Founders Theatre consultation over the period 25 October and 26 November 2017, seeks the public's comment on the future of this aging facility. The ongoing costs if retained will be considerable this has not been identified so Council is asking for views with incomplete information. If it is an aging facility then cut the losses and cease any funding. There was never any mention to repurpose Founders Theatre prior to and during the original public engagement; the current engagement is having your cake (new Theatre) and eating it (repurpose Founders Theatre) - two bites of the cherry.

Council already has several loss making venues the new theatre is to incur an annual grant from the ratepayer. The Founders Theatre/New Theatre issue has parallels with the redevelopment of Rugby Park particularly with the trust and how it is to be run upon completion the latter turned out well – not. In view of the current financial situation and the options proposed for debate on the 10 Year Plan the re-purpose of Founders Theatre is a bridge too far – a project ratepayers can ill-afford. There is no mention of re-purposing Founders Theatre in the proposed rates increase of 16.5% in the 10 Year Plan therefore Founders Theatre should be demolished.

Recommendation

It is recommendation that Founders Theatre be demolished.

'Have you say' on...
'What to do with Founders'

Dr. D. Hewison
Private Residential Ratepayer

Information we have been given by Council

Should the Waikato Regional Theatre go ahead, we need to decide what to do with Founders.

There are three options:

1. Demolish completely; etc: est. \$802,000.
This option will create additional greenspace in the West Town Belt and is the most cost effective option. However we will lose a significant civic building and its history.
2. Partially demolish and repurpose, etc: est. \$1,198,000.
This option will allow for part of the building to be retained for community use and for the building to be incorporated into the surrounding greenspace. It will provide the opportunity to recognise and commemorate the history of the site and is a cost effective option.
3. Reinstate for community use; etc: est. \$12 million.

Difficulties with this information

The Council agreed to help fund work on Momentum Waikato's proposal, and has agreed – in principle – to commit \$30 million (plus GST) to the theatre project.

1. The difficulty with this consultation is that there is uncertainty about whether the Waikato Regional Theatre will go ahead. This consultation doesn't provide alternatives for the Founders if the Waikato Regional Theatre does not go ahead.
2. Although work on Founders Theatre is clearly laid out in the existing city's plans, no mention of another theatre is in the existing city's plans, nor is there any information on how the \$30 million (plus GST) handout for the Waikato Theatre is to be raised.
3. No financial impact statement is offered as to how these projects will affect the whole of the HCC community.

Existing Long Term Council Plans for Founders Theatre

1. 2015-25 LONG TERM PLAN – 25 February 2015

Page 4

"11.5. The proposals included following approval by Council at the meeting were:
• Founders Theatre Upgrade"

Page 96

"ACTIVITY SPECIFIC ASSUMPTIONS"

"Theatres"

"A capital amount of \$0.100m is allowed for the preparation of a Founders Theatre Upgrade Business Case in the 2016 year to explore all options in detail"

and identify the best outcomes. The estimated upgrade cost is included from the 2022 year.”

2. HAMILTON'S 10-YEAR PLAN 2015-2025

Page 16 – KEY PROJECTS

- Founders Theatre Refurbishment Years 7-8, \$16.6M

Page 17 – “The diagram that follows shows the major capital investments anticipated for the next 30 years.”

(diagram on p.18) “\$14M Founders Theatre Upgrade Yrs 7-8”

(continuation of diagram on p. 19) “\$12M Founders Theatre Improvements Yrs 11 – 13, 24

Page 56 – ARTS AND CULTURE

“Founders Theatre offers space for live entertainment, conferences, seminars and social functions.”

Page 57 – OUR PLANS

“The Council has set aside \$13.8m to upgrade the Founders Theatre in 2021/22 because maintaining the theatre has been deferred in the past and an independent report is saying we can no longer defer work. But first it plans to spend \$100,000 on a business plan to examine all the options for upgrading the 50-year-old theatre. The estimated cost of upgrading the fly tower and stage house structure, and to upgrade toilets in the venue is \$10.8M. Upgrading the auditorium, foyer and facade is estimated to cost \$3M. A decision on whether or not to go ahead with this project will not be made until after the business plan is finished, which will be later in 2015.

Page 107 - ACTIVITY SPECIFIC ASSUMPTIONS

Theatres

“A capital amount of \$100,000 is allowed for the preparation of a Founders Theatre Upgrade Business Case in the 2016 year to explore all options in detail and identify the best outcomes. The estimated upgrade cost is included from the 2022 year.”

(NOTE: a report on this Business Case study cannot be found on the internet)

Discussion

1. The future of Founders Theatre is well set out in the short and long-term plans for Hamilton City. Money is budgeted for this work which will reinstate and update Founders Theatre so it will remain Hamilton’s major theatre venue.
2. Any interest in a regional theatre for Waikato can only be considered as an amendment to the short and long-term plan, and this cannot happen unless and until Council complies with the consultation process requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. The estimated \$13.8 million to upgrade Founders Theatre is a far greater cost-effective alternative for the whole community than handing over \$30 million (plus GST) for the Waikato Theatre.

4. The Local Government Act (whose purpose is to “to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses”) clearly outlines the democratic process that, when adhered to, will meet the purpose of the Act.
5. The Local Government Act 2002 gives clear directives on how to amend a long-term plan.
6. The Hamilton City Council’s 2016/17 Annual Report presents the results of HCC performance over the past year. It concludes with...

“Looking ahead to the coming months, the focus for the Council will be on developing its 2018-28 10-Year Plan, which will set out our priorities and budget for the next decade. The Council will have some tough decisions to make about what to fund, and what not to fund, and how to pay for it. A balance will need to be achieved between funding growth infrastructure such as main roads and pipes, and community infrastructure that enhances liveability such as parks, playgrounds, arts and culture and sporting facilities. We will need the input of Hamiltonians and there will be opportunities to have your say.”
7. The introduction to the Annual Report 2016/17, i.e. ‘FROM THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE’, makes clear that council acknowledges some tough decisions regarding funding of priorities for the future.
8. Both the Mayor and the Chief Executive acknowledge and make it very clear that there is no room in the budget for unnecessary trivialities and unnecessary ‘big budget’ luxuries.
9. The Local Government Act 2002 gives a clear directive that “A local authority must manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and general financial dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. ...”
10. The Local Government New Zealand organisation in their guide, “We Build a Stronger Local Government – A Candidate’s guide to Local Authority Elections”, outlines the requirements of an elected member.

Putting the needs of the district, city or region first

“Elected members must act in the interest of the total district, city, region or community in which they have been elected, not just a particular ward or constituency. This is reinforced by the oath that you will have to agree to shortly after being elected:

“I, [full name of mayor, councillor or board member], declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of [name of region, district, city, local or community board], the powers, authorities, and duties vested in or imposed upon me as a member of the [name of local authority] by virtue of the LGA 2002, the Local

Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA), or any other Act.”

The oath identifies the need for elected members to use their best skills and judgment and to perform in the best interests of the whole community, not just the ward from which they were elected. Successful elected members manage to balance both their responsibility to raise issues affecting their wards or constituencies while making decisions on behalf of the interests of the total community, and future generations.”

Recommendation

Given that...

- 1) The complete refurbishment of Founders is already in the long-term plan, *and*
- 2) Finance has been budgeted for this work, *and*
- 3) There is no room in the budget for unnecessary ‘big budget’ luxuries, *and*
- 4) The Hamilton Plan is our vision for Hamilton's future and it's a plan that will build a stronger economy and a more attractive city for families, *and*
- 5) Any amendment to the long-term plan must be carried out in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, *and*
- 6) Council must manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and general financial dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community, *and*
- 7) Elected members of council have taken an oath of allegiance to represent and perform in the best interests of the whole community and not just their particular and narrow interest, ...

THEN...

The refurbishing and reinstatement of Founders as the premier theatre in Hamilton is the only option.

In the meantime, the Arts community does have theatres they can use, which is a lot more than what some communities have, to meet their needs.

The goal of council is to work together with the whole community for the common good of that community!

Dear Mr King

I would like to submit that Hamilton City has a prime opportunity to create yet another iconic landmark, to further put "Hamilton on the map" both within New Zealand and Internationally by building a wonderful theatre on the existing Founders Theatre site

We already have the Hamilton Gardens, and the plans for developing the "Victoria on the River" (or should that be "Kirikiroa on The River"?) as a stage in turning the city to face the river is just fantastic. Now the same perspective needs to be continued for the Hamilton Theatre.

There is already a well-established legacy associated with the Founders Theatre that is to be beholden, and so to naturally continue this with the building of a new theatre on the same site would be visionary. How exciting!

The existing Founders Theatre site would also offer:

- An opportunity to build an iconic standalone building for all to continue to behold
- Ease of logistical access for visiting artists and staging
- Fantastic "red carpet" nights
- Enhance Boyes park area
- Ease of theatre patron access and parking
- Greatly enhance our cultural heritage

To bury it amongst the pubs of south Victoria street would be such a shame, never mind the

- lack of logistical access. How difficult is it now along Victoria Street and into Sapper Moore-Jones Place? Imagine a truck and trailer unit trying to deliver staging;
- lack of parking (competing with the pub/restaurant patrons) and
- very likely theatre patron abuse from the late night drunk and disorderly at the end of a show.

So I strongly suggest that the existing site offers far more opportunity for now and the future, for Hamilton's theatre and for Hamilton City.

Regards

Craig Tomlinson

**“ ‘FOUNDERS HAMILTON TOWN HALL,’ WITH – ‘TOWN CRIER’ ”
“ ‘AND CREATIVE HUB’ – NOT JUST AND ONLY FOR COUNCILS’
CIVIC USEAGES. BUT ALSO FOR THEATRE AND - THE ARTS –
IN GENERAL.”**

- **FLAG POLE IDEAS:**

On not so big an outside area roadside, one of the front corners – our only current national New Zealand flag displayed and holstered 24/7. Beside our new – “Town Hall type venue,” on the current Founders Theatre site.

This imagery of our nations flag – of the, ”Union Jack,” and “Southern Cross stars,” of our South Pacific.

- **GROUPS THAT COULD BE INVOLVED IN THE NEW –
“TOWN HALL” – REBUILD ON THE CURRENT LAND SITE OF
“FOUNDERS THEATRE,” AREA. THAT BE REPRESENTATIVE
OF GREATER SOCIETY :**

Creative Waikato. Waikato Society of Arts. The Plybox Reperty Society (Inc). Local Dance Studios. In the Waikato – Stagecraft Acting Classes at Riverlea Theatre, on Riverlea Road – our local Waikato (all-age Stagecraft Acting Classes). With its links to our – Tertiary Performance Acting Theatre School and its qualifications – in Wellington, Capital City. With I believe its historical original traditions of our Commonwealth, initially mainly being more linked to Europe and United Kingdoms’ – B.B.C. Theatre. And shows from – “The Empire Era,” such as “Last Night of the Proms.”

Saint James Theatre – for performance of our national ballet company and school (their also home city national non-touring base, space and tertiary training centre) – in our nations Capital Wellington. (With an understanding that – “Classical Ballet” in its original forms did begin in France, Europe). Local Waikato Province Ballet Dance Studios of old and now.

The local Waikato Opera Society.

From Concert FM (a link of national radio), their – “Sound Insomble,” at the weekend of evening concerts, for example, we in the Waikato, may have some possibility of pertaining such performances, in our new – “Town Hall type concept.” From main centre venues such as, “The Auckland Town Hall,” and “The Michael Fowler Centre,” of our Wellington City.

“Waikato Historical Places Trust and Society,” – including its historical education division, via our head education department in the nations capital. (Representative of Waikatos’ – adults, children, tweens and teens, and all our local tertiary training institutions throughout the provincial region).

Including all voting agegroups of citizens – of proven importance, through and via – our local governing body electorates and COUNCIL).

• **NATIONAL MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE AND VIA – “THE FOUNDERS HAMILTON TOWN HALL/THEATRE” :**

- Heading 24/7 security.

Our Military Senior Staff who have worked in,”UNITED NATIONS PEACE -KEEPING FORCES WORK,” to serve our, “civi/civilian street,” with our needs in the local community.(Like in the Waikato, via our – “New Town Hall Type Concept.”) As well as via state and private community schools, scouts, High Schools, older youths after just having left High Schools – (who are working or studying, in any local tertiary institution). Of need of good honest solid, and practical “coaching input,” and encouragement (tweens/teens and young adults).

Safe (‘one on one’) – positive mentorship in practical ways – to pass on – (‘wisdom’ and ‘mana’) – to ‘unlock keys,’ TO and OF – *broken individuals* – in their worlds. Giving out and into a sense of, “WISDOM,” “ENCOURAGEMENT,” and “DIRECTION,” investing into individuals and of their ‘story,’ and ‘lives.’

- Military hosting/management of our nations flag, with their ruleship and authority, in all things of their doing. (Our Navy, Airforce and Army), having their influence via – “The Hamilton Civic Town Hall/Theatre – type concept” – to be of a centre of performance theatre and the arts. Our militaries – “own divisions of “– the arts. Orchestral and military bands. As well as Maori performance, mime, song, opera and dance. European dance forms, mime, acting theatre, song and opera. Especially historically speaking the military and their practical experience in their running recordings of, “traditional outdoor and street professional performance, and acting theatre.” (More disciplinarian study of - non-television/media – performance).

With continued studies of how things are to be done, via the two original, “Treaty of Waitangi,” signing races of the land.

ALL OF THE LISTED ABOVE – WORKS AND SORTS OF WORK (IN AID OF RAISING STANDARDS OF ALL THIS IN THE CREATIVE ARTS, OF THESE IN THE NATION AS WELL).

Via all disciplines in the fine arts, the arts, performance arts, mime, music, song, dance, opera, as well as acting theatre.

Our – national military traditions and ceremonies. In their' roles in, through and via, - “Civi/Civilian Street.”

A STUDY OF – “THE TREATY OF WAITANGI,” MAORI AND EUROPEAN ERAS. PLUS THE ORIGINAL LAND AND SURVEY GREATER PERIMETRES OF THE FULER PROVINCIAL BORDERS OF THE ORIGINAL - WAIKATO CITY AND REGIONAL ONCE COMBINED COUNCIL/S - RECORDS AND MILITARY HISTORICAL RECORDINGS – OF LIFE AND LOCAL LIVING :

Compared to the current listed areas of – “Waikato 2017/2018 (PHONE BOOKS) White and Yellow Pages.”

The listed provinces up-to-date land boundary areas – “Map One,” “Map Two,” “Map Four,” “Map Five,” some of – “Map Six,” “Map Seven,” “Map Eight,” and “Map Nine.”

*Creative ideas for the architectural plans of, “Founders Hamilton Town Hall – rebuild.” “Of the town hall type venue.”

Based on the newspaper local rag – “PRIME HAMILTON – Lifestyle Magazine for 50s plus.” “HISTORICALLY SPEAKING - section.” On “page 28,” in the middle of the 2017 winter year copy, there is a black and white photo of the 1905 Hamiltons' first town hall.

That the new, “Founders Hamilton Town Hall,” could be a mostly the same replica rebuild on the current – “Hamiltons' Founders Theatre,” site in the Central Business District area of the city.

The caption below this photograph reads as so: -

“OPENING OF THE HAMILTON TOWN HALL. Hamilton's first town hall was built to commemorate the Coronation of King Edward the Seventh. It was opened on the 22nd of March 1905 by Premier Richard John Seddon.”

I feel that on the new site, the second, “1905 Hamilton Town Hall,” should be architecturally exactly the same, pretty much on the outside in style and re-build plans, as on the new site. But the use of – ‘red/orange local vitric stone,’ (cut and fired), instead, from –“The Hinuera Stone Quarry.” (For its brick laying purposes of stone slab, and mortar for original United Kingdom B.B.C. traditional theatre building look and architectural style.

With the middle section having a second storey as per the original architectural outside design records of the past local government city council. When it was – “The Borough Council, on the Borough Councils’ 1905 stamp and original architectural design plan and scroll records.”

Also I feel for the 1905 Hamiltons’ first town hall rebuild at and on the, ”Founders Theatre 2017 site,” to still have all its fancy designs, embellishments, roofing, window areas and the motif on the front top of the second storey, in the triangular section area, all of these to be kept strictly the same.

“CREATIVE IDEAS FOR THE – ARCHITECTURAL PLANS/RECORDS/SCROLLS/ - OF THE NEW RE-BUILD OF – “FOUNDERS HAMILTON TOWN HALL,” IN PLACE AND FROM, - REPLICA ARCHITECTURAL PLANS MAINLY BASED OFF AND FROM – “THE 1905 HAMILTONS’ FIRST TOWN HALL,” FROM STIPULATED RECORDS OF INSIDE AND OUT :

IDEAS OF WHAT IS TO BE ON THE BACK OUTSIDE BACK SECTION OF THE BUILDING:

Bus coach parking space – for the performers transportation.

Parking bays for public use four “Taxi Stands,” – ‘10 minute drop off/pickup times.’ Two marked parks opposite eachother with spraypainted markings on tarseal or concreted ground areas. With a reasonably high concrete separation safety barrier between and in the middle of them. To shelter from most of rains, a plastic see-through sheet of roofing iron overtop of this area, attached to the back of the building.

A couple of parking bays for wheelchair mobility pickup/drop off – vans.

Two marked parking bays – for police, fire and ambulance parking ONLY.

- With the back of the building entrance passageway in from the coach, taxi, mobility vans and emergency services parks, in through a passageway, into the – “Civic Hall/Founders Hamilton Town Hall, and Theatre/Creative Hub Space,” to inside areas as well as the auditorium, on the ground level and first floor.

UNDERGROUND FLOOR PARKING:

Four levels/storeys’ – of underground parking, beneath the, full areas of the, ‘NEW RE-BUILD SITE.’

ELECTRIC SOFT-SEATED – MOBILITY TRANSFERENCE CHAIR:

Attachable and detachable, to be able to take on and take off – for emergency assist and/or medical emergency transferrance need, on the bannisters of a separate emergency stairwell to up and down to level two/second storey. (Possibility instead of having a lift in place?)

SEPARATE FORMAL STAIRCASE TO LEVEL TWO:

The staircase and wooden-styled bannisters – to be architecturally fashioned, on the, “first original 1905 Hamilton town hall, on its actual build site,” and like they are in, “The Royal Albert Hall,” in London, England.

ROYAL BOX:

I think that the back middle upstairs section inside, should include a, ”Royal Box,” similar to “The Royal Albert Hall,” in London, England. For Prime Ministers (Priemiers), Governor Generals and Royals.

HISTORICAL PLACES TRUST/SOCIETY:

To lead a study of the city and region from 1905-2017. And pre-1905 too?
(And via their educational wing, a tourism venture/historic places trust guided tours of local Waikato places of interest).

- Focal points of interest along the Waikato River (River Travel Histories Records with anecdotes) (Any other Waikato River – records, local histories and anecdotes on land around the River banks province-wide).
- Historic Places Trust – original houses, buildings and businesses along, The Waikato River and Central Business District of Hamilton city – including Grey Street and Riverside areas of Hamilton East.

(Historical Society – a study of our olden days, "Boer War Era," "World War I," "World War II," as well as, "Korean War Era.")

With the breakdowns of their local histories, in each of the above and pre listed military eras of work. Explaining of the 'hows,' and 'why,' questions, of their past roles.

- **HISTORICAL PLACES TRUST/SOCIETIES RECORDS/STUDY OF ORIGINAL REGION/S ALONG THE BANKS OF THE WAIKATO RIVER RECORDS/ANECDOTES – ALL BEFORE THERE WERE PLANES/ELECTRICITY, NOR ANY BRIDGES AT ALL, OVER THE WAIKATO RIVER – FROM – LAKE TAUPO TO PORT WAIKATO:**

- Street Theatre (Open Air), acting scenes. Olden days style of old school disciplinarian – acting theatre for – 'tourism venture,' and 'local village feel.'

Like acting street outdoor theatre scenes in the 'Australian Outback,' our Commonwealth neighbours of a descending German and Lutheran village town called, "Hahndorf."

And their practical performance training records and skill of works – in this area of the arts.

Demonstrations by all-aged actors of daily life, work and home-based chores. Military work roles, including of security alongside the Waikato Riverside. Life and gardens. Waikato Riverside life and histories re-inacted. Of agricultural farming of the last few centuries of original subsistence farming of small fence-less clusters of animals riverside, on the Waikato River banks of local Iwi and early days pioneer settlers.

Horticultural cropping Waikato Riversides – histories.

Farriers at work.

What did the past local Iwi do to care for the feet of the local native buffalo they used to plough up the peat soils Waikato Riverside, for their crops to grow?

Blacksmiths and all the original trades at work inside and out of a few businesses in the central business district, during the settlers era.

As per the ,”Acting Theatre (all-ages), businesses in the – Village of Hamilton, Central Business District areas, during the settlers era, as per practically done in outdoor street acting scenes done in, “Hahndorf, Australia,” in their outdoor street theatre acting scenes. (Non television/media performances).

I VOTE TO KEEP, - “THE MANUAL ARCHAIC STAGE AND CURTAINS CHANGE OVER SYSTEM” FOR USE IN THE REBUILD OF “FOUNDERS HAMILTON TOWN HALL,” FOR ITS HISTORICAL VALUE AND STUDY OF ‘OLD SCHOOL THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE ARTS’:

For study by Stagecraft classes (all agegroups) locally in the Waikato, at Riverlea Theatre, on Riverlea Road. And other Stagecraft classes from other provinces in the land! As well as our national tertiary theatre acting school, in Wellington, Capital City, New Zealand.

Also thinking about it could it be a possibility that some of the, “grass areas,” to the sides of the, “2017 Founders Theatre.” As it stands when you look at it, from the front view be used (somewhat) as well for our, “new town hall type idea,” buildover?

Historical aspects from this era (olden days and old historical times)(and times pre the modern era of the now). When the first the original designs, of - "Founders Theatre." (From when it was first opened and built).

Are actual record of Hamilton city, in our Waikato Province. From when it was first a Village, then to it becoming a town. And in more recent decades a provincial city, in the Waikato Provincial District, of the North Island, New Zealand.

Inside of the 1905 rebuild of this, "Founders Hamilton Town Hall," made of fired stone slab and mortar, from "Hinuera Quarry Red/Orange Victric stone," are some ideas as follows:

* Encased in glass, on the back walls (in the back area before entering the auditorium seating area of the theatre), to be displays of all our national New Zealand flags to date.

*As well as 2017 winter printed newspaper record of our, "original – Waikato Province – provincial flag." From the records of – "PRIME HAMILTON – Lifestyle Magazine for 50s plus."

Off that original – "Waikato Provincial Flag," I think that the animals on it are meant to be as a guess - representative of the native buffalo in the local provincial region.

I think that these original native buffalo, were used locally for ploughing alongside the Waikato River banks for horticulture cropping. Before teams of horses were later introduced to the region to do the same work as the buffalo oxen teams did only before. Pre the times of people starting to sail in on sailing ships from the other side of the globe. From the Northern Hemisphere world to set foot by sailing ship vessels. To arrive on our shores and travel by carriage-ride to make their lives along the Waikato Riverside banks, mountains, hillsides as well as Valleys. Out here locally to live in the Southern Hemisphere. Mainly from the United Kingdom and Europe.

Your sincerely

Angela Grace Clements

P.S. What about building a, “Central Business District Community Centre?”

Like, “Hamilton East Community Centre,” and “Western Community Centre.”
In town nearby to the revamp of the, “Central Hamilton Library,” (all levels).

Both in – “Garden Place,” on Victoria Street, Hamilton city.

FOUNDERS' THEATRE REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS

The following records my view in respect of the location options which are being considered for the replacement of the Founders' Theatre in Hamilton.

I am not at all supportive of any proposal to locate a replacement venue for the Founders' Theatre anywhere within the immediate proximity of the CBD.

Having been a resident of Hamilton for over 50 years, I find that this suggestion has very little merit, as the CBD is not a convenient location for theatre goers. Hamilton's CBD is now a saturated conglomerate of alcohol providing facilities which take the form of bars, restaurants and licenced outlets. These particular operations do not lend themselves to the less alcohol driven entertainment provided by many forms of theatre which we expect our new facility to provide.

The fact is, I am not encouraged to walk through the CBD of Hamilton any time after sunset. It is not a pleasant nor safe experience. By contrast, the location of the former theatre was not at all threatening. One did not feel at risk walking to and from the more convenient parking spaces to the (now defunct) theatre. That is in strong contrast to the Hamilton CBD after dark, when one certainly feels intimidated by those who frequent that alcohol fuelled area.

I am disappointed that Hamilton City is in the same "desperate" situation which it had to deal with when it built the former Founders' theatre over 50 years ago. The cash-strapped council built the theatre totally within the serious constraint of its limited cash position. Nothing has changed – again the building size, design and appointments etc. are all being decided within the limits of a seriously limited budget. The decisions to be made in establishing a location and specifications of a new theatre should not be the result of short term thinking. Been there – done that!!

While one must acknowledge the reality of us all having limited resources, it would be a tragedy if yet again, Hamilton City found itself with an inferior theatre on an unsuitable location which resulted from its limitations – i.e. that was all that the city could afford. Short sighted???? Of course.

If Hamilton City is to restore its civic pride with a theatre which offers a high standard of amenities and appointments, it must lift its sights and create something worthy of its population and culture. To do that the important decisions need to be made by those who have a vision and a practical appreciation of the needs of :-

i) the performers and organisations who will stage events at the facility and

ii) the audience/population who I suggest rightfully expect a building and a standard of facilities which brings credit to our city, and of which we can be proud.

It is reported that the most favourable option for the Founders' Theatre dilemma was 49% who supported the upgrading option, and only 34% favoured a total rebuild. One can readily see the subsequent sway in opinion when asked if a new building would be acceptable if the Council fronted up with \$30 million. That was the option which was initially favoured by only 34%, and somehow that option is being pumped up to 58%. But in my view this was caused as a result of the full range of options not being fully explored or offered as viable alternatives. That provided a poor outcome because of the way it was handled.

We are of course grateful for the very active support from the Momentum Group, but why was the refurbishment option of the existing theatre so readily put aside? It truly is an unsatisfactory compromise.

The citizens of Hamilton patiently wait for some firm direction in this development. My earnest desire is that the route which is ultimately chosen, is not born out of expediency and a lack of vision.

John Haughie

Life Member – Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra

Life Member & Patron – Hamilton Competitions Society

Hamilton City Council.

Reasons for reinstating Founders Theatre.

- ① It was originally built as the Cultural Centre for Hamilton & should be upgraded accordingly.
- ② It will be a quicker & cheaper option than a new building by the River, the estimated cost of which is \$70 million, & that figure will certainly increase.
- ③ The Founders site has plenty of adjacent & accessible parking. The River site has no provided parking except Victoria Street which is always fully parked on work days & every night because of bars & restaurants everywhere nearby. Carpark buildings are not very handy either.
- ④ The Council is burdened with massive debts & more of the same for a River building is penalising ratepayers who are already heavily taxed. It is time for Council to reduce its appetite for big spending on "fun things" & concentrate on basic service needs & infrastructure.

I am willing to attend & speak on my submission.