

SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS FUND 2006

Dunedin Chinese Gardens Trust: Development of Dunedin Chinese Gardens

This project will receive a grant of up to \$3.75 million.

The aim is to develop an authentic classical Chinese Garden that will acknowledge the sister city connection between Dunedin and Shanghai and provide a cultural focal point for the New Zealand Chinese community.

The Dunedin Chinese Gardens will transform the area behind the Otago Settler's Museum into a spectacular Classical garden in keeping with the tradition of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The garden's design is based upon the private gardens in Suzhou from the 10th to the 19th centuries. These gardens, unlike the imperial gardens, were quite small and informal in design.

The Dunedin Chinese Gardens will feature three pavilions, several courtyards, water features, terraces and a Grand Rockery. A traditional high wall will surround the garden.

An important part of the garden will be the Descendants' Gallery that will contain displays on New Zealand Chinese and plaques acknowledging the donations made to the garden by ethnic Chinese and Europeans.

There will also be a Creeds and Customs Gallery where Chinese folklore, beliefs and customs will be depicted in display panels and trellis windows.

The project is being undertaken with the support of the Shanghai municipal government and the Garden will be designed, built and maintained with the continuing guidance of the Shanghai Museum.

The Garden will provide recognition of the contribution of Chinese people to the formation and history of Otago, and will create interest in, and an understanding of, Chinese culture. In addition, it will provide a significant tourist icon for the country and region.