

SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS FUND 2006

Hastings District Council: Development of the Hawke's Bay Opera House Complex

This project will receive a grant of up to \$2.5 million.

The redevelopment of the Opera House and Precinct buildings will transform this magnificent Spanish Mission building, with its unique architecture and history, into a lively venue and tourist attraction.

When the makeover is completed, the Opera House and Precinct will provide state-of-the-art facilities for the conference and a high tech venue for local and touring theatrical productions.

The Hawke's Bay Opera House was designed by Wellington Architect, Henry Eli White, and built in 1915.

The project involves the restoration of two New Zealand Historic Places Trust category 1 registered buildings - the Hastings Municipal Theatre and former Council Chambers - into a modern Opera House complex.

It includes the construction of two new elements - a glass atrium to one side of the Theatre that will serve as an entrance and provide space for theatre-goers to gather, and a courtyard alongside the atrium.

The restoration of the Theatre is well underway, as is the atrium and the courtyard. The grant is towards the substantive restoration of the Council Chambers and completion of the courtyard.