

PROPOSED FALE, FRANK KITTS PARK, WELLINGTON WATERFRONT

OWNER'S STATEMENT

The Fale Malae Trust ("Trust") is applying for resource consent to establish a Fale at Frank Kitts Park on the Wellington waterfront.

This Statement sets out the background to the Trust and its vision for the proposed Fale.

THE BACKGROUND

The Fale Malae Trust has its origins in the Komati Pasifika, a group established in 2012 by Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban. Reporting to the Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington, Komiti Pasifika sought to bring relevant expertise and reflect the views and aspirations of Pasifika peoples in New Zealand, particularly towards achieving improved higher educational outcomes.

Early on in its endeavours it became clear to Komiti Pasifika that there was no 'meeting place' in Wellington that would support a sense of belonging for the Pasifika communities that went beyond purely supporting education.

In 2017 Komiti Pasifika members formed the Fale Malae Establishment Group to lead the process toward establishing a focal point in Wellington for the Pasifika community leading to the establishment of the Fale Malae Trust in 2019.

THE TRUST

The Fale Malae Trust (Registered Charity #CC56528) is managed by a ten-member Board of Trustees chaired by Adrian Orr the Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and including Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban.

THE VISION

The Trust's vision is to establish a contemporary Pasifika Fale on Wellington's waterfront and for it to become a national cultural institution that celebrates Aotearoa New Zealand's place in the Pacific and the contribution of Pasifika people to our national identity.

The Trust's core objectives for a national Fale are:

- To establish a Fale as an authentic space for celebrating Aotearoa New Zealand's Pasifika identity
- To promote understanding and appreciation of Pasifika culture and values through showcasing Pasifika arts, theatre, music and cultural performance
- To promote Pasifika academic research and scholarship

- To provide a focal point that appropriately recognises and facilitates the role of Aotearoa New Zealand as a Pacific nation

The Trust's vision is of a facility that can host significant national and international meetings and conferences to advance arts, culture and education and that will become a focal point for Aotearoa New Zealand's Pasifika communities.

SITE SELECTION

Leading to the selection of the Frank Kitts Park as the Trust's preferred site for the Fale, several other sites were investigated.

Ultimately, the Trust selected the Frank Kitts Park proposed site as its preferred location and one that would, in the Trust's opinion, better reflect the international significance of the Fale.

In the Trust's opinion, Frank Kitts Park best met its objectives being close to the ocean/moana, thus recognising the importance of the ocean for all Pasifika communities.

Being in close proximity to other cultural destinations, including Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Te Wharawaka o Pōneke and the proposed Chinese Garden (Garden of Beneficence) was also an important consideration in selecting Frank Kitts Park, the Trust's preferred site for the Fale Malae.

THE PROPOSED FALE

Designed by Jasmax Architects in association with Albert L Refiti, the proposed Fale is a contemporary representation of Pasifika fale structures.

Designed as a transparent 'building in the round', the Fale will be able to host a wide range of activities, including educational events, conferences, art and cultural exhibitions and community meetings.

The Trust is confident that the Fale will become a sought-after destination for a wide range of national and international visitors and will make a significant contribution to contemporary culture and the overall attraction of Wellington's waterfront.