
REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

GRAFFITI MURAL

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Tawa Community Board's endorsement of a graffiti mural, along the pedestrian underpass in Tawa between Ranui and Allen Terraces.

2. Executive Summary

Tawa College students have initiated a proposal for a graffiti style mural along the pedestrian under-pass in Tawa. This is an exciting artistic opportunity for the community's creative youth. It will instil in the students a sense of ownership and pride in their community, providing a cleaner, more energised access route for pedestrians.

The student initiated proposal complements Wellington City Council's long-term direction for community public art, and fits within the parameters of the proposed graffiti flying squad articulated in Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2007/08.

Wellington City Council officers are supportive of the proposal, and have agreed to undertake maintenance on the underpass in preparation for students to begin work on the mural.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Endorse the development of a graffiti style mural, initiated by Tawa College students, along the Wellington City Council maintained pedestrian underpass between Ranui and Allan Terraces in Tawa.*
- 3. Note that Council officers will undertake maintenance on the pedestrian underpass in preparation for the graffiti style mural, and will work with the students during the design and implementation phase.*

4. Background

Recently, a group of year nine students approached the Dean of Tawa College, Greg Pestell, about developing a graffiti-style mural on the underpass between Ranui and Allan Terraces. The Dean organised a meeting with members of the Tawa Community Board (TCB) to seek their permission.

The students have drawn up ideas for a graffiti-style aerosol design, and have considered consulting members of the Tawa community (including the College) to ascertain what people would like to see. Students have also discussed fundraising opportunities, such as a sausage sizzle, to purchase paint and equipment required to create the mural.

5. Discussion

5.1 *Impact of the proposal*

The pedestrian underpass between Ranui and Allan Terraces provides an important access route from one part of Tawa to the next, particularly for school students. The underpass is owned by Transit, and Wellington City Council has responsibility for its upkeep. Currently the underpass is dark and dirty, providing an unpleasant experience for pedestrians.

The student initiated graffiti mural proposal will transform the underpass into a clean, bright space, allowing dynamic artwork to adorn its walls. This will provide a safer and more energised space, encouraging an increase in pedestrian traffic and mitigate against future vandalism.

Council officers support the development of this proposal, and will undertake maintenance on the underpass in preparation for students to begin work on the mural. Transit has also confirmed their support for this initiative through Council officers.

The views of the Tawa Community Board are sought prior to instigating the project.

5.2 *Strategic Alignment*

The development of the mural proposal by students at Tawa College complements the Council's long-term direction for community public art set out in the Public Art Policy (2003). The Policy defines community public art in the following way:

Community public art aims to assist communities towards self-celebration and self-definition, through the expression of a sense of identity and the creation of community consciousness. It encourages active participation from community members whilst also developing audiences. Wellington's community public art predominantly takes the form of public murals and aerosol art.

The phrase Community Art focuses on non-professional, un-trained artists and their access to, and inclusion in, the creative process leading to their own artistic output. This is usually answered by programming that ranges from workshops and classes, mural making, amateur performance, festivals, and some audience-growth initiatives.

Furthermore, the development of a graffiti mural on the Tawa underpass fits within the parameters of the proposed flying squad, articulated in Council's Draft Annual Plan 2007/08.

The flying squad is a Council initiative to protect the city's streetscapes from graffiti. This service will provide a graffiti removal service and education on how to remove, discourage and report graffiti. Council's Citioperations team will provide white paint for cleaning spaces in the city that are prone to illegal tagging and graffiti.

The flying squad will also engage with local artists and community groups to develop murals, as a method of reducing the amount of illegal tagging and graffiti on private property and public spaces.

6. Conclusion

Wellington City Council encourages engagement with local communities to develop ideas for improving public space to better reflect their community. The mural project is an exciting artistic opportunity for Tawa's creative youth, and will instil in the students a sense of ownership and pride providing a cleaner, more energised access route for pedestrians.

The students will gain valuable experience developing a mural in a public place, from consulting with members of the Tawa community, creating the design, seeking funding for materials, and beginning work on the underpass.

Contact Officer: *Katie Duke, Arts Advisor*