

Pacific Underground at “Canterbury Tales Pilgrimage” FESTA / Luxcity

“Under The Fale”

Inspiration: (There a few main ideas that inspire the layout, performances and overall audience experience for the site that Pacific Underground will occupy)

1. Where have all the churches gone? Reflection on Christchurch City Council’s video of the virtual 3D Christchurch Central City Recovery Plan model online

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/rebuilding-christchurch/7378437/Rebuild-plan-for-Christchurch-unveiled>

“The first thing I noticed was that the PIC Church that used to stand on the corner of Madras and Cashel Sts, was being replaced by a massive sports stadium and there wasn’t a replacement church anywhere on the grid” - Tanya Muagututi’a.

2. White Sunday- a national / international celebration in the Samoan Church. Otherwise known as Lotu Tamaiiti (Lotu – meaning church service, prayer and Tamaiti – meaning children). Held every first Sunday of October, the special service is all about the kids. They lead the service, and all aspects from the welcome parade into the church, right through to the benediction, including performances ranging from short plays of Bible stories and songs. A big feast is held afterwards.

3. Christmas in Samoa – while in Samoa on Christmas eve 1994, I sat outside my Grandmother’s house on the steps in the dark. I was facing the road only 30metres away, and beyond the road is the sea. I heard a choir. I didn’t know where from, until they passed the house walking on the road, dressed in white, singing. It was beautiful and eerie. *Like white sails walking by.* This is another tradition that is represented elsewhere with choirs from the Samoan church visit their church members in a bus on Christmas eve, where they sing, food is shared before they move onto their next destination.

4. A Samoan Fale in Christchurch

(images from the internet provided)

PROPOSED EXPERIENCE – “Under The Fale”

Set / Structure / Layout

A giant white temporary Samoan fale as high as The Bridge of Remembrance. Structure to be draped or made with a light white material (recyclable) that can illuminate white light. The shape will be long / oval , raised 600cm off the ground, and can be walked through. On either side of the fale on the exterior are two production / performance areas – on the ground – no staging required.

Inside the roof - projected images of various types of traditional lashings as seen in traditional Samoan Fales, also other images by Samoan / Pasifika local artists.

When people walk through the structure they will be able to stand underneath look up onto the roof , watch / listen to the performances.

Proposed Performers / presenters

1. PIC Church, and other churches Sunday School Groups (off the back of the White Sunday 2013).
2. Pacific Underground – Island “Summer Sounds From the Bay”
3. Judah Arts Productions – gospel / poets/ drama
4. Pacific Underground – Rangi and Mau’s Amazing Race – Theatre show (theatre-in-the-round using the inside of the fale).
5. Cultural Groups

Other activities – during the day

- a. Demonstration of an ava ceremony
- b. Weavers
- c. Artists
- d. Carvers
- e. Tatau / tattoo
- f. Play reading



