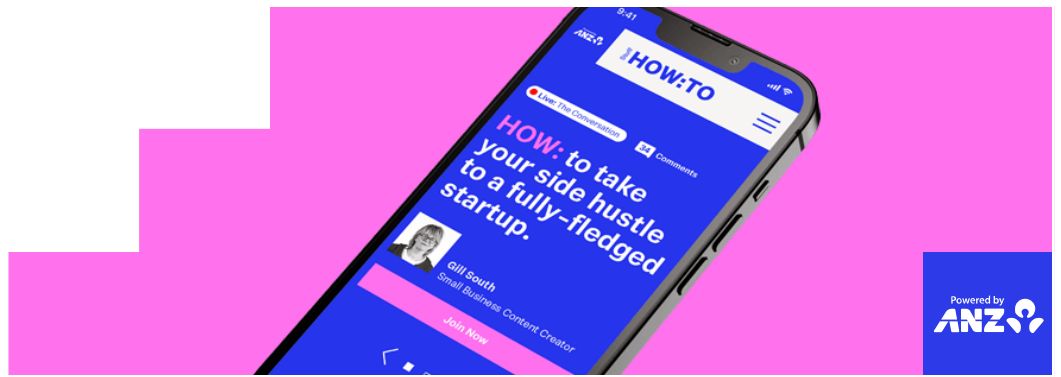


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Festa – creating a city within a city

Vicki Anderson

October 21, 2013 · 04:19pm

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GIANT PUPPETS: Stuart Lloyd-Harris will be part of a carnival of giant puppets on Saturday evening. SUPPLIED

A city within a city, the annual Festival of Transitional Architecture, FESTA 2013, is a free public event in the central city to be held throughout Labour weekend. VICKI ANDERSON highlights events from the programme.

More than 20,000 Cantabrians squished together in Gloucester St and its surrounds for LUXCITY last year. The only festival of its kind in the world, the annual Festival of Transitional Architecture (FESTA) is a free, public event.

This year's theme is "a city within a city" and FESTA's temporary cityscape will include an urban farm on the site of Poplar Lane, a recycled house, a mobile cinema for two, markets, music, workshops, talks, and is centred around the headline event, Free Theatre's Canterbury Tales.

CANTERBURY TALES

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A carnival of giant puppets, magnificent sculptures crafted out of recycled bicycles and more, *Canterbury Tales* is a two-and-a-half-hour carnivalesque procession around the inner city which tells the tale of our city's past and present.

Audience participation is invited - dress up, wear masks and bring lights.

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Starting at 8.30pm on Saturday, the procession of large puppets and masked performers will assemble near the Bridge of Remembrance and follow a specific path through the central city at night: along the river to Worcester Bridge before ending at the heart of the city in Cathedral Square.

It includes a performance by Pacific Underground and local experimental artists, including Bruce Russell.

The procession will move to the Cathedral, where a play between karanga and fanfare performed by Ngai Tahu artists and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra will call the procession into the square.

Along the journey expect to find beverages and tasty fare from some of Christchurch's favourite watering holes - The Darkroom, Cassels and Sons, The Twisted Hop, Black Betty and Smash Palace.

At the end of the procession there will be The Lost and Found night market in Cathedral Square.

AGROPOLIS

Sited at the former Poplar Lane area at 154 High St, Agropolis is a scalable transitional urban farm in the inner city.

It is an edible landscape and involves composting organic waste from inner city hospitality businesses as well as the ground preparation, sowing and planting, harvesting, cooking and distribution of the produce.

Eventually Agropolis hopes to provide a "garden to plate" experience via a mobile kitchen.

It also raises questions about the city's food resilience, land use and food production and distribution in relation to the planning of the city.

THE NOMADIC SAUNA

Members of the public are invited to sit on the ground and enjoy a native American-inspired sauna, right in the heart of the city at 136 Manchester St.

Organisers say this piece of transitional architecture is best experienced from the inside as it offers a new social experience of downtown Christchurch.

Designed and organised by Fabricio Fernandes, you'll be able to try the Nomadic Sauna from Friday to Sunday from 7pm-11pm.

It will host 45-minute sauna sessions that start at sunset and run for three to four hours. There is a space for changing and bath on site also.

PICTURE HOUSE - A MOBILE CINEMA

Picture House, made by artist/designer team Heather Hayward and Tessa Peach (Makeshift) is a mobile cinema for two.

It will move around the central city each day of FESTA and will be set up on different historic cinema sites.

In each location this small mobile cinema made for two will present a selection of award-winning and recent short films from New Zealand and around the world.

This mobile architecture responds to the transitional phase of the city, and aims to acknowledge the loss of 21 cinema screens in the city since the earthquake.

WHOLE HOUSE REUSE

Described as a new kind of transitional architecture, Whole House Reuse is run in association with Rekindle on New Regent Street from Friday to Monday.

Whole House Reuse sets out to salvage the entire material of one modest red-zoned home in Christchurch.

A display of selected materials from the home will be open in New Regent Street over FESTA.

A premiere of a short documentary about the salvage will screen on Friday.

RAD (RECYCLE A DUNGER)

Gap Filler will present RAD (Recycle a Dunger) Bikes - a community bike shed at 165 Gloucester St (across from New Regent St) throughout FESTA and which will continue at the site throughout summer.

It is a temporary microarchitecture project and is also a workshop space where anyone can build or repair their own bicycles or help restore bikes for ICECycles to give away.

On Sunday there will be a "scrapyard challenge" where scrap bikes will be used to collaboratively design a bike sculpture.

SOMETHING SUPER

Something Super, at the Firth Courtyard on the ArtBox site will offer talks, food, music, art and animation on Friday from 5.30pm.

Live music courtesy of The Transistors and The River Jones, and talks about ArtBox, Beatbox and Boxed Quarter by Martin Trusttun and F3 Design.

NATUREPLAY PARK

Meet the bugs! In association with the Department of Conservation and Greening the Rubble, NaturePlay Park will be at 203 Hereford St, opposite Latimer Square from 10am-1pm on Saturday.

Join the DOC rangers for free play in nature. A family activity, it will offer prizes and face painting.

URBANIZED

To close FESTA, an outdoor film screening will be held at the Pallet Pavilion on Monday from 8.30pm.

It is a documentary about the "design of cities that looks at the issues and strategies behind urban design and features some of the world's foremost architects, planners, policymakers, builders, and thinkers".

For the full programme see www.festa.org.nz

- The Press

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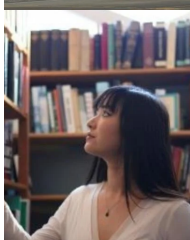
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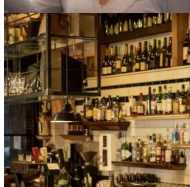
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