



**TE RŪNANGA O  
TOA RANGATIRA**

**Ā UPANE KA UPANE WHITI TE RA**

18 March 2022

Mr Adrian Orr  
Chair, Fale Malae Charitable Trust  
Wellington

E te manukura, tēnā rawa atu koe,

Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira are delighted to stand with Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui in supporting your desire to establish the New Zealand Pasifika Fale Malae in Wellington. The many cultures of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa already add to the vibrancy and depth of our shared identity, so the establishment of a uniquely Pacific icon in central Wellington will accurately reflect the modern face of Aotearoa New Zealand.

All Māori have strong cultural roots in the Pacific and Ngāti Toa Rangatira is no exception. Our whare tūpuna at Takapūwāhia is ornately decorated with the likenesses of many of our prominent ancestors, including the captains of many of the great ocean-going canoes that brought Māori to these islands. All those captains, of course, were born in the Pacific, so we are reminded every day of our connections to those far off islands. Their stories are woven through the very fabric of our culture.

As mana whenua of the Wellington region, Ngāti Toa Rangatira supports the establishment of the Fale Malae in central Wellington, to provide a prominent place where our collective Pacific identity can be expressed and celebrated.

We wish you well with this exciting project and would welcome opportunities to support you further in more tangible ways.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Callum Kātene  
Tumuaki, Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Fale Malae Consultation  
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Tēnā koe Rachael Watts,

### Fale Malae – Frank Kitts Park

The Architectural Centre is a volunteer organisation made up of professionals and non-professionals who seek to promote good design of the built environment. Incorporated in 1946, the Centre has a long and proud tradition of doing just this. On behalf of the Centre I would like to thank WCC for providing opportunity to give feedback on the Fale Malae – Frank Kitts Park proposal. We commend the ambition implicit to this project to make visible the place of Whanganui-a-Tara within Polynesia

As an urban green space Frank Kitts Park should function as a counterpoint to the rest of the city. It should continue to be a gathering place that supports a mixture of cultural and recreational uses during any season. Any structures within it should be modest and integrated seamlessly into the landscaping. Unlike aspects of the current design the spaces within it should remain adaptable to accommodate as many activities as possible.

### Fale Malae

The demolition of the pedestrian overpass at Harris Street and its replacement with a crossing is a vast improvement for barrier-free access. However, the siting of the Fale Malae at this intersection is a lost opportunity to open Frank Kitts Park toward the city at the southwest corner. Entering an urban park at a corner has strong precedents (eg. Hyde Park, Central Park). Furthermore, corner access would help re-enforce the key link between the public spaces of the Civic Centre and the Waterfront.

Perhaps as a response to rising sea levels, the Fale Malae is placed on a plinth. This has the unfortunate effect of separating the building from the surrounding landscape. As designed, there doesn't seem to be much of a relationship between the building and the surrounding landscaping (especially the Chinese Garden) which leads to the impression that the building has 'landed' awkwardly on the site.



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However, the location of the building and plinth does offer an effective sound barrier between Jervois Quay and the adjacent green space.

Unlike the openness of traditional Fale (to perhaps address security and practical reasons) there is a glass façade around the Fale Malae. This effectively distinguishes it as a building rather than a pavilion in a park. The renderings indicate clear sight lines under the roof form but the nature of glass reflectivity means this probably will not be the case. The net visual effect isn't really much of an improvement on what exists today with the carpark structure.

Per the description, there are a lot of functions accommodated under the same roof form. Namely a café, toilets, boat storage, community facilities, and an events space. This leads to a much larger building than necessary when these facilities could all be treated as discreet elements integrated into or below the landscaping.

The choice of a dark roof dominates the rest of the park visually rather than being a natural transition between the city and harbour.

Toilet entrances that are not visible from the street or waterfront promenade could be conceived as a security risk at night. Additionally, there is very little in the way of wind mitigation from the north and northeast toward the café.

Summary:

- Frank Kitts Park should be an accessible, multi-purpose open space for all seasons
- The siting of the Fale Malae blocks potential access from the southwest corner of the park to the Civic Centre precinct.
- There is little integration between the design of the landscaping and the building.
- The building lacks openness and acts as a visual barrier.
- The building is too large which erodes space from the public realm and reduces potential green space

Nāku iti noa nā



Rob Tse & Kate Linzey (pres.)

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