Central City Biannual Update

July—December 2023



This summary uses the goals from our **Central City** Outcomes to look at:

- long term progress and trends.
- recent projects to improve Central City vibrancy and liveability,
- the use of relevant Council grants and funding. Find out more about the full set of measures and the influences that affect them in this report and at www.ccc.govt.nz/our-progress/

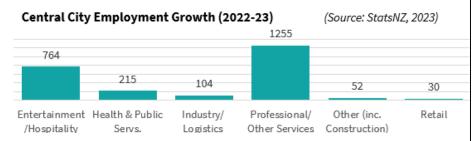
Key Progress Measures

The Thriving Economic Heart of an International City

(See pages 2-4)

Employment growth ambition: 60,000 employees across all economic sectors by 2028.



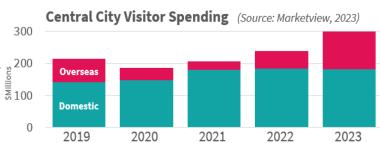


2,400 new jobs added in 2022-23—a 5.5% increase. Growth is back on track to meet the 2028 ambition (see page 3).

Since 2018, between 18-20% of all citywide retail **spending** has been concentrated in the Central City.

In 2023, Central City total retail sales reached a record \$1.17bn. Visitors contributed about a third of this total.

Domestic visitor spending has been steady at around \$180m since 2021. The overseas contribution supressed by the pandemic—doubled from \$55m in 2022 to \$116m in 2023. See graphic and page 3.



Growing Liveable Central City Neighbourhoods

(See page 5)

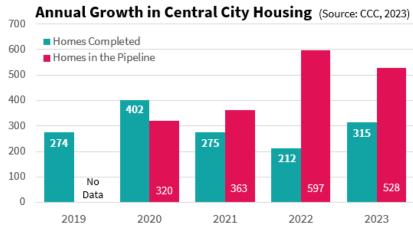
The Central City Residential Programme's ambition is to grow the population to 20,000 people by 2028.



The most recent population estimates from StatsNZ show Central City resident numbers grew to 8,830 in 2022-2023 (StatsNZ, 2023).

This exceeds the pre-earthquake population. Actual counts from Census data are expected in mid-2024.

A draft neighbourhood plan for the South-East



Central neighbourhood is in development, with public engagement planned for the first quarter of 2024.

A Vibrant, People Focused Place Day and Night

(See pages 6-11)

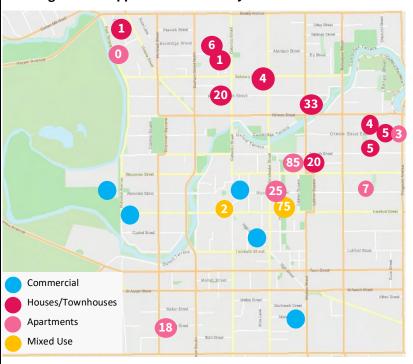
- Barrier Sites There is visible progress on two properties—the former Rydges/ Noahs hotel (Oxford Tce) and the former IRD building (Cashel Street). See page 6
- More than 80% of respondents to a 'Noise in the Central City' survey agreed that higher noise levels should be expected in the Central City. See page 7.
- Central City Events attracted more than 200,000 people to the Central City during the second half of 2023. Tīrama Mai—held over 10 days in July—boosted retail and hospitality by 10-15%. See page 9.



Commercial and Residential Development

Resource consent applications received	Number	Building Consents Issued	Number	Net New Homes (units)	New Residential and Commercial Floorspace (sqm)
All Central City (Four Avenues) - excl. Commercial Core	35	Central City Business	12	187	18,823
Commercial Core only	9	Central City Mixed Use	5	38	2,957
		Central City Residential	13	89	11,079
TOTAL	44	TOTAL	30	314	32,859

Location of residential and commercial developments granted Building Consent Approval between July and December 2023



How much floorspace is being created in the Central City? 350.000 140,000 Running total of completed 300,000 120,000 new floorspace 100,000 250,000 80,000 200,000 150,000 60,000 40,000 100,000 20,000 50,000 2020 June Floorspace completed
 Floorspace consents but construction not started

Floorspace under construction
 New floorspace running total

Resource consent application rates have not reached the highs of the previous two years, and are more in line with the recent five-year average.

Significant applications include:

- A 26 unit townhouse development at 248 Manchester Street.
- Two retail/office buildings at 170-172 Cashel St.
- A four-story office/commercial building at 76 Manchester Street.

The map shows **Building Consents** approved over the Jul-Dec 2023 period:

- 318 residential units were consented on a range of sites (net housing gain of 314 units).
- This is much higher than the 5-year average (100 -150) and has exceeded the peak set in Jan-June 2022.

Most residential consents continue to be for attached townhouse complexes, and apartment buildings. Some large mixed-use apartments with commercial on the ground floor are also being built.

The graphic (left) shows new **floorspace** delivery.

At 23,924 sqm, delivery (in blue) has picked up to its highest level in 2 years. There is a strong pipeline of construction underway (yellow) and a range of consents ready to deliver (red).

Key contributors to floorspace are:

- the new public car park, Tū Waka-Waipapa (14,754m²) at Hagley Avenue,
- The third six-storey inpatient tower at Christchurch Hospital's Waipapa Building (under construction).
- The retail/office building at 33
 Cathedral Square (which is now moving to the internal fit-out phase).







Business and Employment Growth

The 5.5% employee increase between February 2022-2023 shown in the adjacent graphic signalled the main rebound from COVID-19. This saw growth return within the 3-5% range projected to achieve 60,000 jobs by 2028.

The employment (page 1) and business count data (below), explores growth by sectors showing that,

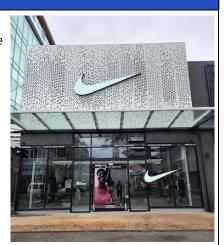
- Entertainment/Hospitality grew back 750 of the 770 employees lost to COVID during 2021 and 2022, although the total number of businesses fell in 2022-23.
- Professional service jobs and businesses continue to grow strongly.
 Post quake, the sector has recovered from 3,800 to almost 10,000 workers.



Central City Spending

Central City spending continued to grow in the second half of 2023. A record annual total of \$1.17bn was set with monthly sales only dipping below \$90m in February. See graph below.

- Local and domestic spending has been relatively constant with any nominal increase more due to inflation than actual spending. There is plenty of anecdotal evidence pointing towards people being more selective in their purchases.
- International visitor numbers have grown in response to the gradual removal of various pandemic travel restrictions, and pent up demand for global travel. There was a 59% rise in spending derived from non-Australian international visitors in the final quarter of the year. New summer airline services from San Francisco United) and Guangzhou (China Southern) are supporting this growth.
- In addition, new retail space continues to be added. New retail and hospitality businesses—including Nike and Helly Hansen—were opened in November following the development of the last empty City Mall site at 93 Cashel Street.



Balance of spending across the Central City and Suburbs

Local and domestic spending in the Central City and 'Big Three" suburban centres has been growing at similar rates. However, the Central City's strong overall spending growth has resulted from a greater share of spending from overseas visitors.

Overall, as a share, the Central City captures around 18-20% of all Christchurch's spending. This is a good balance noting that most residents obtain their everyday goods locally, but local and sub-regional residents visit the Central City for its specialised goods, services and experiences.

As the Central City's appeal continues to grow, retailers are seeing it as the place to be—after years of focusing on the suburban Malls. Nike's relocation of its flagship store from Riccarton to Cashel Mall (see photo) in November is a great example of this.

Spending in Christchurch's Main Commercial Centres (Source: Marketview, 2023) \$100M \$80M \$50M \$2019 \$2020 \$2021 \$2022 \$2023 Central City Hornby Papanui Riccarton

Major Development Progress

The following progress has been made between July and December 2023:

- **Te Kaha** Substructure and foundation works are now complete and the structural steel works for the stands continue. The scale of the arena is becoming clear as upper bowl steelwork progresses. Regular updates are available at www.ccc.govt.nz/canterbury-arena.
- Performing Arts Precinct
 — Construction of the Court Theatre—expected to
 host its first performance in April 2025— is visibly progressing. Other projects
 in the precinct are in negotiation including a music school, the public realm
 area within the precinct and proposals for the use of the Council owned land
 at 129 Gloucester Street.
- East Frame Residential Development—Work continues on different blocks. Fletcher Residential has completed the Cambridge Quarter (north of the river from the Margaret Mahy playground) and is rapidly progressing on the Carriage Quarter (between Hereford and Cashel Streets). Work has commenced on the Manchester Square and Gloucester Green sites.
- **Christchurch Cathedral**—The walls of the main building are currently being methodically strengthened. This phase will be complete in early 2024.
- Cathedral Square

 Repaving and landscaping has now been completed outside the Old Government Building, Distinction Hotel and Spark building.
- The Old Post Office ("The Grand") fit-out is progressing with the new i-Site (tourist information centre). ChchNZ brokered a temporary agreement with Novotel to operate the current i-Site from their former giftshop, until The Grand opens. Funding for the remaining fitout is being secured.

Other significant commercial buildings under construction include:

- 33 Cathedral Square (Regent Site)—construction of a new multi-storey
 office, retail and café space on this prominent Cathedral Square corner by
 the Carter Group is almost complete.
- 93 Cashel Street— retail and hospitality businesses in the new Peebles Group development next to the Westpac building began trading in November and December, including Nike's flagship Christchurch store.
- 211 High Street— Construction of a significant retail, hospitality and
 office building by Anthony Leigh is well underway on this underdeveloped
 section of High Street. When complete in early 2025, it will reinvigorate
 this important link between Cashel Mall and the SALT district.









Development Pipeline						
Activity	Who	When				
Major Public Facilities, Spaces and Buildings						
Performing Arts Precinct	Court Theatre Christchurch School of Music	2024 TBC				
Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre	Rau Paenga Ltd (formerly Ōtākaro Ltd)	Early 2025 (TBC)				
Waipapa Building Project—Tower C	Christchurch Hospital/Whatu Ora	Q3 2025				
Te Kaha/ Canterbury Arena	CCC / Kōtui Consortium	mid-2026				
Christ Church Cathedral	Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Limited	End of 2027				
Cathedral Square repair and upgrade	ССС	Ongoing phased project stages				
Selected Commercial/Attraction Projects						
170 Cashel St (Retail/Offices)	Carter Group	Spring 2024 (provisionally)				
Madras Square (Housing/local retail)	Peebles Group and Mike Greer Group	2025				
Catholic Cathedral / Precinct	Catholic Church/Carter Group	TBC				

(Dates above are based on direct or best available sources.)

Central City Residential Programme (Project 8011)

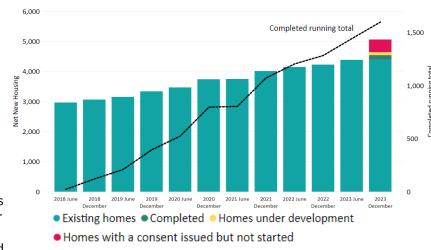
The Residential Programme's ambition of 20,000 Central City residents by 2028 was boosted as the latest population estimates suggest there are now 8,830 residents (StatsNZ, 2023). However, current growth rates are closer to the lower range of our planned population projections (14,327 residents by 2028). Actual counts from the 2023 Census are expected in mid-2024.

Residential development in 2023 was strong:

- 315 homes completed—156 in July-Dec.
- 99 homes under construction.
- 429 homes consented (yet to be built).

Across the year, delivery was the strongest since the 2020 peak of 402 new homes built. Some great examples below underline the diversity on offer.

Despite industry concerns that the housing sector faces a slowdown in 2024, prospects in the Central City are more positive. A jump in new housing consents at the end of 2023, and steady addition of new venues and attractions is maintaining market interest. The key factor will be the continued downward trend in inflation, enabling interest rates to be lowered.









South-East Neighbourhoods

The South-East Central Neighbourhood is rapidly transforming with new building activity underway (see pictures), Te Kaha under construction and new businesses regularly opening in the area.

A Draft Neighbourhood Plan is under development to guide the area's transition and set out focus areas and actions for the Council, our partners and the community in supporting residential growth.

During the reporting period:

- Early engagement concluded in July 2023. Over 200 members of the local community responded, providing over 600 pieces of feedback that have been invaluable to the development of the draft neighbourhood plan.
- In July the Community came together to enjoy pizza (at one of the neighbourhoods' many eateries) and chat further about the future for SE Central.
- The Community has helped to identify some key issues in SE Central on topics such as: connectivity, street amenity, opportunities for greening, and how we can continue to build the neighbourhood identity.
- The draft neighbourhood plan is being developed and will be shared with the Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board on 15 February.
 Public engagement on the draft plan is expected to commence in March.







Barrier Sites Programme - www.ccc.govt.nz/barrier-sites

16 Barrier Sites remain on the published Barrier Sites list. 13 of these properties have plans in place for their repair. There are no imminent intentions for the remaining properties— **112-114 Manchester Street** (former 2 Fat Indians), **119 Armagh Street** (former PWC) and **205 Manchester Street** (former Blue Jean Cuisine).

Key updates:

- **170 Oxford Terrace** (Former Noahs/Rydges hotel): Demolition of the podium and retail premises along Worcester Boulevard was completed in December. Demolition of the parking building will commence in January. Work to reinstate the hotel will continue into 2025.
- **214 Tuam Street** (Odeon site): The containers supporting this building have now been removed—further strengthening work to the façade structure is intended during 2024.
- 226—234 Cashel Street (Former IRD Building): This property changed hands in the spring of 2023. It will be brought into use for a mixture of commercial uses including offices, retail and hospitality—just across the street from Te Kaha. This property has been removed from the programme.
- 170 Cashel Street (Former Holiday Inn): A resource consent for a two storey retail and office building has been approved for this site. Construction is expected to be completed for Summer 2024/25





Enliven Places Programme — www.ccc.govt.nz/enliven-places-programme

The Enliven Places Programme supported the **Streets for People project on Gloucester Street** (between Manchester and Colombo Streets) providing seating and planters to help transform the street into a shared space/slow speed environment, trialling some of the measures that may be used in a permanent street upgrade. A range of temporary installations and activations were added to create an environment that encourages people to meet, connect and grow interest in the performing arts.

The trial, funded by the Waka Kotahi Streets for People programme, will run from 12 December 2023 to 18 March 2024.







The Programme supported Ko Tāne (Waka on Avon) at 794 Colombo St to temporarily improve their prominent vacant, corner site. Graffiti covered fencing and abandoned foundations have been replaced by repositioned portacoms, re-grassed surfacing and the use of Enliven Places planters and a solar lighting column.

The layout enhances this section of the promenade and provides a more welcoming presence for those enjoying the Waka experience.







The fencing around "Our City" (the Old Municipal Chambers) at 159 Oxford Terrace had become a visible eyesore on this important pedestrian route.

The Programme installed a new creative hoarding wrap on the fencing to deter tagging.

Smart Christchurch Programme

Smart Christchurch Innovation Expo

- The team delivered the successful Smart Christchurch Innovation Expo event on September 10 & 11 at Te Pae Convention Centre. The free-to-attend exhibition featured NZs current leading innovations.
- There were 70 exhibitors, 34 speakers, five workshops, and a live esports event that attracted crowds of up to 8,000 people.

Environmental Sensor Network

- Smart Christchurch is planning a Central-City wide installation of environmental sensors for its Environmental Sensor Network initiative, based on the successful trials at Bottle Lake Forest and the Christchurch Adventure Park.
- The central city sensors will capture river levels, weather indicators, camera footage, air quality and pollution.
- The data captured is used for a variety of reasons—e.g. flood management, pollution events—and will be available to city residents and visitors through the <u>Attentis app</u>.

SmartView

- The <u>SmartView</u> web app has had its biggest rework to date, with a contemporary look and feel, optimised user experience, and new features
- It pulls together datasets from public and private organisations, making city information for residents and visitors easy to access.
- SmartView includes the Central City pedestrian and cycle counters, property values, free Wi-Fi locations, and much more.
- Over 75,000 users accessed the Christchurch Free Wi-Fi network during this period, about a 41% increase on last year.





Central City Noise

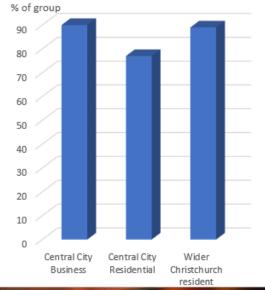
The 'Managing Noise in the Central City' project continues to address noise issues from residential growth in the Central City. Recent work includes:

- An online noise survey (Sept) attracting almost 3,400 responses including 100 businesses. Key results include:
 - o Overwhelming levels of acceptance that noise in the Central City should be expected and tolerated at higher levels than suburbs.
 - o Support for reviewing the District Plan's noise rules, including:
 - Reviewing where louder activities are encouraged,
 - Changing noise limits to better enable the night-time economy,
 - Reviewing acoustic insulation standards for new developments.
- Central City LIMs now include a note emphasising that noise rules are more permissive than in the suburbs.
- Webpages are being developed to include a range of noise information aimed at residents, businesses and developers (education, guidance and best practice).
- A pilot acoustic assessment was done for an existing live music venue on St Asaph St, which identified the scale and costs of sound mitigation for the building. The venue is now exploring funding options.

Looking to 2024, the Issues and Options paper will be the key first step of the Plan Change. Using the noise survey results, and the recommendations of an acoustic engineer, it will assess potential options going forward.

NOISE SURVEY—RESULTS

Percentage of survey participants who agree higher levels of noise should be tolerated in the Central City than the suburbs





Temporary Site Activation: Rates Incentive

The **Enliven Places Rates Incentive for Property Owners** supported four Central City sites in this reporting period, including a new LiVS-licenced <u>tech community-run event centre</u> at 231 High Street. A continuation of the Incentive will be considered in the next reporting period. <u>ccc.govt.nz/rates-incentive</u>

Budget 2023/2024 (city-wide): \$40,000

Credited this period (Central City): \$16,500

Balance 30 December 2023: \$22,700

Contestable Funding

The **Business Improvement District Fund** is aimed at growing capacity among local business groups to help them collaborate and work together on initiatives that sustain the health of commercial centres. This funding has supported Central City projects including:

- The SALT Trust to fund (for six months) a place-based coordinator for the district.
- The CCBA to develop digital content for its website to help guide people to places of interest including attractions, venues, parking and shopping opportunities.

The **Place Partnership Fund** supported two Central City events, and collaborative murals including with multi-disciplinary artist Mr G and fifty rangitahi from five schools. Previously funded projects were also completed in this reporting period.











ChristchurchNZ—Urban Development/Destination and Attraction

Central City Illumination Strategy

 A cross-sector working group held workshops to inform a creative illumination strategy for the Central City. The Strategy will be finalised in early 2024.

Street Art Destination Development

- CNZ supported the delivery of two murals, the Little Art Festival, and several digital artworks.
- A Street Art Destination strategy and programme is being developed through Watch This Space and Flare, ready for March 2024, to continue developing the City as a global street art destination.

Cruise City Champions

- Thousands of Lyttleton cruise ship passengers travelled to the Central City through the new official, direct shuttles.
- Volunteer city champions were available to help visitors, give directions and advice, and direct them to the new i-Site.



Wāhine Toa-

Events Programme

Council-produced light festival Tīrama Mai, timed around Matariki, attracted over 140,000 people to the Central City during its 10-day run. Detailed spending data for that period showed a 10-15% boost across the retail and hospitality sectors. Other produced and funded events are detailed in the table below.

The CCC Arts team delivered Block Party, held across ten locations in four adjacent Central City blocks. The free event offered exhibitions, artist and curator talks, an arts market, free workshops and live performances.

Our summer events season kicked off with two NYE celebrations, both well attended and enjoyed by the community.









Event Name	Event Date	Anticipated Attendance	Actual Attendance	Funded or Produced
Tīrama Mai (CBD wide)	July 7—15	75,000	140,000	Produced
Go Live Festival	29 July	1,500	1,600	Produced
Block Party	November 25	3,000	3,000	Produced
Kids NYE	December 31	4,000	4,876	Produced
Rock the Park NYE	December 31	15,000	16,591	Produced
Matariki at the Arts Centre	July 2023	5,000	2,574	Funded
NZ International Film Festival	10 August—27 August	14,000	11,167	Funded
Much Ado About Nothing	17—19 August	2,800	2,200	Funded
WORD Festival	August—September	10,000	10,351	Funded
Golden Ribbon Youth Music Festival	16-17 and 23-24 September	750	540	Funded
13th Annual Show Me Shorts	October	1500	474	Funded
Christchurch Big Band Festival	19—23 October	12,000	5,373	Funded
Latin Street Festival	4 November	1,500	2,000	Funded
SCAPE	Nov 23—Jan 24	50,000	TBC	Funded
Carols by Candlelight	24 December	5,000	7,000	Funded

Marketing and Promotion

The winter months are an incredibly exciting time for the events and marketing team with an array of amazing events to entertain Christchurch residents and visitors.

The Council's marketing team moved away from printed material to support the Council's effort to meet its sustainability and climate commitments, moving to a more digital based focus to get the message out about what's happening in and around Ōtautahi.

The What's On webpages received 449,750 page views between 1 July—31 December 2023. This is a 34% increase from last year which is a great result! A majority of this traffic is driven through our organic social media, as well as paid Google and Facebook/Instagram adverts.

What's On Christchurch has 30,582 Facebook followers and 6,591 Instagram followers. The newsletter and database have also grown to 12,911 subscribers.



Grant funding: City-making partners

The Council's three-year grant funding agreements continue with city-making partners Gap Filler, The Green Lab and Life in Vacant Spaces. These organisations are placemaking leaders in Central Christchurch.

The Central City Business Association (CCBA) is also funded by a targeted rate, enabling them to act on key Central City issues and support business-led collaborations that grow consumer interest.

Life in Vacant Spaces (LiVS)

Works completed in this reporting period:

- Over 1842 Central City activation days across 10 licences (56% of property portfolio in Central City).
- 2 new licences (231 High Street/Community Tech Hub; 160 Lichfield Street/RAD Bikes HQ).
- Hosted 9 projects at LiVS Incubator: exhibitions, workshops and World Homeless Day.
- Supported 2 partner projects: Watch this Space's Little Street Art Festival; Arts Northern Rivers (NSW) reciprocal pilot residency.

Continuing activation & new projects in development:

- Supported 22 ongoing projects including 207 St Asaph St youth space; Gap Filler's Dance-O-Mat site, 146 Gloucester St Park.
- LiVS Art Windows underway—young creatives will activate vacant shop fronts.

Partnerships, participation fees and funding leveraged:

• In-kind support and other funding amounted to over 100% of grant value.

Outside of grant funding agreement:

Supported National Science Challenge report: Enabling Life in Vacant Spaces.





Central City Business Association (CCBA)

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The CCBA's activities support its strategic priorities. In the second half of 2023 these activities included:

Priority 1 - "The Place to be"

- Marketing and Promotion: With a BID fund grant from the Council, we ran
 a spring/pre-Christmas marketing campaign aimed at locals, raising the
 profile of our city centre and its businesses. We followed this up in
 December with a Christmas Treasure Trail supported by 33 businesses,
 encouraging exploration of the Central City.
- **Events:** Our *Christmas in the City* event saw Santa tour all parts of the Central City, attracting family crowds and great media coverage that helped showcase the city and its businesses.

Priority 2 - Build awareness and engagement of the CCBA

- Safety and Security: Continued Council joint funding of our Safety Patrol team for the next two years enabled us to tender for a contract—awarded to Alpha Protection Service— to provide visible patrols, attentive to business concerns.
- We continued sharing intelligence and taking action through our Inner-City Collaborative Group, now chaired by City Safety Advisor John Slaughter. In October, the collective took coordinated action with our patrol team to disband and support members of an established encampment on Colombo Street.

Priority 3 - Advocating for Business

 Business connection and collaboration: We convened six informal City Socials/Curator Meetings, formal events (including our AGM and a November security seminar) and got a great response for participation in the Christmas Treasure Trail.







Gap Filler

Works completed in this reporting period:

- (CCC's) The Block Party Yarnarchy workshop and yarn bombing installation Pae Tākaro Place of Play – one Gap Filler-led exhibition, one partner-led interactive computer game.
- Living Streets Aotearoa Walking Summit Urban Play Tour.
- Play Advocacy meetings, hui and networking with 40 people and groups including InCommon, Our Stories, Active Rec Hui; RDU urban play update.
- Support for Play initiatives Placemaking Aotearoa; Arts Northern Rivers (NSW) Ōtautahi Artist Residency, International Play Conference, International and Regional Cooperation webinars.

New projects in development and continuing activation:

- In development: Paste Up Yarnarchy, 64 Ways of Being, Climbing Wall, Kanikani Mai Dance Circle, Central City Busking Circle, Te Korero Tākaro/ Stories of Games (funding dependant).
- Continuing activation including: Dance-O-Mat Kids Fest Disco, Super Street Arcade (SSA) repurpose and relocation to the Arts Centre (not yet active), Table Tennis relocated to Little High lane.
- Streets for People/Gloucester Street advice to CCC re public engagement.

Partnerships, participation and funding leveraged:

- ACT Play Symposium (Aus) keynote speakers/workshop facilitators.
- Multidisciplinary partnerships with 14 organisations.
- Estimated 50 volunteer hours.
- In-kind support and other funding to over 30% grant value, including Creative Communities Scheme, University of Canberra and Suburban Land Agency (Aus).

Outside of grant funding agreement

- The Commons Project with Housing First, Circability workshop.
- Detour Pump Track and #chchswings ownership transfer to Fletcher Living.





The Green Lab

Works completed in this reporting period:

- Wāhi Taiao an outdoor performance, meeting and work space as part of Streets For People, Gloucester Street.
- Stage greening for CSO's Matariki Around the World performance.

Continuing activation & new projects in development:

- 2 Backyard Resilience workshops at Toi Auaha a workshop series (6x per year) and weekly social media for gardeners.
- 10 Queer Games Nights a dry, all ages event for LGBTQIA+ community. 250+ attendees.
- Wednesday Writers weekly community event for writers. 200+ attendees.

Partnerships, participation and funding leveraged:

- A range of over 16 multidisciplinary partnerships and collaborations.
- 37 volunteers contributed 400+ volunteer hours.
- In-kind support and other funding to 150% of grant value.



