

# ANSWERS TO SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WHANGAREI HUNDERTWASSER ART CENTRE

# YES

[www.yeswhangarei.co.nz](http://www.yeswhangarei.co.nz)

## Has a feasibility study been done?

**Yes.** International consultancy Deloitte completed a feasibility study, and the donors of the \$4 million have accepted its findings. Deloitte concluded 143,000 people a year would visit the HAC, and it would show an annual \$500,000+ surplus before depreciation.

## Where will 143,000 visitors come from?

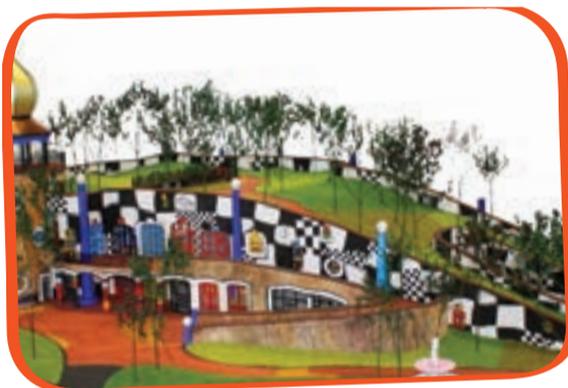
Northland already has more than 5.5 million visitors a year (1 million from overseas) and almost all of them travel on SH1 through Whangarei. Deloitte International used government figures on domestic and international visitors who visit art galleries and museums on their holidays to calculate HAC attendance.

## Could the building be used for anything else just as good?

The building is within the Town Basin culture, heritage and art precinct. It cannot be used for commercial purposes outside of culture, arts and heritage. The HAC is a perfect fit planning-wise, culturally and economically.

## Is the Art Centre really an authentic Hundertwasser design?

**Yes.** Hundertwasser was not an architect; he called himself an 'architecture doctor' who 'cured' buildings, by sketching his ideas for architects. The Hundertwasser Foundation in Vienna asked Heinz Springmann – who had worked with the artist many times – to take Hundertwasser's 1993 sketches of the Town Basin building and turn them into plans. The Foundation has termed the project 'the last authentic Hundertwasser architecture project in the world.'



## How much will the total refurbishment cost?

**\$13 million.** This figure has been quantity surveyed and peer reviewed. WDC has previously committed \$8 million (over 3 years), with \$5 million to come from outside sources (of which \$4m has already been raised).

## If we don't build it, can we use the \$5 million for something else?

**No.** Whangarei will lose that investment as the donors have specified it go to the HAC.

## Why wasn't it built in 1993?

The building was owned then by the Northland Regional Council, which didn't want to shift to make way for an art gallery. The regional council sold the building to the WDC in 2004 and the Hundertwasser Art Centre (HAC) proposal was revived in 2007.

## Could we build it somewhere else?

**No.** The Hundertwasser Foundation recognises only the existing HAC plans as authentic. They will not allow a replica to be built or his name to be used with any other building.

## What will be in the HAC?

Upstairs will be Hundertwasser original paintings, models, tapestries, flags, inventions and stamps, on loan from the Foundation. It will be the only Hundertwasser gallery outside Vienna. Downstairs will contain the country's first national, curated gallery dedicated to Maori art gallery. The building will also contain education rooms, a theatre, a museum shop and a quality cafe.

## Could the HAC be built by private investors?

**No.** The Hundertwasser Foundation has stated they will only partner with Whangarei's elected council.