

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT

Music Arts NASDA Art & Design Fashion NZ Broadcasting School



14/7/15

Re: Loons Theatre Trust

It is my pleasure to write in support of the Loons Theatre Trusts proposal to establish a new and exciting venue in Lyttelton.

CPIT's connection with circus and physical theatre in Christchurch can be traced back to the establishment of Circo Arts in 1996. Sadly terminated on February 22, 2011 due to the destruction of the programme's facilities, CPIT still intends to revitalise the programme when appropriate facilities can be re-established on campus. In the meantime, the delivery of performance education continues today at the institution with the nationally renowned National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art (NASDA) and Music Arts (Jazz School) programmes. The community and activity surrounding Circo Arts contributed considerably to the artistic diversity of Christchurch, and graduates have gone on to establish careers all around the world, including many members of the Loons company.

Establishment of specialist facilities for the company is crucial to re-establishing the unique type of performance the Loons has become famous for over the last twenty years. Essential for performance, devising and training, a specialist facility will fill a gap created by the earthquakes, both in bricks and mortar, and artistic expression in the city.

CPIT wholeheartedly endorses the initiative to establish a rehearsal and performance facility for the Loons in Lyttelton. We encourage and support the trust's artistic endeavours, and share the common aim to re-build Christchurch's circus and physical theatre community and performance scene. This initiative will go a long way to achieving that, and provide a platform for performers in the city, and for audiences to enjoy once more the magic of the Loons.

Sincerely,

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