

Greetings

Welcome to our first online Hastings Blossom Parade Newsletter for 2024. It is the first of many communications we will send out to all parties interested in participating and supporting this year's Blossom Parade. We apologise for the lateness of this email.

We celebrate Hastings' diversity, community spirit, its many world class and innovative businesses, schools, community groups, clubs and landmarks. If you know of others that are keen to make this year's Blossom Parade unique and spectacular, and would like to join us then please forward this newsletter to them. It may be your work colleagues, or friends and families in the wider community, We extend this invitation to all so they too can be part of what promises to be a fantastic event this coming spring.

Hastings Blossom Parade 2024

This year's Blossom Parade, on Saturday 21 September, starting at 1pm, will make its way through the Hastings CBD. Arts Inc Heretaunga will once again organise the parade on behalf of Hastings District Council, with generous support from charitable trusts and sponsors.

We invite the people of Hastings, their friends and families to create entries that will be memorable for all. We want to celebrate the diversity of the Hastings district with Maori, Pasifika and all other ethnic communities being an essential part of the 2024 Blossom Parade.

The theme we have chosen for the 2024 Blossom Parade is: 'Regeneration: Spring Back Hastings!'

This theme provides the opportunity for you to interpret it in many ways. We have an abundance of artists, craftspeople and entrepreneurs that design, make and build in the Bay. Our schools are full of talented young people. Our community groups and leaders make such a positive impact in our lives. The Blossom Parade is a celebration of our people and their amazing ideas, actions and achievements.

We are in a time of recovery and rebuilding in the region. This is reflected in this year's theme. Our community can and will 'spring back'.

We have a lot to be proud of as part of the community in the wider Hastings District and we have the opportunity to raise the profile of our city and our community, by taking part in the Hastings Blossom Parade.

How to be part of the 2024 Blossom Parade?

To confirm your interest and participation please fill in an entry form and submit it online. Alternatively visit us at the Hastings Community Art Centre on 106 Russell Street South or call us on 06 878 9447 at Arts Inc Heretaunga for any additional information.

If you are **not** intending to participate this year, please email <u>lyn@artsinc.co.</u>nz to let us know.

How can I participate?

The Parade will once again be highly colourful, exciting and full of fun for the public who line the streets to watch this iconic event. There are a number of ways that you can be part of the parade. This includes:

	Build a float as a business or community organisation		
	ate a car, motorbike, bicycle or even a pram		
	Dance, dance		
	Be part of a performance group		
	Encourage your school or sports team or social club to participate		
	Form a band		
П	Dress up with your friends and join the parade in your best blossom themed outfit		
	Sponsor someone else's parade entry		

What Categories are there?

	WINNER	RUNNER UP
Best Float	\$1,500	\$500
Best Performance	\$1,500	\$500
Best Use of Blossom	\$1,500	\$500
Most Unusual	\$1,500	\$500

A people's choice award will voted for with voting limited to one vote per phone. (More information to follow)

People's Choice
\$2,000

Can you help in other ways?

Are you brimming with great ideas? Can you lend a hand with actually building a float, folding blossoms, painting? Do you have a shed, barn or warehouse where groups could store parts or floats? Please, let us know if you are keen to help in any way. Looking forward to hearing from you soon!!







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