THEATRE ROYAL & HERITAGE FACILITY
PROJECT TIMELINE

Jul 2018

Timaru District Council Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2028
The upgrade of the Theatre Royal was one of the issues consulted on in the Long Term Plan in 2018. There was overwhelming support for the upgrade of the theatre, with 78% of respondents supporting either a full or stage upgrade. The redevelopment of the new Museum was also raised. As a result, Council agreed to progress with a new multi-purpose Heritage Facility co-located with the Theatre.

Nov 2019

Theatre Royal Closed
The Timaru Theatre Royal was closed in November 2019 due to safety concerns. The redevelopment project commences.

2019-2021

Theatre Decommissioning
Decommissioning Works to existing Theatre, including salvage of equipment by Community Groups and decommissioning, with the removal of key lighting and rigging systems

Aug 2020

Architect Appointed
Architectus appointed as lead architect for redevelopment of the Theatre Royal and creation of the new Heritage Facility on South Stafford Street, with theatre and acoustics specialists Marshall Day and heritage specialists Dave Pearson Architects forming part of the team.

Nov 2020

Return Brief for New Precinct
Stakeholder consultation completed, high-level scope for the project outlined.

May 2021

Concept Design Approved
Council signed off the Concept Plans enabling the project to move into the next design phase. Concept Floor plans presented with artist impressions designed to give an indication of the scope and scale of the project.

2021

Major site works for Precinct
In July 2021, major site works including demolition to the Army Hall and Carpark on Barnard Street, and demolition of former shops on 126-128 Stafford Street commenced to make way for new construction. Works were completed in late 2021.

Sep 2021

Design Direction
Council approves an enhanced plan to demolish and rebuild the back of the Theatre Royal building including the stage house and changing rooms, restore and refurbish the heritage auditorium and build new museum and exhibition spaces, while only retaining the façade of the Criterion Hotel.

Jan 2022

Design & Build Contractor Engaged
Canterbury-based building company selected to undertake work on the next stage of the project, involving the creation of detailed design and build plans based on the updated design direction.

Sep 2022

Design Update
Preliminary Designs presented by the project team, contractors and specialist consultants. With an indicated increase in costs, due to the complexity of the project as well as local and global building industry pressures, it was decided to take the three strongest options back to the community for their feedback before any final decisions were made.

Oct-Nov 2022

Public Consultation
In September 2022, Timaru District Council unanimously agreed to take three costed options to the community for their feedback. Three options that will be consulted on include two using existing parts of the theatre and building the heritage centre, and one option of only restoring the theatre. The earlier option to remove and rebuild both the Theatre stage house and backstage buildings has been discounted by Council on a feasibility and cost basis.

Dec 2022

Design Direction
Council to confirm Design Direction based on feedback from Public Consultation.

Feb 2023

Next Stage Contract Signed
Council to enter into next-stage Contract with the Design and Build Contractor to continue into Detailed Design based on approved Option.

Feb 2023 - Jan 2024

Design Progression
Design and Build Contractor to continue with Design Development, including lodging of Resource and Building Consents, and further site investigations/ enabling works as required.

Feb 2024 - Q2 2025

Main Construction Works
Design and Build Contractor to progress construction works to Theatre & Heritage Facility. Works anticipated for completion in the second Quarter, 2025.

Q2 2025

Main Construction Works Complete
Construction works to Theatre & Heritage Facility complete and handed over to Timaru District Council in preparation for formal opening.