



PHOTO CREDIT: Jonny Knopp

# Ping-Pong 乒乓球



### **DATES:**

December 2016  
- June 2017

### **PROJECT #:**

73

### **LOCATION(S):**

Corner of Cashel Mall &  
Oxford Terrace beside the  
Bridge of Remembrance

### **PARTNERSHIP:**

Chinese Cultural Association,  
C Lund & Son

### **SPONSORSHIP:**

COGS, Rotary & Red Cross

### **BUILT BUDGET:**

\$4,500

### **ACTUAL COSTS:**

\$12,000 est.

## **STORY**

### **Brief Description:**

Ping Pong delivered three concrete table tennis tables into a multi-use public space in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Association. Bats and balls have been left in shelves below the tables to encourage passersby to stop and play, or players borrow bats and balls from local shops. This project is a chapter in Gap Filler's Diverscity: Community Showcase Project, which celebrates cultural diversity in our city by showcasing an element of various cultures to the public. Two of the tables were sold in May to Christchurch International Airport for ongoing public use. One table will remain beside the Bridge of Remembrance until June.

### **Why?**

To work with a community that we haven't worked with before on a project that gives them a chance to be seen in the city beyond their own cultural festival and contribute to how Christchurch is perceived.

Ping Pong is called China's national sport and is played on tables in public places throughout China and enjoyed by all ages.

To encourage play and interaction in a part of the city that is transitioning from a road and temporary retail and construction to a multi-use public space for retail, entertainment and relaxation.

### **Lessons Learnt:**

Creating new relationships with people from other cultures takes openness, trust and time as well as flexibility when it comes to managing expectations and priorities when delivering a project in a public space.

It takes a lot of negotiation (after you find the right people to negotiate with) when challenging what you are allowed to do where, in a newly developed multi-use public space- especially one that gives pedestrians right of way over cars and trams.

How to challenge our own preconceptions about people and place and accept others ideas and what's important to them.

**WEBSITE  
LINK**



**Cultural Diversity**





**We will work with you to develop specific activities to meet your learning outcomes. Here are some examples:**

**TOP 3  
GAP FILLER VALUES** 

**Community Engagement**

working with a community we haven't worked with before to create a new project

**Creativity**

working with a community to bring an idea to life and a construction company with a creative solution

**Leadership**

negotiating public use constraints

**Possible Activities:**

- \* Playing a Ping Pong tournament (bats and balls available in the city) or round the world with your class
- \* Invent a new game that involves everyone
- \* Observe and record activities taking place in public space
- \* Monitor interactions between players and passers-by

**Discussion Points:**

- \* Why is this project different to a cultural festival?
- \* What does this project add to the area?
- \* Why is it important to explore the notion of trust and respect in a public place? What other things could be done to encourage people to respect or take action in their city?
- \* How does your school encourage students' trust and to respect other people and school property?
- \* What health benefits do you think this project has achieved?
- \* Where would the best place be for Ping Pong tables in the city and why?

**Back at School:**

- \* Design an ultimate ping pong table for outdoor use in Christchurch. What could it be made of and what could it look like?
- \* Think of the variety of cultures in your school, what could you design or create that would make those cultures more visible or part of your everyday school life?
- \* What could you do to encourage trust and respect in your school community?

**CURRICULUM  
LINKS** 

**Health & Physical Education**

healthy communities and environments, relationships with others, movement concepts and motor skills

**Social Sciences**

identity, contribution to society, rights and responsibilities

