

4 May 2021

Hutt City Council
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By email to: haveyoursay@huttcity.govt.nz

E te Koromatua, ngā Kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Hutt City Council
Subject: Hutt City Council 10-Year Plan 2021–2031 (the Plan)
From: Creative New Zealand

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Hutt City Council's 10-year Plan. Arts, culture and creativity are an important part of developing strong and prosperous cities, and cohesive and healthy communities. We encourage Council to recognise the essential role arts and culture play in the wellbeing of its residents as it makes decisions for the future of the city.
2. We'd be happy to discuss this submission with you further. The key contact person for matters relating to this submission is:
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Key Points

3. **It's great to see Council's recognition of the four wellbeings and its commitment to fostering a vibrant and diverse city reflected through the 10-Year Plan.** We encourage Council to recognise arts communities as well-placed partners to help deliver wellbeing outcomes through their work and activity, and that Council maintain its investment in arts and culture.
4. **Artists and creative practitioners are particularly skilled in designing and delivering innovative, strategic and cost-effective solutions.** Given the significant cost pressures and rapid growth the city is undergoing, we encourage Council to look at ways to involve arts communities in the delivery of the 10-Year Plan.
5. **We encourage Council to continue supporting and developing ways for Hutt City residents to engage with and participate in the arts over the next 10 years.** Arts and culture have an

essential role to play in the wellbeing of Māori, Pasifika and the many communities that call Hutt City home.

Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031

Key Priorities and Challenges

6. The Plan outlines six key priorities. We encourage Council to recognise the strong contribution investment in arts and culture makes to two of these outcomes, in particular.
- *Supporting an innovative, agile economy and attractive city* – Artistic and cultural activity cultivate innovation, creativity and resilience. They equip people with the skills needed to create a more highly-skilled workforce and have a strong ‘multiplier effect’ that attracts economic activity to our cities. Arts and culture can also play a major role in placemaking and rejuvenation to create great places to live and visit. We know that:
 - 66 percent of New Zealanders agree that major arts facilities are important for creating a vibrant place to live
 - 64 percent of New Zealanders agree the arts contribute positively to our economy
 - 67% of New Zealanders agree it’s important that where they live is recognised as a place that supports excellence in the arts.¹
 - *Connecting communities* – Participating in arts and cultural activities increases social cohesion by helping individuals to develop networks and find a sense of belonging. They are a powerful way to amplify and celebrate the voices of diverse communities, and contribute to our wellbeing. We know that:
 - 61 percent of New Zealanders agree that the arts make an important contribution to community resilience and wellbeing
 - 66 percent of New Zealanders say they learn about different cultures through the arts
 - 72 percent of New Zealanders agree the arts should reflect New Zealand’s cultural diversity²
 - 71 percent of Māori agree that ngā toi Māori is an important way of connecting with their culture/identity, and 77 percent of Pacific peoples say that Pacific arts is an important way of connecting with their culture/identity.³
7. We note Council has experienced particularly rapid population growth, having already reached its earlier 2030 population forecast in 2020. As the population grows rapidly, community needs are also changing rapidly. We encourage Council to consider how providing opportunities to engage in arts and cultural activity can deliver social and cultural wellbeing outcomes to diverse communities, and provide a platform for engaging with these communities and better understanding their needs. For example:
- refugees and asylum seekers have reported that engagement with the arts following their displacement supported them to create new support networks and develop practical skills useful in finding work⁴

¹ *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020). Creative New Zealand.

² *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020). Creative New Zealand.

³ *New Zealanders and the arts: Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2020). Creative New Zealand.

⁴ *What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and well-being? A scoping review* (2019). World Health Organisation.

- the arts can be a powerful tool for community building because of the potential to overcome barriers (eg, language, cultural), and to provide opportunities to talk about, confront and solve community issues (eg, health, racism, ageism).⁵

Taunaki Ōhanga Auaha, Tāone Whakapoapoa – Supporting an innovative, agile economy and attractive city

8. It's great to see Council working with local and central government partners to achieve its RiverLink project. As the project develops, we encourage Council to consider how it might be able to incorporate arts and culture elements into the project's design, particularly along the city-to-river promenade portion, in alignment with the CBD Making Places vision. Incorporating artistic elements into public works can create landmarks, contribute to a unique sense of cultural identity and promote civic pride. Council could think about:
 - how it could work with artists and arts organisations to incorporate arts and culture elements into infrastructure design and along the promenade
 - whether there's opportunity to work with mana whenua to incorporate toi Māori (Māori arts) elements to make stories of cultural and historical significance known along the awa
 - whether it could adopt a '1 percent for art' policy, where 1 percent of the overall cost of infrastructure and development projects is set aside to fund and install public art.

Tūhono Hapori – Connected Communities

9. We tautoko (support) the substantial investment being made to support a network of community facilities. Community hubs, libraries and the Dowse Art Museum all provide spaces and services that contribute to the social and cultural wellbeing of the community, as well as supporting the arts community.
10. We endorse Council's focus on working in partnership with its communities to support and enable them to thrive, and encourage Council to prioritise strengthening its relationship with arts communities, which have strong, existing relationships with mana whenua, funders, government, businesses and other community groups. A strong relationship between Council and the arts community will therefore support a more connected community.
11. We welcome Council's investment in some facility upgrades to the Dowse Art Museum over the 10-Year Plan. The Dowse Art Museum not only provides a wide range of benefits to Hutt City residents, but also attracts visitors to the city by providing access to high-quality arts experiences. The Museum is a strong asset for the city.
12. We acknowledge the work Council has done since the last 10-year planning cycle to invest in community hubs and sports centres. As Council focuses on infrastructure over the next decade, we encourage it to also consider arts and culture infrastructure as a vital community asset. Galleries, libraries, community centres, venues, studios and spaces for artists to make and present their work deliver social, cultural, economic, educational and health outcomes to a wide range of communities.

⁵ *The Arts and Creative Industries in Health Promotion* (2020). Vic Health.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Hutt City

13. Creative New Zealand is the arts development agency of Aotearoa, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We're an autonomous Crown entity continued under the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014. Our legislative purpose is to encourage, promote, and support the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders.
14. We recognise the importance of the wider Wellington area to the arts in New Zealand. For arts that are delivered in the Wellington region, **\$9.74 million** of direct financial support was provided in 2019/20. Our overall support includes the funding of individual arts projects as well as arts and cultural organisations.
15. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we also fund territorial authorities directly to support local arts activities. In 2019/20, funding provided to Hutt City Council under the Scheme totalled **\$78,540**.
16. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further (my contact details are at the start of the submission).

Ngā mihi rārau ki a koutou katoa, nā



David Pannett
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Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono