



6 April 2023

Christchurch City Council
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By email to: cccplan@ccc.govt.nz
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E te Koromatua, ngā Kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Christchurch City Council
Subject: Christchurch City Council Draft Annual Plan 2023/24
From: Creative New Zealand

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Christchurch City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023/24.
2. Our submission focuses on Council's proposals for revenue, spending and borrowing where they relate to arts, culture and creativity in Christchurch Ōtautahi.
3. Arts, culture and creativity are an important part of creating connected, healthy and socially cohesive communities. We continue to encourage Council to recognise the essential role arts, culture and creativity play in the wellbeing of its residents as it makes decisions for the future of the city. Investment in arts and culture is investment in community wellbeing.

Draft Annual Plan 2023/2024

4. We acknowledge the 2023/24 Annual Plan is focusing on the main issues identified in your Long Term Plan 2021-2031 (LTP). Over a decade on from the earthquakes, the 2023/24 Annual Plan provides the opportunity to further commit to Council's LTP, to invest effectively and wisely, and to enable Christchurch to develop into a 21st century, future proof city that its residents are proud to call home.
5. It is encouraging to see Council retaining investment in the city's future without compromising its services and facilities, including those for arts, culture and creativity.

Investment in Christchurch's creative economy

6. **We support the re-focus and changes to levels of service to attract major events to the city.** Investing \$2.05 million in a coordinated approach across your city's key agencies and providing better resourcing for events will have a significant impact for the arts and cultural

sector and build capacity back into the ecosystem. We know that events and festival work are a key part of many creative workers' incomes.

7. **We note there are opportunities for Council to continue working with artists and creatives** within prioritised infrastructure spend. For example, projects such as **Te Kaha, the Court Theatre and partnerships with Waka Ko Tahi and the Climate Emergency Response Fund** offer meaningful opportunities for increasing the use of public and shared space. These projects can also improve the aesthetics and function of a place and encourage a sense of community ownership and pride. [Matapopore](#) and [SCAPE Public Art](#) are strong examples of this work. We encourage Council to partner with the creative community to deliver on its infrastructure priorities – artists and creatives are our storytellers, educators, and place-makers.

Retaining investment in arts facilities and services

8. We tautoko the continued substantial investment being made by Council to support the city's network of community facilities, including community centres and halls, libraries, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, Christchurch Town Hall, Tūranga and now Te Pae and the Court Theatre. They all provide spaces and services that contribute to the city's social and cultural wellbeing and support the arts community.
9. **In particular, we commend your ongoing commitment to funding and investing in the Performing Arts Precinct in the central city.** We acknowledge the \$5 million grant for this project will now be budgeted in 2024/25 due to delays in its delivery. It's positive to see a significant budget confirmed for this work. As the Precinct's development continues, we encourage Council to work with arts communities, business owners and tourism authorities to develop strategies that will seek to attract residents and visitors to the Precinct, with its opening being an opportunity to make Ōtautahi an even more vibrant place to live and visit. The Precinct will act as a catalyst for increasing the central city's economic activity and build audiences for arts experiences, while making these experiences more affordable and accessible.
10. **It's also encouraging to see overall capital expenditure earmarked for Te Kaha (\$115.9 million) and the Performing Arts Precinct (\$17.8 million).** These facilities provide spaces and services that contribute to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the city and support the creative community. High-quality venues that support arts and culture organisations, events and festivals can attract visitors and further investment to the region, and act as an economic multiplier for hospitality and tourism. As these spaces are developed, we encourage Council to consider where there are opportunities to activate existing performing arts spaces to attract people to the central city and provide vital spaces for arts communities, such as better utilising and increasing access to the Town Hall.

Council's ongoing commitment to arts, culture and creativity

11. We welcome Council's continued commitment to supporting community wellbeing and encourage Council to recognise arts communities as well-placed partners to help deliver wellbeing outcomes to Christchurch's diverse communities. Arts, culture and creativity have an essential role in the wellbeing of Māori, Pasifika and other communities, as well as social cohesion between the many people that call Christchurch home. Investment in arts and culture is investment in community wellbeing.

12. We encourage Council to also recognise the strong contribution investment in arts and culture makes to other Council outcomes identified in the LTP, in particular:
- **Strong sense of community** – artistic, cultural and creative activity increases social cohesion through connecting people and communities
 - **Safe and healthy communities** – participating in arts, cultural and creative activities contribute to our wellbeing, and to physical and mental health
 - **Valuing the voices of all cultures and ages** (including children) – artistic expression is a powerful way to amplify and celebrate the voices of diverse communities
 - **Vibrant and thriving city centre** – artistic, cultural and creative activity can play a major role in placemaking and rejuvenation to create great places to live and visit
 - **21st century garden city we are proud to live in** – arts, culture and creativity cultivate innovation and resilience and build strong and healthy communities
 - **Great place for people, business and investment** – artistic, cultural and creative activity equips people with the skills needed to create a more highly-skilled workforce
 - **Inclusive, equitable economy with broad-based prosperity** – artistic, cultural and creative activity and have a strong ‘multiplier effect’ and attract economic activity to our cities
 - **Modern and robust city infrastructure and facilities** – incorporating arts, cultural and creativity elements into infrastructure projects can create landmarks and contribute to a unique sense of cultural identity and increased sense of ownership.
13. **We welcome Council’s investment in the Arts Centre through the Special Heritage (Arts Centre) Targeted Rate** (which enabled funding a \$5.5 million grant to the Arts Centre over last three years). As a major part of Christchurch’s unique cultural fabric, this initiative came as welcome relief for the Arts Centre. The Arts Centre is a platform for residents and visitors to engage with a wide range of artforms and creative activities. The investment signals Council’s recognition of the value that arts, culture and creativity create for the city and is essential for the Arts Centre to continue operating. **We strongly encourage Council to ensure there is an ongoing operational pathway** for the Arts Centre as you prepare this year’s Long Term Plan.
14. We’re proud to support the Toi Ōtautahi Arts and Creativity Strategy as one of the Strategy’s Foundation Partners and **encourage Council to ensure this year’s Annual Plan continues to show tangible recognition of its own commitment to arts, culture and creativity**, aligned with the vision and directions of Toi Ōtautahi. For example, it’s fantastic to see Toi Auaha come to life and provide a much-needed home for seventeen creative tenants. Affordable studio space in the central city has proven to be essential for Christchurch’s creative community, offering real opportunities for connection, sharing skills, knowledge and networks across artforms and creative disciplines.
15. We acknowledge the hard work of arts, culture and creative staff at Council for maintaining the partnerships and relationships that are integral to the ongoing delivery of Toi Ōtautahi. The partnership approach has built a strong coalition for the arts in the city and is a shining example to other cities on the benefits of working collaboratively to deliver to communities.

Creative New Zealand’s interest in the arts in Christchurch Ōtautahi

16. Creative New Zealand is the national arts development agency of Aotearoa New Zealand, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We’re an autonomous Crown entity 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.

17. Canterbury is an important part of New Zealand's arts landscape. In 2021/22, Creative New Zealand provided **\$2,876,740** of direct financial support to the Canterbury region. **\$2,541,488** of this support was directly provided in Christchurch City, supporting the funding of individual arts projects as well as major Christchurch-based arts organisations, including galleries, theatres, festivals, public art and literary organisations.
18. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we also fund territorial authorities directly to support local arts activities. In 2021/22, funding provided to the Canterbury region of **\$464,689** which included **\$248,100** to Christchurch City Council under the Scheme.
19. As noted above, we're also a partner in Toi Ōtautahi Arts and Creativity Strategy (alongside Council, Rātā Foundation and ChristchurchNZ and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage) working with others with a deep interest in arts and culture across the city. We're proud to be continuing our investment, bringing the Strategy to life.

Conclusion

20. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Annual Budget 2023/2024. We understand there is considerable pressure on all Council budgets this year and acknowledge your continued commitment to arts, culture and creativity as part of overall investment in your community's wellbeing.
21. We share your aspirations for Christchurch, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the potential of arts, culture and creativity to support the city to thrive.
22. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further. The key contact person is:

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Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, nā



Elizabeth Beale

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Pou Whakahaere Kaupapa Here, Whakatakoto Mahere, Pūrongo hoki