

25 May 2018

Governance and Administration Committee  
Select Committee Services  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

E te Kōmiti, tēnā koutou katoa

**Submission to:** Governance and Administration Committee  
**Submission on:** Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill (the Bill)  
**From the:** Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Bill. Creative New Zealand does not wish to appear in person to speak to this submission.
2. We have a keen interest in the Bill and, if enacted, we see the Bill as having a significant effect on how territorial authorities choose to support arts and culture in their areas.
3. **Creative New Zealand therefore supports the replacement of section 3(d) of the Local Government Act 2002 with the new subsection ‘provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach’ and associated amendments.**
4. Replacing the existing section 3(d) will provide a legislative mandate for territorial authorities to focus on arts and culture, as part of looking at their communities’ cultural well-being but also through examining the positive impact that arts and culture have across the economic, social and environmental domains.
5. Creative New Zealand relies on local authorities’ cooperation and co-investment to fulfill its mandate of encouraging, promoting and supporting the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders. The proposed amendment to the legislation is a significant opportunity for Creative New Zealand, working with others including local government, to progress the discussion about the public value of arts, culture and creativity.
6. There’s a growing body of research relating to the contribution of the arts to a community’s social cohesion, as well as to an area’s economic prosperity. The 2017 results of Creative New Zealand’s longitudinal research study into New Zealanders’ attitudes to, attendance at and participation in the arts support this, and show that:
  - nearly half (47%) of New Zealanders agree with the statement ‘my local council should give money to support the arts, 29% neutral and 22% disagree

- half of (50%) of New Zealander agree with the statement ‘my community would be poorer without the arts’, with 29% neutral and 15% disagree.
7. The arts organisations that we work with tell us that it can sometimes be difficult to make territorial authorities see the relevance of arts and culture to their work. This is despite communities being in broad support of council funding for the arts, and in agreement with the range of benefits that arts and culture can bring.
  8. Our clients also advise that some good work can be done with territorial authorities through their planning processes (ie, annual and long-term plans). However success can be patchy, particularly in the absence of a strong mandating provision like the one proposed by the Bill. At present, only 52 percent of all councils have arts and cultural strategies/plans in place; of those that have a strategy/plan, just over half (54 percent) have an associated implementation plan.
  9. Restoring the four well-beings, including cultural well-being, to local government would have a powerful effect in reconnecting territorial authorities with the valuable contribution that arts and culture make to their communities. We look forward to continuing to engage with local government, under this refreshed mandate, to help further this important work.

## **Background**

10. Creative New Zealand is an autonomous Crown entity established under the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014. As the national arts development agency of Aotearoa, Creative New Zealand’s purpose is to encourage, promote and support the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders.
11. Creative New Zealand receives public funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board. In 2016/17, Creative New Zealand invested close to \$40.4 million in the arts sector nationally, including to every territorial authority to distribute to communities via the Creative Communities Scheme (\$3.4 million in 2016/17). The scheme supports more than 1,800 projects every year and has a focus on encouraging participation, supporting diversity and enabling young people.
12. Please don’t hesitate to contact us should you require further information. Creative New Zealand’s senior manager for advocacy, David Pannett, can be reached on (04) 473 0772 or at [david.pannett@creativenz.govt.nz](mailto:david.pannett@creativenz.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa



Michael Moynahan  
**Chair, Arts Council**