

# Review of Interarts and Multidisciplinary Arts

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND AOTEAROA

Final Report

June 2015

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# 1. Background to the review

Creative New Zealand regularly consults with the arts sector to ensure that our funding priorities, programmes and initiatives keep pace with new arts practices and with New Zealand's changing arts environment.

We have committed to periodically reviewing our support for the artforms we fund, with a review for each artform every five years. The artforms we fund are Māori Arts, Pacific Arts, Music, Visual Arts, Craft/Object Art, Dance, Interarts, Literature, Opera, and Theatre.

However, it's important that this cycle of reviews takes account of those arts projects, activities and organisations that involve multiple artforms and aren't restricted to one main artform.

We've therefore reviewed how we support interarts and multidisciplinary arts, including exactly how we define the terms 'interarts' and 'multidisciplinary'.

This final review report sets out the review recommendations that were agreed to by the Arts Council in April 2015.

## Our current support for multidisciplinary organisations

The multidisciplinary organisations we currently support through our two investment programmes, Toi Tōtara Haemata (Arts Leadership) and Toi Uru Kahikatea (Arts Development), are as follows:

- Arts Access Aotearoa – Whakahauhou Katoa o Hanga
- Arts On Tour New Zealand

- Auckland Arts Festival
- Capital E
- Christchurch Arts Festival
- New Zealand International Arts Festival
- Otago Festival of the Arts
- Southern Lakes Arts Festival
- Taranaki Arts Festival
- The Big Idea
- WOMAD.

## Purpose of the review

The purpose of the review has been to:

- clarify what Creative New Zealand means by the terms 'interarts' and 'multidisciplinary arts', and to make sure our internal systems and our external communications are consistent with those clarified definitions
- identify what key arts infrastructure roles, if any, should be performed under the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme by organisations operating in multidisciplinary contexts – that is, multidisciplinary arts festivals (including Māori and Pacific festivals) and arts organisations offering specified arts services
- identify what Creative New Zealand's policies and funding programme guidelines should be for our support for multidisciplinary arts festivals.

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## **The review process**

In February 2015 Creative New Zealand consulted with the arts sector on what key infrastructure roles we should fund for multidisciplinary arts, as well as on our support for multidisciplinary arts festivals.

In April the Arts Council considered the feedback that we received, and approved the recommendations that had resulted from the review. Those recommendations are set out in the next section of this report.

## 2. Summary of the review's results

### Defining our terms

#### What do we mean by 'interarts'?

Interarts are recognised around the world as a specific area of emergent and contemporary experimental arts practice that blurs and crosses boundaries between artforms. Sometimes referred to as 'hybrid art' (Australia Council), it's based on the fusion of different arts practices within a particular artwork or arts activity. It can also specifically involve moving images and digital media.

As part of our review, we examined how comparable arts councils define and support interarts (for example, in Australia, Canada, Ireland and Québec). As a result, our Arts Council has approved the following definition for 'interarts' at Creative New Zealand:

*'Interarts projects integrate artforms of any cultural tradition, combining them to create a new and distinct work. The result of this integration is a hybrid or fusion of artforms outside of Creative New Zealand's existing artform categories.'*

#### What do we mean by 'multidisciplinary' arts?

Until now, Creative New Zealand has usually used the term 'multidisciplinary' to describe arts activities and projects that involve a number of different artforms. We currently support several types of arts activities in this category – for example:

- community arts projects – like those of the Gap Filler Trust in Christchurch

- workshops and symposiums involving artforms of particular cultural traditions – for example, the Tafesilafa'i Samoa Culture Association
- touring – for example, Arts On Tour NZ
- arts festivals – for example, the Auckland and Christchurch arts festivals and the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts
- arts programmes specifically designed for excluded communities – for example, Arts Access Aotearoa.

Given the variety of multidisciplinary arts activities we fund, it's important that we be clear and consistent about exactly what we mean by 'multidisciplinary arts'. The Arts Council has approved the following definition for this term:

*'Projects and activities that do not feature one main artform and that involve at least two different artforms, of any cultural tradition.'*

This definition of 'multidisciplinary arts' acknowledges the diverse range of artforms practised in New Zealand. It also takes account of the fact that artforms themselves are defined differently according to the cultural tradition to which they belong – for example, Māori carving (whakairo), European art music, or Pacific Islands dance forms (siva, ura and takalo).

### Support for multidisciplinary arts infrastructure: Toi Tōtara Haemata programme

Through our Toi Tōtara Haemata (Arts Leadership) investment programme we invest in well-run and financially sound arts organisations to play key infrastructure roles in creating, presenting, distributing

and/or encouraging participation in high-quality arts experiences. We fund these organisations for periods of two to five years, with options for renewing the contracts.

Creative New Zealand has identified two key roles for multidisciplinary arts. As part of this review, we consulted with the arts sector in February this year about those key roles. The Arts Council approved those two key roles in April.

### **Key role for a multidisciplinary service organisation (access to the arts)**

Creative New Zealand's statutory role includes supporting access to the arts, in particular for those communities or sections of the population that otherwise wouldn't have access (Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014, section 3). This applies to all artforms, of any cultural tradition.

Within New Zealand's arts infrastructure we've identified a key role that provides access to the arts (across artforms and cultural traditions) for excluded communities. This means people who otherwise wouldn't be able to experience or participate in the arts because of their particular life circumstances – for example, if they have a physical or mental disability, or if they're in prison.

After consulting with the arts sector, Creative New Zealand recommended that we support a service organisation under the Tōtara programme to deliver a key role that would involve providing specific services in the following five areas:

- Capability-building and professional development for arts practitioners and arts organisations working with excluded communities – such as mentoring programmes and specialist workshops

- Working with arts organisations to deliver access to arts experiences – for example, developing accessibility plans and putting them into effect, and using communication technologies for people with sensory impairments, such as difficulties in seeing or hearing
- Providing specialist advice and expertise to relevant non-arts organisations on how to provide access to the arts and develop arts programmes
- Providing training opportunities for members of excluded communities on how to advocate for the arts and improve access to the arts
- Providing career guidance to artists with exceptional talent who are members of excluded communities.

The Arts Council has approved support for that key role. By February 2016 Creative New Zealand will have published a request for proposals from organisations interested in filling this key role for access to the arts under the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme. Any new funding agreement for the role will be offered from January 2017.

### **Key role for multidisciplinary arts festivals**

Creative New Zealand recognises that multidisciplinary arts festivals are a distinct and important component of multidisciplinary arts activities. Over the past two decades the number and range of these festivals have grown considerably in New Zealand. Today they include open-access community festivals, fringe festivals, culturally based festivals (such as iwi festivals), and large-scale curated festivals with an international profile (for example, the Auckland Arts Festival and the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts).

Multidisciplinary arts festivals are important not only for developing New Zealand arts and arts practitioners, but also for developing the skills base of administrators,

technicians and others who are necessary in order for arts events and presentations to be delivered successfully.

Multidisciplinary arts festivals play a significant role in the regional arts infrastructure for professional and community arts.

Creative New Zealand's generic definition for a 'multidisciplinary arts festival' is as follows:

*'an arts festival that takes place within a defined area or region over a designated period of time and involves a programme of arts events and activities that features at least two different art forms (of any cultural tradition).'*

The term 'multidisciplinary arts festival' has replaced the term 'pan artform festival' that we previously used.

In line with our expectation that Toi Tōtara Haemata organisations will 'provide leadership within the arts sector and collaborate with other organisations', Creative New Zealand recommended the following key role for large-scale multidisciplinary arts festivals that are developed, presented, promoted and marketed as an integrated programme.

Under this new key role, which was approved by the Arts Council in April this year, a multidisciplinary arts festival supported through the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme will be expected to deliver all the following activities:

- Commissioning and developing excellent and innovative new New Zealand work across a range of artforms
- Presenting a diverse programme of excellent and innovative New Zealand art and New Zealand work across artforms and cultural traditions, including Māori arts and Pacific arts
- community arts projects and events

- Working in collaborative partnerships with other arts organisations and arts festivals, nationally and/or internationally.

To allow for more equitable access to large-scale multidisciplinary arts festivals throughout New Zealand, Creative New Zealand is also proposing that we support one Tōtara festival in the South Island **in addition** to the two that have previously filled the key role in the North Island. This will be subject to the amount of funding available to Creative New Zealand.

By February 2016 Creative New Zealand will have published a request for proposals from appropriate organisations interested in filling this key role for multidisciplinary arts festivals under the Toi Tōtara Haemata programme. Any new funding agreements for the role will be offered from January 2017.

## Support for particular festival activities under our other programmes

Rather than setting priorities for multidisciplinary arts festivals as we've done in the past, Creative New Zealand will offer funding for them to deliver particular types of activities according to the funding programme through which we support them. This will allow us to be more responsive to the various kinds of activities that these festivals involve. This new approach will come into effect from 1 July 2015.

The table on the next page gives an overview of the proposed activities for which we would offer funding support to multidisciplinary arts festivals through our Quick Response grants, Arts Grants and the Toi Uru Kahikatea programme. These programme-related menus of specific activities will replace the published funding priorities for multidisciplinary arts festivals (formerly 'pan artform festivals').

## Multidisciplinary arts festivals: Activities which can be funded

QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS AND ARTS GRANTS	
Eligibility criteria	Activities
<p>For arts festivals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>take place within a defined area or region over a designated period of time and involve a programme of arts events and activities that features at least two different artforms (of any cultural tradition).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of (new or remounted) excellent and innovative New Zealand art and New Zealand work<sup>1</sup> (including contemporary Māori and Pacific arts)</li> <li>Community arts projects and events</li> <li>The presentation and transmission of Māori heritage arts and Pacific heritage arts</li> <li>The commissioning, co-production and/or development of small-scale innovative work</li> </ul>
TOI URU KAHIKATEA INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	
Eligibility criteria	Activities
<p>For arts festivals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>take place within a defined area or region over a designated period of time and involve a programme of arts events and activities that features at least two different arts disciplines (of any cultural tradition)</li> <li>are developed, presented, promoted and marketed as an integrated programme, and</li> <li>have a successful funding track record with Creative New Zealand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presentation of (new or remounted) excellent and innovative New Zealand art and New Zealand work (including contemporary Māori and Pacific arts)</li> <li>Community arts projects and events</li> <li>The presentation and transmission of Māori heritage arts and Pacific heritage arts</li> <li>The commissioning, co-production and/or development of excellent and innovative new New Zealand work across artforms and/or cultural traditions (this may occur in collaboration with other national or international arts organisations and/or arts festivals). This can include contemporary Māori arts and Pacific arts.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Creative New Zealand distinguishes between 'New Zealand art' and 'New Zealand work' in the following way:

- "New Zealand art" refers to works created, written or presented by New Zealand citizens or residents. This may include the presentation of works originally written, created or composed by a New Zealander as well as New Zealanders performing work originally written, composed or created by someone who lived or lives overseas.<sup>2</sup>
- "New Zealand work" refers to original work created by a New Zealand citizen or resident (whether living or dead), and to subsequent presentations or exhibitions of that work.<sup>3</sup>

In practice, festivals tend to present more New Zealand art than New Zealand work.

While the commissioning, co-production and/or development of excellent and innovative new New Zealand work usually occurs through larger festivals funded through Creative New Zealand's investment programmes, support will be available through Quick Response and Arts Grants for the commissioning of small-scale, innovative and lower-cost work.

## Funding guidelines for multidisciplinary arts festivals: Tōtara and Kahikatea programmes

Creative New Zealand's funding guidelines show the funding range that we expect to provide for given arts activities. A funding range may be expressed as a percentage of an organisation's total revenue.<sup>2</sup>

As a result of this review we have adopted new funding guidelines for multidisciplinary arts festivals. These guidelines apply **only** to festivals supported through the Toi Tōtara Haemata and Toi Uru Kahikatea investment programmes, and will affect all new contracts in these programmes from 1 July 2015. The guidelines do not apply to multidisciplinary arts festivals seeking support through Quick Response Grants and Arts Grants.

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<sup>2</sup> An arts organisation's 'total revenue' is the average revenue recorded in its last three sets of audited annual accounts. For festivals, revenue refers to all the income required to deliver the festival, including: the applicant's own financial contribution; the total support requested from Creative New Zealand; support from other stakeholders or funders; sponsorship; accurately valued in-kind support such as essential goods or services provided by third parties; and income received through the sale of work, ticket sales, book sales, workshop fees and stall-holder fees.

## The new funding guidelines

For multidisciplinary arts festivals that:

- are developed, presented, promoted and marketed as an integrated programme, and
- have a funding track record with Creative New Zealand and a history of successful delivery,

Creative New Zealand may offer funding from 5% to 12% of the festival's total revenue, depending on the funded activity.

At the lower end of this range (5% to 9%) the activities will include:

- community arts projects and events
- presenting (new or remounted) excellent and innovative New Zealand art and/or New Zealand work (including contemporary Māori arts and Pacific arts)
- presentation and transmission of Māori heritage arts and Pacific heritage arts.

At the higher end of the range (9% to 12%), the activities will have to include:

- developing and presenting large-scale innovative community arts projects and events
- presenting excellent and innovative New Zealand art and/or New Zealand work (including contemporary Māori arts and Pacific arts) in two or more centres within the region of the festival
- commissioning and/or developing and/or remounting excellent and innovative new New Zealand work across arts disciplines and cultural traditions in collaboration with other arts organisations and/or arts festivals (nationally and/or internationally). This may include contemporary Māori and Pacific work.

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