

19 May 2017

Submission on the: Draft Annual Plan 2017/18
Made to the: Wellington City Council
From: The Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to consider and make submissions on Wellington City Council's **Draft Annual Plan 2017/18**.
2. While we do not wish to make a personal presentation in support of our submission, we are more than happy to discuss our submission further upon request.
3. The key contact person for matters relating to this submission is:
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Initial Comments

4. Creative New Zealand acknowledges the commitment Wellington City Council has made towards supporting the arts in Wellington, at all levels, for the stated purpose of ensuring Wellington remains the cultural capital of New Zealand.
5. In particular we wish to thank newly elected Mayor Justin Lester for prioritising support for the arts during his campaign and now as mayor. We also wish to reiterate our thanks to former Councillor Ray Ahipene-Mercer who, as leader of the Arts and Culture portfolio, was a driving force for the Council's support of the arts for many years.
6. We also wish to express our gratitude to Mayor Lester for meeting with the Arts Council in April. We appreciate the engagement as we build our relationship with territorial authorities and Local Government New Zealand.

Town Hall

7. Creative New Zealand strongly supports Council's decision to earthquake strengthen the Town Hall. We are also supportive of Council developing this into a full Civic Music Hub campus in partnership with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand School of Music.
8. The commitment of \$89.9 million reflects a significant investment. However, considering the alternatives of not having a venue like the Town Hall, or spending significantly more on a new building that would lack the history, character and world-class acoustics of the existing building, this is clearly the prudent decision.

9. We hope that consideration is given to accessibility of the venue for smaller and community groups. As was acknowledged in the *Mid-Sized Performing Venues Review*, accelerating the renovation and reopening was necessary but so was '[ensuring] it is accessible to a wide range of users.'

Expanding Wellington's Arts and Culture Programme

10. We support Council's proposal to expand the arts and culture programme to include a Matariki event and a 'diverse, city-focussed outdoor event series'. Public events such as these provide access to the arts in a way other events cannot. They bring communities together and are an effective way to ensure all Wellingtonians have access to the arts.
11. We support Council's engagement with iwi mana whenua partners and indigenous arts groups to help 'fill the gap' of winter events with a Matariki celebration that embraces te ao Māori and promotes ngā Toi Māori.

Mayor and Councillors' work programme and Long Term Plan

12. Creative New Zealand looks forward to engaging with you shortly as you begin developing your Long Term Plan 2018-28, and Mayor and Councillors' draft 3-year work programme 2016-19 (*Building a better city*).
13. While it is commendable that WCC identifies *cultural wellbeing* as one of seven activity areas against which it measures its performance, currently the council's Long Term Plan (2015-25) makes no reference to arts and culture within the vision or four community outcomes.
14. We believe the increased emphasis or re-energisation of the 'capital of culture' idea evident in the *Building a better city* programme would be further strengthened by its inclusion within the long-term community outcomes or in the vision for the city. We would encourage Council to consider this as it proceeds with its long-term planning.
15. Having a strong strategy for arts support and development embedded at the highest level in the Long Term Plan is the best way to ensure a resilient and sustainable commitment to the arts.

Creative New Zealand and its interest in this consultation

16. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage as well as the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board. In 2015/16, Creative New Zealand invested over **\$42.4 million** into New Zealand's arts sector.
17. In 2015/16, Creative New Zealand invested just under **\$5 million** in the Wellington region. This amount includes the funding of individual arts projects as well as regional and national organisations.
18. Creative New Zealand also granted \$377,000 in 2015/16 to the Wellington region's councils through the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS), in order to support and encourage local communities to create and present art.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Pannett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Pannett

Senior Manager, Planning, Performance and Stakeholder Relations