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E te Koromatua, ngā Kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou katoa

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

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Dunedin City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023/24, and acknowledges your focus on continuing to deliver to the 10-year plan 2021–2031.
2. 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, culture and creativity play in the wellbeing of your residents as you make decisions for the future of the city.
3. Our submission speaks to both Council's proposals for the Annual Plan, and the upcoming development of the 10-year plan 2024–2034, as they relate to arts, culture and creativity in Ōtepoti Dunedin.
4. While we don't wish to address Council in person in support of our submission, we'd be happy to discuss any aspect of it with you further, should you wish. Contact details for the team are at the end of this submission.

Key points

5. **We commend Council's commitment to partnering with mana whenua** and acknowledge the work underway within [Council](#) to strengthen relationships with local rūnaka and Māori communities. We encourage Council to continue to strengthen these relationships and ensure mana whenua have the resources they need to engage with Council.
6. **We encourage Council to continue working with artists and creatives** within your prioritised infrastructure spend and your overall commitment to continue with your extensive capital work programme. Artists and creatives are our storytellers, educators and place-makers, and we can see the success of this approach in [Totally Gorgeous](#), increasing the use of public and shared space, improving the aesthetics and function of the street and creating a sense of community ownership and pride.

7. We acknowledge Council is in a challenging situation with planning and budgeting, and needs to manage many competing priorities. **We're thrilled to see additional resources for events and Matariki, and the reinstatement of event costs for New Year's Eve celebrations.** We know that events and festival work are a key part of many creative workers' incomes.
8. **We continue to support the development of a mid-sized performing arts venue.** It has been five years since the Fortune Theatre closed its doors and Ōtepoti lost its professional theatre. The loss of vital performing arts infrastructure has a long-term knock-on effect for the creative sector, including reduced career pathways at a professional level, loss of key expertise within the sector and general loss of audiences.
9. We're interested to see how the **Dunedin Theatre Network concept of shared investment across their three venues is resourced by Council** to meet the city's existing performing arts infrastructure needs. The team driving this project have worked tirelessly to provide more options to Council for filling the gap of small to mid-sized performing arts spaces. We know there is a great deal of pressure for accessible and affordable spaces where artists and creatives can develop and share their work with audiences. There is also a threat to the ecosystem supporting the wider performing arts community if there are no pathways for rangatahi to be involved in youth and community theatre. We encourage Council to continue investing in performing arts infrastructure in its Annual Plan.
10. **We welcomed the partnered approach to support the development of Te Whare o Rukutia.** The temporary performance space can provide an important interim space in the network of the creative precinct, and provide opportunities to attract further investment, build audiences and make arts experiences more accessible.
11. **We encourage Council to actively explore how it might enable greater access to venues for arts communities to make, rehearse and perform their work.** In addition to the performing arts venue development, we know there's an increasing need for accessible and affordable spaces where Dunedin Ōtepoti artists and creatives can share their work with audiences.
12. **We value the work that's been developed with Save Dunedin Live Music and the Live Music Action Plan.** This work, sitting alongside the performing arts venue development and greater access to venues for arts communities, will see a joined-up approach to resolving some of these challenges. We encourage you to continue this mahi, as access to spaces for developing, rehearsing and presenting is still a key challenge for the arts community.
13. **We acknowledge the hard work of all arts, culture and creativity staff in Council** for maintaining the partnerships and relationships that are so integral to the ongoing delivery of support to the creative sector. The joined-up approach across Council and the community focuses on 'strength in numbers' and is a shining example to other cities around working collaboratively.

10-year plan 2021–2031

Our facilities

14. It's highly encouraging and heartening to see investment into arts, culture and creativity, through Ara Toi, outlined as one of the 10 key areas in Council's 10-year plan. As the appetite for the city's artistic activity continues to grow, it's essential that Council provides investment that enables Dunedin arts communities to create and deliver their work.

15. We strongly support the development of a mid-sized performing arts venue. Creative New Zealand valued being part of the performing arts venue Steering Group and co-commissioner (with Council) of the feasibility study into the venue. We encourage Council to continue to work with arts communities, mana whenua, tourism stakeholders and business owners to consider:
- how Council could manage regulatory levers to enable other sectors (eg, hospitality and events) to come alongside the performing arts venue development work, to drive economic, social and cultural growth
 - the potential to develop a creative precinct in the Octagon area or a network of spaces that can support the development of a broader arts ecosystem in the city, build audiences, attract investment and make arts experiences more accessible
 - what other spaces could be developed into whare haka, studios, rehearsal spaces and facilities for artists and creatives to make and present their work, consistent with the aspirations of the arts community.
16. A performing arts venue will be an asset for the city, however, there's also a need for other venues that arts communities can use to make and present their work. It's great to see work progress alongside Save Dunedin Live Music with the [Save Dunedin Music Action Plan](#). This is an opportunity for Council to partner and consider:
- how it supports arts communities through its regulatory levers (eg, ensuring noise control policies aren't prohibitive for CBD venues)
 - whether empty spaces could be repurposed or opened to provide venues (acknowledging the great work the [Dunedin Dream Brokerage](#) do in this space, supported by Council)
 - whether it could provide reduced and/or fixed-rates for community groups at Dunedin Venue Management Ltd (DVML) venues
 - how Council might work with other venue owners in the city (eg, school halls and performing arts centres) to subsidise access.
17. We welcome the development of the South Dunedin library and community complex. We congratulate Council on its work to co-design a space that will serve the South Dunedin community, and the incorporation of local stories into the facility's design. We're also excited by the inclusion of creative facilities such as a maker space and recording studio. As Council continues to build and develop this facility, we encourage you to consider:
- how to ensure these facilities include spaces that are accessible to artists and community-based arts groups, where they can make and show their work to audiences
 - whether there's an opportunity to work with mana whenua to identify how the library can grow the broader public's understanding of, and engagement with, local stories and histories, mātauranga Māori and te reo Māori
 - how to work with local artists and arts practitioners to create a strong sense of cultural identity at the library.

Funding

18. We encourage Council to consider the effects and importance of maintaining investment in its arts communities. Some of the city's key arts organisations, such as the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra, Dunedin Arts Festival and the Regent Theatre are still working through losses of income and creative contractors, while we continue to negotiate building back from the pandemic. We encourage Council to look at how it will maintain funding for these organisations, to enable arts organisations to continue delivering opportunities to engage

with the arts and creativity, as well as education and outreach programmes to Ōtepoti Dunedin communities.

Strategies and policies

19. We strongly support the Art and Creativity in Infrastructure Policy and the work already aligned with this mahi. We encourage Council to maintain its commitment to integrating art and creativity into infrastructure projects, which will continue to develop a city-wide collection of art interventions that increases the use of public spaces and encourages community pride, as well as supporting creative careers.
20. There's an opportunity for Council to grow Dunedin's collection of public art, to ensure high-quality artworks are accessible to all residents and visitors. To grow support for public art, Council might consider a partnership model to match Council funding with additional investment. A great example of a partnership model for public art is Christchurch City Council's Public Art Fund, which is a partnership between the council, [SCAPE Public Art](#) and [Matapopore](#).

Future plans

21. As you plan for and develop the 10-year plan 2024–2034, we look forward to being part of any review process across Council's review of all grants funding pools. We know there are better outcomes for all when we work together, and we're very interested in developing new partnership models that better suit our changing arts communities and creative sector.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Dunedin Ōtepoti

22. 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 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.
23. We recognise the importance of Dunedin and Otago to the arts in New Zealand. For arts, culture and creativity delivered in the Otago region, **\$2,118,474** of direct financial support was provided in 2021/22. Our overall support for Dunedin includes **\$1,159,881** of funding to individual arts projects, as well as investment into major Dunedin-based cultural organisations, including Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Blue Oyster Art Project Space, Dunedin Arts Festival and Dunedin Symphony Orchestra.
24. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we also fund territorial authorities directly to support local arts activities. In 2021/22, funding provided **\$188,259** to the Otago region which included **\$93,420** to Dunedin City Council under the Scheme.
25. Creative New Zealand has also supported two projects led by Dunedin Fringe Festival towards the temporary performing arts venue, which we were pleased to see open last April as Te Whare o Rukutia.

Conclusion

26. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Annual Plan 2023/24. 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.
27. We share your aspirations for Ōtepoti Dunedin and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the potential of arts, culture and creativity to support the city to thrive.
28. 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:
- Name:** Cara Paterson
Position: Senior Advisor, Advocacy, Local Government focus
Kaiwhakamahere Matua Taunaki, Kāwangatanga ā Kainga
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Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa, nā



David Pannett
Senior Manager, Strategy & Engagement
Pou Whakahaere Matua, Rautaki me te Tūhono