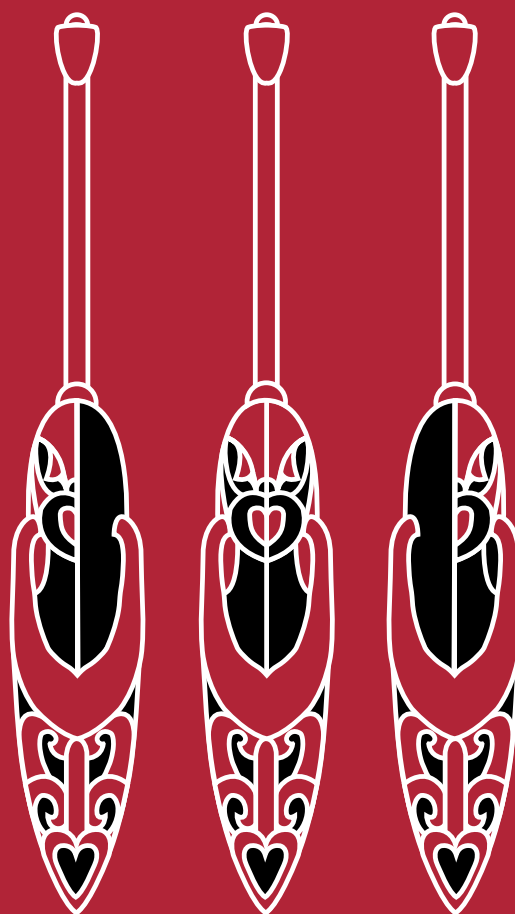




# FestPAC 2024

Aotearoa New Zealand Delegation





# TAKU HOE

AOTEAROA  
FESTPAC 2024

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# He Mihi

## He Herenga Kura, He Herenga Tāngata ki Hawaiki

### Uniting treasure and people to Hawaiki

Tēnā rā kautau katoa, tuatahi huri te tai o whakaaro ki ngā tini mate o tātau kua wheturangitia i whakangaro atu ki te wahi ngaro, haere, e moe.

Tau mai ana te tai o mihi e ū ana ngā kura tāngata ki runga i tēnei herenga waka ki te herenga kura me ona hokinga ki ona whanaketanga, ki ona tuatahitanga ki Hawaiki. I huhuti taku matau ki ngā ika nui o ngā mahi toi, me kokiri ngatahi tātau o Aotearoa, o te moana a Kiwa ki te reo karanga o tātau whanaunga ngā kanaka maoli.

We are honoured to introduce ourselves as the Aotearoa New Zealand delegation co-chairs for FestPAC 2024. “Te kāhui toi o Aotearoa, rarau mai ra, welcome!”

This e-booklet is your compass on the exciting journey ahead of FestPAC 2024. Our dedicated team at Toi Aotearoa, Creative New Zealand, will keep you well-informed as we progress.

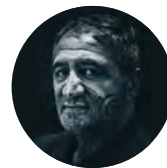
Let us share our collective vision as a united delegation, captured in the following kōrero ‘He Herenga Kura, He Herenga Tāngata ki Hawaiki - Uniting treasure and people to Hawaiki.’ This vision serves as our guiding light to unite treasures and people.

This kōrero aims to empower us to carry the stories of Aotearoa arts and heritage to the global heights they deserve.



**Bonita Bigham**  
co-head of delegation

Ngāruahine, Te Atiawa



**Kura Moeahu**  
co-head of delegation

Ngā Ruahine, Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Toa



**Puamiria Parata-Goodall**  
co-head of delegation

Ngāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha and Ngāti Kahungunu

# Taku Hoe

## Aotearoa New Zealand Delegation Logo and Theme

The “**Taku Hoe**” narrative is a powerful symbol of our shared Pacific identity and historical journey. Within this narrative, the terms “kaiurungi” (steerers) and “kaihoe” (paddlers) represent a collective acknowledgment that we are all Pacific people who have traversed the vast expanse of the Pacific over time.

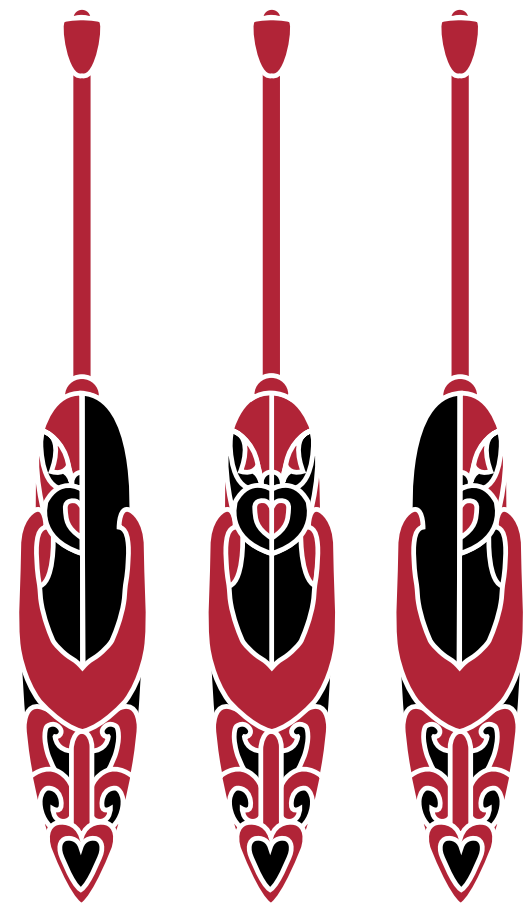
This concept has been carefully crafted and nurtured by our Creative Director for the Aotearoa New Zealand delegation, Tawera Tahuri, drawing inspiration from her mentors like Wayne Ngata and Tā Derek Lardelli. Their teachings, particularly within the context of Horouta, provide cultural depth to the narrative – its deeper meaning represents a nation and all the Pacific communities together.

Horouta, the waka used for the journey to Hawaiki to retrieve the precious kumara (sweet potatoes) and bring them to Aotearoa, is an important symbol of this collective journey. The six karakia used by the tohunga Te Rangitūroua during the return voyage from Hawaiki, bearing the kumara back to Aotearoa, have then become a powerful emblem of solidarity among Pacific nations.

Embedded within this narrative is the concept of “Te Taenga mai o te kumara,” which encapsulates the collaborative effort that brought the kumara and its cultural symbolism to life. The kumara represents pride, talent, and Pacific connections and bridges scientific origins and cultural significance. It illustrates our shared ancestry and the cultural sweetness that binds us.

The imagery of three paddles, inspired by an artifact from the Bishop Museum in Hawai‘i, makes the symbol even more significant. As referenced in the karakia, these three sacred paddles are key to navigating specific sea currents and conditions, giving them immense significance in reaching our collective destination.

While each of us bears a personal responsibility, symbolised by our paddling, the spirit of solidarity propels us forward. We work together to regenerate the Pacific, honour our heritage, and celebrate our shared journey.



# TAKU HOE

**AOTEAROA  
FESTPAC 2024**



# FestPAC 2024 Theme

## **Ho’oulu Lāhui, regenerating Oceania to thrive and flourish.**

The theme for this 13th Festival is all about voyaging and regeneration. It’s called “Ho’oulu Lāhui,” which means “regenerating Oceania to thrive and flourish.”

This theme is about bringing back the energy and spirit of Pacific culture, and it will involve artists from all over the Pacific.

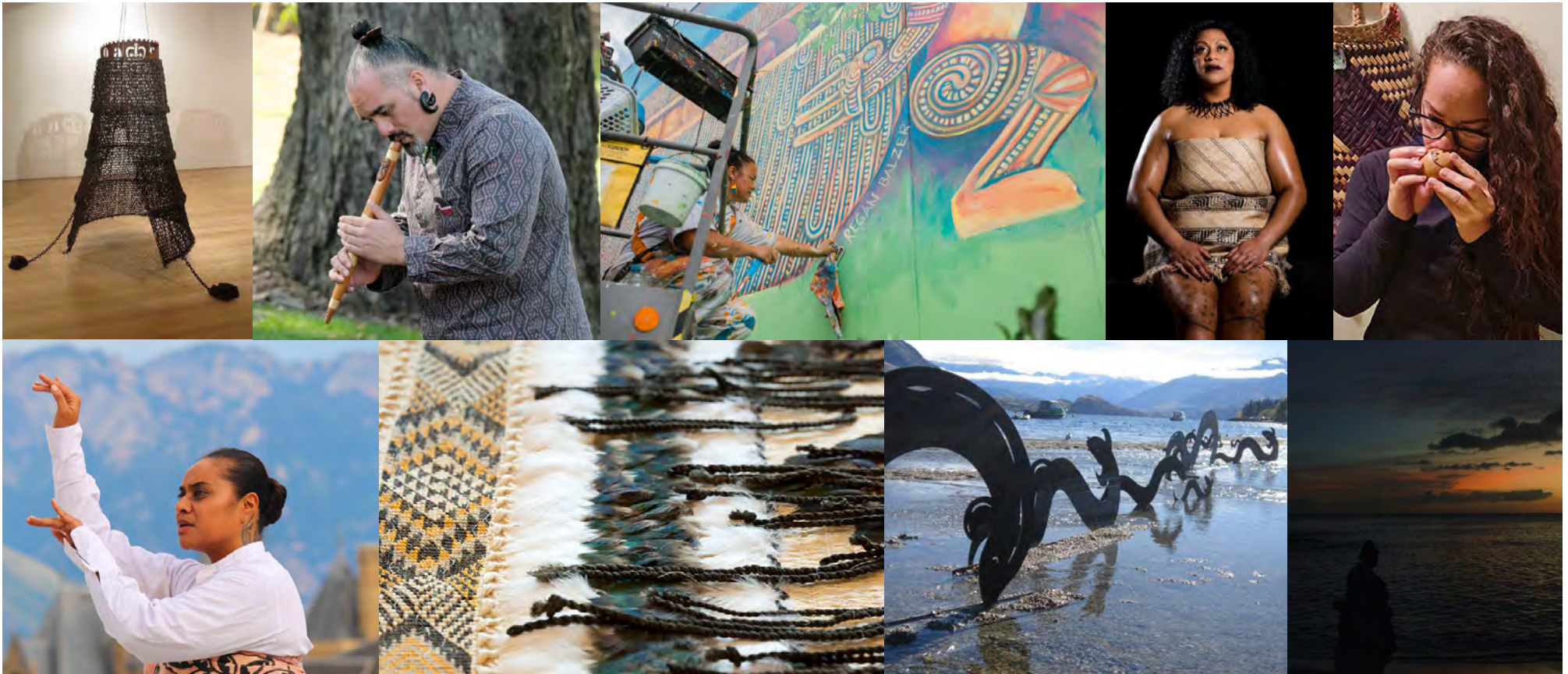
The programme for the festival is going to be exciting. A waka festival will happen a day ahead of the big opening. The opening and closing ceremonies will include a parade of nations, performances, exhibitions, workshops, and discussions. It’s not just about art, it’s also going to include traditional ceremonies, symposiums, and conferences where people can share ideas and culture.

If you want more details about the festival, you can check out the official FestPAC website:

<https://www.festpachawaii.org/news>

# New Zealand Delegation Overview

From June 06 – 16 2024, Aotearoa New Zealand is set to participate in the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPAC) in Honolulu, Hawai'i. You are part of a diverse and dynamic New Zealand delegation. The delegation includes artists, performers, and cultural experts who are set to showcase the culture and heritage of Māori and Pacific arts in Aotearoa. With a total of 85 participants, the delegation represents an array of art forms and whakapapa, united by a shared commitment to preserving and celebrating your cultures and communities.





# Māori Artists

- **Kapa Haka:** In partnership with Te Matatini led by Carl Ross, Te Kapa Haka o Te Whānau-ā-Apanui form the foundation of the delegation with 44 performers. They bring with them the power and grace of traditional Māori performing arts.
- **Waka Contingent:** A ten-person waka contingent led by Master Navigator Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr, carry the ancestral knowledge of waka voyaging. Their presence embodies the seafaring traditions of Māori and Pacific peoples.
- **Artistic Experts:** Four distinguished experts, Ngahina Hohaia, Rangi Kipa, Pena Makoare, and Sian Montgomery-Neutze, represent many artistic disciplines. They are dedicated to preserving and revitalising customary practices within Māori heritage.
- **Whakairo:** Shane Poihipi-Paul, Graham Tipene and Beaumyn Wihongi breathe life into traditional Māori carving and design, reviving ancestral techniques and materials.
- **Raranga:** Meleta Bennett and Shona Tāwhiao, honour the art of raranga with intricate creations, weaving together the stories of their ancestors.
- **Haka Theatre/Dance:** Representing Hawaiiki Tū Productions, Kura Te Ua, Eds Eramiha and Manny Solomon fuse traditional and contemporary elements in their theatre, dance, and performing arts presentations.
- **Performance Art/Tāonga Pūoro:** Regan Balzer and Horomona Horo use their combined artistic talents to convey cultural narratives and traditional Māori musical sounds, bridging the past and the present.
- **Tāonga Pūoro:** Libby Gray, a member of the Haumanu Collective, showcases the soothing melodies of traditional Māori musical instruments, resonating with ancestral tunes.
- **Uku:** Dorothy Waetford brings her clay artworks to life, celebrating the language and cultural narratives of Māori through her sculptures.
- **Craft:** Neke Moa and Piri Cowie combine traditional and contemporary processes to create stunning taonga and sculptures, reflecting their connections to their cultures.

# Pacific Artists

- **Literature (Poet/Writer):** Daisy Lavea-Timo and Karlo Mila, explore and share the poetic essence of Pacific literature.
- **Music:** Jeffrey Kalauta, a musical virtuoso, infuses FestPAC with melodies that resonate with the heartbeats of the Pacific.
- **Dance/Theatre:** Jahra Wasasala, Connor 'Ooshcon' Masseurs and Byrin 'XIII' Mita present a unique collaboration of immersive dance and theatrical expression representing the diverse stories of the Pacific.
- **Visual/Multi-Disciplinary Arts:** Jack Kirifi, Moses Viliamu, Mathew Peilua, and Pelenakeke Brown showcase their multi-disciplinary talents, enriching the visual arts landscape with Pacific narratives.

# Youth Ambassadors

- **Māori:** Poroaki McDonald, an accomplished performer in theatre and dance, carries the cultural legacy of Māori to inspire the youth.
- **Pacific:** Annafinau Tukuitoga is a youth ambassador, bridging cultures and promoting Pacific heritage among the younger generation.



# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## MĀORI PERFORMING ARTS CONTINGENT

### TE KAPA HAKA O TE WHĀNAU-A-APANUI (FULL 44)

Te Kapa Haka o Te Whānau-a-Apanui, the reigning Te Matatini champions, was formed in 1986 by tribal leaders out of a need to support tribal development within the wider confederation of Mataatua. As the group bears the name of the tribe, the compositions re-tell the histories of tribal heroes and events, and strives to maintain a unique tribal flare and style of performance.

The team's catch-cry 'Apanui e tū', calls for all members, not only the kapa, but the whole tribe, to stand with pride and prestige.

## WAKA CONTINGENT

### TEN-PERSON CONTINGENT LED BY HOTUROA BARCLAY-KERR

- Taroī Rawiri Junior
- Frank Kawe
- Taroī Rawiri
- Andrew Irwin
- Jason Porter
- Jo'el Komene
- Turanga Barclay-Kerr
- Namaka Barclay-Kerr
- Kaharau Keogh
- Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## ARTISTIC COLLABORATING EXPERTS

### NGAHINA HOHAIA

(Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Moeahu, Ngāti Haupoto)

Ngahina is a versatile artist with a deep commitment to preserving and revitalising customary practices within her Māori heritage. Her expertise spans various art forms, and she has a rich history of exhibiting her multidisciplinary works in New Zealand and internationally.

While tā moko remains an essential element of her artistic repertoire, her major He Ara Uru Ora installation will be one of the highlight exhibitions in Hawai'i. This installation showcases her creative prowess and contributes to the collective effort to uphold Māori rights in expressing cultural identity through art forms that honour tohōra/parāoa.

At FestPAC, Ngahina will collaborate with Rangi Kipa, Sian Montgomery-Neutze, and Bernard Makaore.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## ARTISTIC COLLABORATING EXPERTS

### RANGI KIPA

(Te Ātiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Tama ki te Taihu)

Rangi trained in traditional carving styles and has been instrumental in reviving ancestral techniques that had not been well practised. He has pushed the boundaries of materials with carvings in resins and has worked on every scale from personal ornament to waharoa.

At FestPAC he'll share his work with rei/parāoa, which supports the revitalisation of customary artistic practice.

This focus is part of his collaboration with Ngahina Hohaia, Bernard Makaore and Sian Montgomery-Neutze to uphold Māori rights to express cultural identity through artforms that use tohora/parāoa.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## ARTISTIC COLLABORATING EXPERTS

### SIAN MONTGOMERY-NEUTZE

(Muaūpoko/Ngai Tara)

Sian's creative practices span visual arts, tā moko, and writing, all firmly rooted in mātauranga Māori and full of commentary on the contemporary experience of Māori.

FestPAC allows her to share visual arts created with the same materials her ancestors used, from earth pigments to tohora/parāoa.

This focus is part of her collaboration with Ngahina Hohāia, Rangi Kipa and Bernard Makaore to uphold Māori rights to express cultural identity through artforms that use tohora/parāoa.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## ARTISTIC COLLABORATING EXPERTS

### BERNARD MAKAOORE

(Te Uri o Hau; Ngāti Whātua, Te Waiariki, Te Kai Tutae, Te Rarawa, Ngapuhi-nui-tonu)

Bernard lives and works in Te Taitokerau and has whānau connections across the country. His work is informed by his Māori world view, whether he is creating personal tāonga or working as a design consultant to architecture teams. His works use traditional practices to tell modern and relevant stories in wood, bone, shell, and stone.

He is part of the four-person collaboration with Ngahina Hohaia, Rangi Kipa and Sian Montgomery-Neutze at FestPAC .

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## YOUTH AMBASSADOR

### POROAKI MERRITT-MCDONALD

(Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāiterangi, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Kauwhata, Rangitāne, Ngā Rauru, Tūhoe and Ngāti Rehua)

His background features education in mahi toi, toi whakaari, hākinakina, and te reo Māori. He was selected for the SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company but couldn't perform at the Globe in London due to COVID-19. In addition to his talents, he excels in touch rugby and represents his whānau and iwi in kapa haka. With extensive theater and film/TV credits, Poroaki aims to serve as a Youth Ambassador, promoting his culture globally in line with the outcomes for Aotearoa at FestPAC 2024.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION

- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### SHANE POIHIPI-PAUL

(Ngāti Pikiao, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui)

Shane's creative journey began in 2013 when he graduated from Toi Ohomai in art. He then pursued traditional carving at Te Wānanga Whakairo Rākau at the New Zealand Māori Arts & Crafts Institute (NZMACI).

Shane was employed by NZMACI as a specialist in restoration and bespoke commission carvings. He decided to pursue his passion by growing the business he had founded and seized the opportunity to establish Te Tākinga Arts.

He is committed to utilising his time, dedication, and expertise to foster innovative cultural expressions, while also preserving and promoting our Māori artistic heritage on a global and national scale.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### BEAUMYN WIHONGI

Nga Puhi

Beaumyn Wihongi is passionate about whakairo, tāonga pūoro, kapa haka, and the revitalisation of te reo Māori, is committed to representing and promoting cultural heritage.

With a whakapapa deeply rooted in toi whakairo ki Ngāpuhi, Beaumyn draws inspiration from his Grandfather Wycliffe Wihongi and Grand Uncle Allen Wihongi, both tohunga whakairo, who have left a legacy in the art. Beaumyn's journey into tāonga pūoro was influenced by his grandfather's talent in ringa pūoro, particularly the saxophone. His vision for FestPAC involves using tāonga pūoro to heal the Pacific from the impacts of colonisation and decolonise through traditional remedies. He aims to connect with fellow ringa-pūoro from across the Pacific.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



### TRADITIONAL ARTS

#### DOROTHY WAETFORD

(Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi-nui-tonu)

Dorothy Waetford is an accomplished artist with a teaching diploma from Auckland College of Education, an applied arts degree from NorthTec, and a postgraduate diploma in Māori visual arts from Massey University. She is an active member of several prestigious artistic collectives, including Ngā Kaihanga Uku, Te Tai Tokerau Māori Artists Collective, Te Ātinga, and Toi Ngāpuhi.

Dorothy's artistic journey began as a performing artist and a member of the contemporary Māori dance company Taiao. However, in the 1990s, her passion shifted towards the realm of clay, where she has since become renowned for her work.

Her sculptural creations are deeply rooted in Māori oral and visual traditions, with her recent pieces delving into te reo Māori, bringing to life the cultural narratives and sounds inherent in the language.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### SHONA TAWHIAO

(Ngai Te Rangi, Whakatōhea, Te Whanau-ā-Āpanui)

Shona Tawhiao is committed to sharing her artistic skills and knowledge. She will participate in FestPAC as a Māori artist to exchange skills and preserve Pacific and Aotearoa artistic traditions. She intends to collaborate with other Pacific artists, transmit generational knowledge, and promote cultural preservation.

Her artistic idea focuses on weaving, including the exploration of harakeke and Lauhala materials. Shona plans to create three pods representing Māori knowledge and collaborate on a fourth pod with Hawaiian Lauhala weavers to symbolise shared Pacific knowledge.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### MELETA TANIA BENNETT

(Ngāti Ranginui)

Meleta Bennett is of Tumu at Te Rito o Rotowhio, part of the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute. The school was established in 1969 and focuses on preserving and promoting Māori arts and crafts. Meleta's project centres on sharing traditional Māori weaving processes with an emphasis on engaging with indigenous weaving communities worldwide. She plans to use resources from Aotearoa for hands-on weaving sessions with fiber artists from diverse cultures, fostering sharing and learning. Meleta also aims to showcase Te Rito o Rotowhio scholarship programme, vital for preserving Māori weaving traditions.

Meleta's recent involvement in a mentoring project with the Hawaiian community of Ma'awe reinforced the importance of passing down traditional weaving knowledge and strengthening relationships across indigenous communities.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### HOROMONA HORO

(Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou, Taranaki, English Devon, MacGregor Scotland)

Horomona Horo is a renowned taonga pūoro artist committed to preserving traditional Māori musical instruments. His expertise and dedication have earned him respect within the Māori arts community.

His focus on taonga pūoro is derived from his cultural heritage, connecting contemporary audiences with Māori traditions. As an individual artist, he has made significant contributions to Māori music and cultural preservation, inspiring audiences worldwide.

Horomona's work as a taonga pūoro artist and cultural ambassador reflects his enduring commitment to Māori arts and heritage.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## TRADITIONAL ARTS

### LIBBY (ELIZABETH) GRAY

(Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāti Uepōhatu, Tama Ūpoko ki te awa o Wanganui, Ngāti Tūwharetoa)

Elizabeth Gray's passion for tāonga pūrō comes from her affections for mātauranga Māori and her compassion for healing others. The memory of a Putātara (native conch shell) being unearthed from the backyard of her papakainga in Napier, may have in turn unearthed her desire to reconnect others with the healing aspect of tāonga pūrō.

A practitioner of this ancient art, Elizabeth is researching tāonga pūrō and its traditional use as rongoā. Elizabeth applied a variety of tāonga pūrō as rongoā throughout her own unique parenting journey.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## CONTEMPORARY ARTS

### REGAN BALZER

(Te Arawa, Waikato)

Regan Balzer is a prominent Māori artist known for her vibrant work. She earned her master's degree in Māori Visual Arts with honours from Massey University, establishing herself as a skilled artist and scholar. Regan's artistic journey is influenced by the landscape of her hometown, Rotorua, characterised by sulfuric terrains and rich cultural heritage.

In her artwork, Regan masterfully blends vivid and contrasting colours, drawing from the wellspring of Māori visual culture and epistemology. Her creations serve as visual narratives, aiming to convey the depth of her cultural heritage while shedding light on contemporary issues affecting her community.

Regan plays a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of artists as an educator, delivering the Māori Visual Arts degree programme at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in Rotorua. Her dedication to advancing Māori Visual Arts practices, both as an artist and educator, highlights her integral role in the promotion and preservation of Māori culture through the lens of contemporary art.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



### CONTEMPORARY ARTS

#### NEKE (NICOLA) MOA

(Whare Papaāra, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Ahuriri, Ngāti Porou, Kai Tahu, Tūwharetoa)

Neke Moa is a highly accomplished adornment artist focused on deepening connections between people, experts, and ancestral wairua to promote hauora. She uses gifted materials and both traditional and contemporary processes to make knowledge and narratives more accessible. Neke Moa has received recognition for her work, including the Herbert Hofmann Prize and a McCahon House residency.

At FestPAC she we talk about the relevance of Atua stories in contemporary life, introducing lesser-known Atua and connecting people across cultures.

Her work highlights environmental issues using natural materials, reminding us of our role as kaitiaki (guardians). At Festpac, they plan various activities, including storytelling, collaboration with other artists, and networking, fostering connections and knowledge sharing.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## CONTEMPORARY ARTS

### PIRI COWIE

(Kai Tahu, Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Kahu)

Piri Cowie, has completed significant public art commissions, including the steel sculpture “Kirihaio – Resilience” located at the Pita Te Hori Centre in Ōtautahi, Christchurch, which pays tribute to tuna (eels). Cowie’s work extends to international platforms, including participation in the Artists in Residence programme in Vallauris, France, in 2014.

Her artistic imprint can be seen in various exhibitions in New Zealand and beyond, reflecting her commitment to her craft. Cowie is a graduate of the University of Canterbury, School of Fine Arts.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



### CONTEMPORARY ARTS

#### KURA TE UA

(Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Te Aitanga a Māhaki, Te Whakatōhea, Tūhoe)

Kura Te Ua is a Māori performing arts expert, choreographer, and artistic director, known for her specialisation in kapa haka and pioneering the innovative form of ‘haka theatre.’ She founded Hawaiki Tū, a company known for creating captivating haka theatre events, including the notable “Autia” featuring 400 student performers in 2023.

She began her performing arts journey with Pounamu Huia during her teenage years and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in performing arts from the University of Auckland. In 2011, she co-founded Hawaiki Tū and is currently pursuing a PhD at Te Whare wānanga o Awanuiārangi. Kura Te Ua is renowned for her development of ‘haka theatre,’ a unique performance style blending traditional dance theatre and Māori performing arts, a term first coined during her involvement in the production “Arohanui – The Greatest Love” in 2011, where she performed as part of the ensemble. Her work continues to push boundaries within Māori and indigenous performance art.

## DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



### CONTEMPORARY ARTS

#### EDMUND ERAMIHA

(Ngāpuhi)

Edmund (Eds) is an experienced kapa haka performer and a recent graduate with a Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts.

He has a range of skills in Mau rakau and Māori weaponry, which has led to several experiences in NZ cultural shows such as Kiwi Haka Culture experience in Queenstown, Waitangi night show, Tamaki Heritage village, Haka International and Te Wero Performing Arts.

Eds is a Professional Muay Thai Fighter and kaihaka performer, he specialises in fitness training and team Building. Recently he featured on the movie Mahana & Deadlands. Eds played a lead role in Hawaiki TU's Haka Theatre Production 'Te Manawa' in 2015– and performed again at the Tempo Dance Festival 2014.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## CONTEMPORARY ARTS

### MANUEL (MANNY) SOLOMON

(Ngāi Tahu and Samoa)

Manuel is a passionate mover and storyteller of Māori and Pacific dance, theatre and film in Aotearoa.

Manuel received his bachelor's in performing arts (Acting) from Toi Whakaari: New Zealand drama school in 2012.

He has a movement background specialising in hip hop and choreography branching out later into contemporary and Māori contemporary works like "Tiki Taane Mahuta" and most recently "Hatupatu | Kurungaituku: A Forbidden Love".

Manuel is humbled to join the festPAC delegation to represent Aotearoa and hopeful to inspire rangatahi and youth from across the Pacific.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- MĀORI ARTISTS



## CONTEMPORARY ARTS

### GRAHAM TIPENE

(Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Haua, Ngāti Manu)

Graham Tipene is a Tā Moko artist who has been involved as a consultant and key artist on civic and Council-led projects throughout Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. His public work brings Māori kaupapa into the built environment of the city, with major projects including the Waterview tunnel, Victoria Park, Auckland Library, and Tirohanga Whānui Bridge in Albany.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- PASIFIKA ARTISTS



## LITERATURE

### DAISY LAVEA-TIMO

(Samoa)

Daisy Lavea-Timo is a New Zealand-born Samoan poet and Slam Poetry champion whose work is deeply rooted in her ancestry and her role as a tulafale (orator chief). Daisy's work explores what it means to sustain and construct her identity as a product of the Samoan diaspora. Her poetry is the dynamic and indigenous response of her Sāmoan-ness and her work strives to communicate ideas about the complex societal issues connected with culture and leadership. Currently, she is a co-director of an Indigenous social change agency "Cross-Polynate" and a senior advisor Pacific for Ohu Ahumahi-Workforce Development Councils. From her vantage point at the intersections of the many worlds she navigates, Daisy is able to utilise her artistic skills to pen poems about youth engagement, group dynamics and collective impact.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION

- PASIFIKA ARTISTS



## LITERATURE

### KARLO MILA

(Tonga, Samoa, Palangi)

Dr Karlo Mila MNZM is an award-winning poet and writer of Tongan, Samoan, and Palangi descent. Karlo's first book of poetry, *Dream Fish* Floating, won the Best First Book of Poetry Award at the 2006 Montana New Zealand Book Awards. She represented Tonga at the 2012 Cultural Olympiad event Poetry Parnassus Festival in London and was the 2015 recipient of the Creative New Zealand-Fulbright Pacific Writer's Residency in Hawai'i. Karlo's poetry has been included in many anthologies and is taught in schools and universities around New Zealand and in the South Pacific. She has regularly performed live poetry for over a decade, and her latest book *Goddess Muscle* was published in 2020.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- PASIFIKA ARTISTS



## MUSIC

### JEFFERY KALAUTA

(Niue)

Jeffery is a New Zealand-born, Tagata Niue / Kuki Airani multi-media artist dropping lo-fi hip-hop beats and digital artworks to Instagram and Spotify as J3PK. In 2022, Jeffery received one of Tautai's Fale-ship Residencies, employing this opportunity to critically engage with Epeli's Hau'ofa's essay *Our Sea of Islands*. Subsequently Jeffery created A'A, the non-binary tupuna – the transnational Matua who transcends temporal rules across time. A'A warns us to respect the cultural knowledge of our tupuna and be wary of the dominant hegemony of belief systems, and not diminish the significance of Moana wisdom, which is vast. A'A was expressed through a music composition and digital portraits exhibited at Fibre Gallery, Ōtautahi. Jeffery's next projects include exploring historical accounts of death, dying, and mourning from across the Pacific with a particular focus on ceremony and ritual. Jeffery has a law degree from Canterbury University and recently relocated to Tāmaki Makaurau.

# DELEGATION MEMBERS

FESTPAC 2024 DELEGATION  
- PASIFIKA ARTISTS



## DANCE AND THEATRE

### TUPE LUALUA

(Samoa)

Founding Director and Producer of *Le Moana* and the *Measina Festival*, Tupe's foundations are in Siva Sāmoa and live performance. From 2009 to 2019 she taught Samoan Performing Arts at Whitireia New Zealand and created live works for performances in Aotearoa, Europe, Asia and North America. In 2013, she founded *Le Moana* and created works such as *Fatu Na Totō, 1918* and *Purple Onion*. These works went on to tour internationally and win several awards on the festival circuit. Tupe was awarded the Creative New Zealand Sāmoa Artist in residence in 2019, the Pacific Contemporary Artist Award at the 2021 Creative New Zealand Arts Pasifika Awards, and a FAME Mid-Career Award 2022.

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## DANCE AND THEATRE

### JAHRA WASASALA

(Fiji)

Jahra is an award-winning Fijian/Pakeha world-builder, dancer, facilitator and writer, raised on and informed by the whenua of Tamaki Makaurau, Aotearoa. Jahra's practice centres embodied and disembodied phenomena, bridging the phenomena's breadth of physicality into shared performances. Jahra's growing body of work builds into visions of liberation and calls in memories of creature-led language located in-between one world ending and another world beginning.

Drawing from multiple dance teachings and cultures, Jahra embraces these forms with emotional rigour and innovative theatrical practices that contribute to the canon of Tagata Moana future-mythos.

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## DANCE AND THEATRE

### CONNOR 'OOSHCON' MASSEURS

(Samoa)

Ooshcon is an award-winning Samoan/Pakeha dancer, facilitator, theatre-maker and 'decipherer of circles', who specialises in 'free-body' dance methodologies.

The core belief 'ina ia sosolo le alofa / so love may flow' is imbued into Ooshcon's evolving practice and way of being, creating works, collaborations and spaces that are alofa-informed. Drawing from multiple dance teachings and cultures, Ooshcon embraces these forms with emotional rigour and innovative theatrical practices that contribute to the canon of Tagata Moana future-mythos.

Ooshcon's work becomes a consistent partnership with their partner Jahra Wasasala through 'CONJAH'. CONJAH is a performance and facilitation focused entity, creating solo and ensemble works, facilitating workshops for a wide spectrum of communities and producing dance festivals.

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## DANCE AND THEATRE

### BYRIN 'XIII' MITA

(Ngāti Kahungunu, Kai Tahu)

Byrin Mita, better known as XIII (13), is a world class, New Zealand based dancer with over a decade of experience and involvement within the Street Dance community.

XIII is leader within NZ Street Dance and is the director of XIII WRLD, a high performance street dance team that focuses on development of street dance and street dancers.

As well as furthering his own career, XIII wishes to take his own experience and expertise to uplift and assist street dance/ dancers, pushing the boundaries of quality, creativity and professionalism within the street dance community.

For FESTPAC '24, Byrin 'XIII' Mita is working and performing collaboratively with Ooshcon and Jahra Wasasala.

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## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

### JACK KIRIFI

(Tokelau)

Jack is a Tokelauan and Cook Island contemporary artist. Born and bred in Porirua, Jack has been involved in various art exhibitions, community projects and most recently tutored art at Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Porirua. Jack's preferred mediums include painting, print-making and mixed-media, and he describes his work as a re-interpretation of Tokelauan/Pacific identity and culture within contemporary Aotearoa. Jack is a forming member of the Tokelau Arts Collective.

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## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

### MOSES VILIAMU

(Tokelau, Samoa)

Moses Viliamu is a Tokelauan (Atafu) and Samoan (Faleula) visual artist, born and raised in Canon's Creek, Porirua, in Wellington. Moses' favourite mediums include printing, painting, graphic design and visual projection and his work is a balance of aesthetic and intuitive movement – evident of his love to create abstract textures and overlaying paint to create depth. His art is about the journey of people – the bold colours, the layers, the flow, the textures, the creativity – all amassed to represent that of the resilient human spirit. In 2020, Moses and Jack Kirifi created a large mural based on 350 Pacific and traditional Tokelauan tattoo designs.

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## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

### MATTHEW (MATTY) LEPAIO

(Tokelau Samoan)

Mattys Samoan/Tokelau heritage, art, and fashion has provided opportunities to investigate intergenerational perspectives of well-being through the revival of traditional artwork.

"It's an even better time to be Pacific, compared to my parent's time where they were assimilated into society and not allowed to be themselves, Today we can be ourselves, celebrate our culture and art, indigenous ways of being are acknowledged, a revival has begun".

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## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

### PELENAKEKE BROWN

(Samoa)

Pelenakeke Brown is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and writer. Her practice explores the intersections of disability cultural concepts and Samoan cultural concepts. Her work investigates sites of knowledge, and she uses technology, writing, poetry, and performance to explore these ideas. Pelenakeke has presented her work internationally, been the recipient of many local and international fellowships and residencies, and she is a current artist in residence at BricLAB Contemporary Arts in Brooklyn, NYC. In 2019 Pelenakeke was awarded the Disability Dance Artistry Award by Dance/NYC, and she was the 2020 recipient of the Pacific Toa Award at Creative New Zealand's Arts Pasifika Awards.

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## YOUTH AMBASSADOR

### ANNAFINAU TUKUITOGA

(Niue)

Annafinau is a 19-year old New Zealand-born Niuean musical artist from Paeroa, Waikato, specialising in playing the Banjo, infusing her passion for country music and bluegrass with traditional Niuean songs – specifically chants. Anna was taught old chants from Niue and old songs by her grandmother. Anna has been the New Zealand Country Music Youth Ambassador and was also the youth MP representative for Scott Simpson in the Coromandel region. In 2019, Anna travelled to Chengdu, China with TOPA (Talents Of The Pacific Academy) for the Youth Sister International Music Festival – where she had the opportunity to yodel, showcase her banjo skills and sing with other young people. In 2022, Annafinau received the Creative New Zealand Arts, Culture and Creativity Award at Prime Minister's Pacific Youth Awards.

# Why FestPAC matters to Aotearoa, New Zealand

The upcoming Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC) offers an exceptional opportunity to elevate important issues within the Pacific and indigenous communities. The history of New Zealand's participation in FestPAC and its unique position in the event make it extra special.

## Here's why FestPAC 2024 is important

Aotearoa, New Zealand's involvement spans five decades, showing our enduring commitment to preserving and celebrating Pacific and indigenous cultures. Hosting the festival in 1976 was a testament to our dedication to showcase our heritage.

FestPAC is arguably the largest global gathering of Pasifika artists and cultural practitioners from 28 Pacific nations and territories.

Our artists have the opportunity to shine on an international stage, sharing their talents, stories, and traditions.

The artists selected for our delegation are not just participants but ambassadors for Aotearoa, embodying our nation's cultural diversity, creativity and heritage. They're like storytellers of our country.





# Strategic Objectives for FestPAC 2024

The New Zealand delegation is determined to achieve important goals at FestPAC 2024. Our participation is not just about showing culture; it's about making positive changes at home and abroad. Here are our main objectives:

## Advance CITES

We are dedicated to engaging in activities that protect endangered species, advocating for stronger regulations, promoting sustainable trade, and educating the Pacific. We want to participate in the conversations around safeguarding animals and plants at risk.

## Safeguarding Endangered Artforms

We are passionate about preserving and safeguarding endangered art forms and traditional practices of Māori and Pasifika communities. FestPAC is a big stage to show off these important traditions.

## Career Advancement

We strive to provide our artists with professional growth opportunities. FestPAC is a place to make new connections, learn new things, and boost career opportunities.

## Partnership and Whanaungatanga

Our engagement extends to building strong connections with other Pacific and indigenous communities at FestPAC. We're not just here for us, we want to connect with other Pacific and indigenous groups at FestPAC to bring us all closer.

## Addressing Climate Change

The arts hold the potential to inspire change and raise awareness. We are committed to using the arts to discuss environmental challenges and solutions, playing our part in addressing climate change.

## Amplifying Youth Voices

We want young voices to be heard, and FestPAC provides a platform for young people to share their perspectives, collaborate across generations, and shape the future of Pacific arts and culture.



# FestPAC 2024

Aotearoa New Zealand Delegation

