

# Hamilton City Council

## *Candidates' stance on arts and creativity*

Name	Surname	Q1 What is your favourite recent arts experience?	Q2 What do you think should be at the core of the council's arts strategy?	Q3 How do you think the council should invest in the arts and arts infrastructure?
<b>Mayor</b>				
Paula	SOUTHGATE	That's tough as I enjoy a full range. I say "The Ultimate Queen Experience" with Marc Martel at Claudelands and "Hudson and Halls" at Clarence Theatre in equal measure! But the Te Ruru Light Festival was awesome also.	To collaborate with the creative sector to provide for the full range of arts experiences for both participation and enjoyment. This must support community arts, emerging artists and professional artists. This can be achieved through funding, partnerships, venue support, communications and promotions. All genres deserve support from orchestral music, the performing arts, visual arts to cultural performances.	I believe the funding given to the arts is too low compared with other areas of community funding. I support the idea of dedicated contestable fund. Council must also strongly support the local community with applications to Creative NZ and help identify and influence private funders and supporters. Council can also assist by reducing the time and process to approve arts projects. Time is money.
<b>Councillors (East Ward)</b>				
Mark	BUNTING	The contemporary arts competition and Anne Frank display at Waikato museum, and a Boon St Art tour with the wonderful Charlotte Isaac and the Brass Band Championships performance at the Clarence St Theatre	Contemporary performance and Street Art	I like how at the moment council has a very arms-length relationship with regards the selection of artworks, but I feel an arts advisory panel would be in order. The arts scene can get very political and a neutral voice on council would be wise. Otherwise political lobbying takes place.
Margaret	FORSYTH	My favourite recent arts experience was a Pasfika cultural evening with dances and music from 3 different Pacific communities.	At the core of Hamilton city's strategy should be the visibility and access of arts and culture in our everyday lives. Through public art, functional art, performing arts, cultural identity, street art, cultural festivals Hamilton will continue to grow its cultural and creative identity.	Council should invest in the arts and arts infrastructure by being a leader and enabler. The Regional Theatre is good example of council playing such a role. Council should reinstate the Arts Agenda and Arts Forum to foster and grow Hamilton's arts and cultural sector. Council can play a leadership role in bringing together members of the arts community to drive delivery and visibility of arts and culture in our city
Ryan	HAMILTON	For me its has been the development from idea through to concept and implementation (currently in process) of bringing together many stakeholders of our community to achieve what has previously been put in the 'too hard basket.' Namely the mural concept on the Anglesea street wall – Te	HCC is currently reviewing its whole policy and guiding principles in this space and are really seeking this to be a community led document so now is the time for the community and art stakeholders to really input in to the process. Council needs to provide a comprehensive document that will speak to the	Remember HCC is already a major investor and supporter of many sectors of the arts already like libraries, our museum and theatre support and enablement. We have much Taonga and Kaitiaki with that. With a clearer arts strategy as described above we can be more effective about what our role (as council)

		Kopuu Mania o Kirikiriroa into one of (if not the largest) murals in Aotearoa. Having had no art background it has been a real journey of navigating community sentiment, cultural challenges and inputs, korero with Iwi, assessments by engineers and extensive dialogues with trusts, local government and funding opportunities.	next 30 years and beyond and provide both short and long term objectives that identify where our gaps are and where the opportunities lie whilst providing real clarity to the arts sector.	should be regarding arts infrastructure and this will also provide much needed clarity to the arts stakeholders and also our cultural strategies and considerations so that we can all plan in a strategic, aligned way rather than in some of the ad hoc manner we have historically.
Kesh	NAIDOO-RAUF	No response	No response	No response
Rob	PASCOE	Many including recent NZSO concerts at Claudelands, the Manfred's, and Sweet Charity at Clarence Street Theatre.	The Council's art strategy needs to be regularly updated so that it focuses on best outcomes with consultation lead by the Arts Community. It needs more focus on youth who now bring a much changed emphasis to community definition of Arts and Creativity.	Certainly retain the existing infrastructure, and continue to enable and where appropriate lead the Arts community towards best sustainability. With a growing city population, focus needs to reset funding in alignment with population numbers rather than adjustments to CPI etc.
Maxine	VAN OOSTEN	I have enjoyed a wide variety of theatre experiences in Hamilton in the last month. It started with 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at Riverlea Theatre, 'Hudson and Hall' at Clarence Street Theatre and 'Riding in Cars with (mostly straight) Boys' at the Meteor. Such great talent, organisation, entertainment & enjoyment. It makes me smile and feel proud.	Participation, access and funding are critical to a meaningful arts strategy. Our city is enriched by a thriving art sector that has support and certainty to maintain sustainability. We need cultural responsibility and partnership with Tauiwi, embracing all the diversity of Hamilton.	A strong cultural and creative sector plays an important role in economic development and in attracting visitors to Hamilton. We must maintain and develop the infrastructure - both physical and organisational - that supports our rich diversity and provision of the arts locally. Libraries, sports and recreation grounds, swimming pools, support for community leisure activities, arts and cultural events are part and parcel of a living, vibrant city. I will work with communities and organisations to promote good service that is accessible to all.
<b>Councillors (West Ward)</b>				
Martin	GALLAGHER	Attending the opening of E Hina e ! E Hine e! at the Waikato Museum featuring works that explore the contemporary and ancestral importance of Maori and Kanaka Maoli(Native Hawaiian)women. It was wonderful to learn of these works in terms of our Polynesian heritage. Also to attend a simply excellent theatre production earlier in the year The God of Carnage produced by Bold Theatre at the Meteor.	Obviously to continue to support via a range of means the very wide cross section of the creative arts in Hamilton. Working closely with Creative Waikato who have been both very assertive and helpful in their advocacy and advice. We should continue to remind ourselves that a vibrant creative arts scene is excellent for both our social and economic well-being as a community.	Examples of current investment include, but should not be limited to the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial investment in construction and operation of the proposed new and iconic Waikato Regional Theatre.</li> <li>• Ongoing contribution to the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival.</li> <li>• The recent 'gifting' of both the Meteor and the Clarence St Theatre is an example of a partnership between Council and our creative sector.</li> <li>• To continue and improve ways that we can support the wide range of our arts groups eg via our Community Grants programmes.</li> <li>• Continued support for the Waikato Museum and the very talented professionals</li> </ul>

				<p>who work there, including support for Friends and WSA .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listen to and work with our creative arts community into the future.</li></ul>
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Dave	MACPHERSON	What is your favourite recent arts experience? A tour of the community arts precinct facilities at Norris Ward Park in July, leading to ongoing discussion about the needs of community arts organisations.	What do you think should be at the core of the council's arts strategy? Provision of facilities and support for the different elements of the arts communities, sufficient to enable them and their members/participants to achieve the aims/realise their potential.	How do you think the council should invest in the arts and arts infrastructure? By financing at a level commensurate with the investment in sporting facilities/infrastructure in the city, following an agreed long-term plan developed hand in hand with the different elements of the arts/cultural community. As part of this, ensuring that community arts and cultural organisations receive good, ongoing support – not just the higher-level arts facilities & organisations.
Angela	O'LEARY	How do you choose the most favourite when we live in a city that offers so much! So, it has to be two, Hudson & Hall and Boon Street. I had the total experience with Hudson & Hall starting off with a "matched show menu" at Mr Pickles, and then a frolicking night at one of our treasured theatres. Boon Street just gets better and better and I had a total experience via a tuk-tuk. My favourite murals this year were from Stephen Templer and Enox.	For me it's Spaces and Places. This is what Council can do to enable real opportunities. It hasn't moved fast enough for me this term and while I'm a strong supporter of the new theatre, nothing much else has happened. If I'm elected Mayor my focus will be to commit to delivery of new spaces and places around the city that encourage new opportunities and create new capacity.	I am announcing that I will establish an Arts & Culture Infrastructure Development Fund. This fund will match dollar for dollar to add to our city's Arts infrastructure. The goal of the fund will be to increase the number of spaces and places where Arts can happen, where it occurs frequently, and you find it locally. This will continue to shape our identity as a city and add to our attraction as an exciting visitor destination.
Geoff	TAYLOR	No response	No response	No response
Sarah	THOMSON	Watching Riding in Cars with (Mostly Straight) Boys at the Meteor.	This is something that should be decided in consultation with the arts community. However, in my view some important principles would be the sustainability of the arts sector in Hamilton so that we can retain talent; encouraging and supporting new projects and emerging artists; and celebrating Toi Maaori.	A suitable funding criteria needs to be developed that results in the right balance of arts projects being funded, and that supports and removes barriers for new initiatives to get off the ground. For large events funding, we should explore whether to establish an independent panel to make funding decisions. In terms of infrastructure, the Arts Agenda outlines the need for an art gallery, which I would support. Having an open dialogue and listening is key, and it would be great to reinstate the arts advisory panel to help with this.
Ewan	WILSON	Having just spent six months volunteering with my wife Monique in Manila Philippines frequent visits to the Pinto Museum was an excellent way of ensuring mental well-being in what can be a pretty hectic town. It is the home of Contemporary Art in the Philippines and has a magnificent indigenous art gallery.	Vibrant and dynamic arts and cultural scene is an essential component of Hamilton cities identity. A city is more than just a centre of commercial and academic excellence. The city must invest, facilitate and support the city's art sector including all forms of creative practice and artistic expression.	Council needs to ensure we partner with those in the arts and cultural scene who are the experts in their field. Council has an obligation and must ensure investment in arts infrastructure but never alone, and it needs to be public-private initiatives. Recent examples of how the Clarence Street Theatre, Riverlea and the Meteor have grown and thrived under

				<p>non-council leadership shows how the community experts can drive creativity activity and commercial success when enabled. I support the Waikato Regional Theatre and feel that the whole community must be involved with the decision of what is next for the Founders Theatre once all funds are raised for the Waikato Regional Theatre.</p>
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