

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? |
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| Mayoral Candidates | | | | |
| Horiana | HENDERSON | As I was coming out of the main Council building (on the Wintec side), I was feeling anxious after putting my nomination forms in, I had my head down as I exited the building, and then I looked up and saw the Te Koopu Maania o Kirikiriroa mural and it just grounded me and connected me to the space, to Kirikiriroa and its rich history and it made me feel really great. | That the arts give identity and vibrancy to our city and creators and arts organisations should view Hamilton Kirikiriroa as a supportive environment where they can produce works that add to an exciting city that people want to live in and visit. The arts strategy should also recognise that the creative sector creates employment and tourism opportunities that boosts the local economy and brings money into the city. | Council can support organisations and initiatives such as Creative Waikato, live music, and BOON. Spaces like the Museum, Hamilton Gardens, the library, community houses and theatres, should also be hubs of creativity that provide opportunities for Hamiltonians to enjoy and participate in the arts. |
| Paula | SOUTHGATE | Oh dear, just one? I am torn. I really enjoyed the Toi is Whenua exhibition at the Waikato Museum Te Whare Taonga o Waikato but, I also recently enjoyed NZ musical talent of LAB at the Globox Claudelands Arena AND Boon After Dark. What I really love is the diversity of experience we can enjoy from performance to visual arts in our venues or on our streets. | Creating a diverse and accessible range or arts experience for all to enjoy. This means ensuring affordable (including some free to the public) opportunities to enjoy both performance and visual arts. Supporting a wide range of creativity by working with established artists and art trusts but also allowing for everyone to have the chance to participate in the development of art for our city. Enriching our streets and public spaces with a diverse and unique blend of public arts from murals, sculptures, and memorials. Embrace the opportunities for story telling through art. Inclusivity of the arts of iwi and all cultures in our city. This includes alignment of funding | I support the Creative Communities Scheme, Creative Partnerships Fund and Community Fund, but we may need to review the level of funding available. We need to support the cornerstone events that have delivered proven results over time. For example, Boon Street Art, Hamilton Garden Arts Festival, Trees at the Meteor, Mataariki a Waikato, But we also need to provide opportunities for new experiences to grow and improve. We need to support our diverse community to create and host arts events. I strongly believe there is value in our diverse cultures including the wider public in their events, sharing their stories. I often attend ethnic events that are wonderful and wish we could enable more of the public to access and |


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| | | | opportunities. Supporting our theatres and performing arts venue and creating further opportunities for arts in public spaces. Supporting arts event in the Central City and along our riverside. But also supporting events in local communities that build inclusivity and participation. | enjoy them. Investment into the arts community should be informed by Creative Waikato. We should facilitate and explore funding partnerships with our supportive business community. |
| Jack | GEILEN | My favourite recent art experience was a Making your journey art exhibition which highlighted artists displaying their journeys involving facing the real issues of life describing their anxiety, trauma, heartache and how they overcome and conquered their biggest challenges transforming their pain moving from the darkness to the light. Suffering from mental stigma isn't easy using art as an expression symbol and belief is very important. People were told not to judge their work but to keep practicing and developing their own style which was rewarding for themselves and others who got inspired by their journeys. | Council needs to focus on groups who facilitate people's journeys not just huge cost meaningless pieces of iron or a plastic multicoloured plastic tongue. Art needs to be about everyone's journey and their rights to express themselves. This is evident by youth who go astray graffitiing walls and painting unusual images in tunnels. Do we need to have big scrolls put up in garden place where everyday people can put up messages. By not providing democratic assemblies and making voting compulsory even by not lowering the voting age the government and council are involved in shutting us all down where we all put gags on our mouths and push into our unconscious the dark energies of life. Sometimes I feel like we're all involved in a zombie apocalypse. It's time for all Hamiltonians to come out of their shells and start to express ourselves in whatever artistic expression takes our fancy. | Council should invest in groups and agencies which help people develop their artistic abilities ranging from drawing painting, dancing, drama in theatre as well as theatre. Individuals have to acquire a busker's licence which slows down freedom of expression. What happened to poets corner or the stage where people can get up and perform songs. The council should keep in contact with all the schools, polytechs and universities to facilitate music art and drama backing up the latest artistic development. My organisation the NZSPT has been trying to get Lady Gaga to perform in Hamilton as part of a Rainbow Ribbons buddy support trauma recovery programme. I think Council needs to think laterally and be more innovatively with its ideas about infrastructure. |
| Donna | POKERE-PHILLIPS | As a Maaori, we love storytelling, kapa haka and all traditional and contemporary art forms and all types of music. Art forms run in our veins. | I would love to see more concerts and arts festivals brought to our beautiful city, we could use these as an opportunity to promote our city. I would love to see a river festival. | By creating festivals around our beautiful awa, as mentioned earlier, it could be a music festival, food festival or any other festival. This will bring people in to our city, good for commerce as well. |

East Ward Candidates

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| Jenny | NAND | Matariki Boon after Dark Light up Show | The core of the strategy should be supporting initiatives that provide significant opportunities for communities to thrive, engage with the city and improve the wellbeing of all Hamiltonians. | I believe HCC should prioritise: Committing to a long-term arts & arts infrastructure strategic plan and create sector partnerships, locally, regionally, and nationally. This also involves working in partnership with central government to secure localised funding opportunities for the sector. Create an intentional pathway to embed arts in the soft infrastructure (people and services) and hard infrastructure (physical assets). |
| Anna | CASEY-COX | I thoroughly enjoyed ‘That Bloody Women’ at The Meteor theatre this past weekend. I loved it not only for the huge amount of local talent, who gave me belly laughs and brought me to tears, but also for the way it inspired hope for change. If women could organise their advocacy time and again for the vote, be defeated and still keep going until victory, we can do the same with the multiple societal issues we face. The arts inspire, motivate, challenge and even heal us. | The stories and history of Kirikiriroa Hamilton should be at the core of the council’s arts strategy. The strategy should promote arts that contribute to placemaking, and help build local identity in an inclusive manner. The arts strategy should have strong links to He Pou Manawa Ora (Pillars of Wellbeing) - a strategy which outlines Hamilton City Council's vision for a city that celebrates its whole history. The strategy should also recognise the importance of supporting local artists and achieving sustainable funding for the arts sector. | Council should attend to the inequity of funding between sports and recreation and the arts, achieving greater balance. Council should support arts that enable youth participation and engagement - the benefits in terms of wellbeing and connection are immeasurable. Council should also base its arts investment on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the promise of equity, ensuring that Māori arts and culture are supported in an equitable way. Council should invest in arts that promote diversity and identity with a goal of kotahitanga (unity). |
| Ross | MACLEOD | It’s a few months back now but I really enjoyed The Sherpa and The Bee-keeper, a play developed through the Boil Up mentoring programme at The Meteor. Having been involved in a staged reading of the original draft, it was interesting to see what had changed. It’s a very well researched and imaginative piece. | Art strategy should encourage diversity, both in art forms and in scale. Across the many different forms, there are different needs, ranging from smaller artists and groups starting out through to established creators providing larger works to the community. By supporting all stages of this spectrum, council creates pathways within the arts for people to build their craft. | In my time on the Creative Community Scheme assessment panel it was always impressive what artists could do with relatively small financial support, though this shouldn’t take for granted as it’s it’s important for artist to be able to be paid something for their time and effort. Specific support for larger projects is a good way to attract national funding, which has been lacking in the Waikato for a long time. The recent Boil Up programme at The Meteor is a good example of a project that attracted CNZ funding, |

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| | | | | built on infrastructure supported by the council over many years. |
| Jake | TAIT | I am a huge fan of the 48hour film festival. This is an incredible and inclusive festival and involves almost every facet of our arts community. You could join to film, act, compose or run lunch orders. From professional directors to cell phone wielding farmers, everyone has an opportunity to be involved in the art form of telling stories on screen. | Our people! We need to listen to our people! We need to expand our focus as a city on revitalizing our histories and our culture. The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigineous Peoples has articles addressing this exact thing and by providing a focus on cultural activities and art we can easily create a city that's vibrant and incredible for everyone! Kirikiriroa is our home, let's make it feel like it! | Forming ACTUAL partnerships with the arts rather than a very limited funding model that they call a 'partnership.' This would include supporting arts exchanges and promotional support schemes. An investment in the maintenance of community venues. Auditing how all of these are currently used and providing some assistance for organisations that are ready to expand into commercial buildings. Finally, a culture and arts council/panel for consultation when discussing funding. We would need to include many different facets of the cultural communities and ensure that collaboration between arts organisations and events is a priority. |
| Jacqui | STOKES | I recently went to the Salvador Dali Experience in Auckland. It was really enjoyable being immersed in his art. It would be good to be able to enjoy this sort of experience in Hamilton and I think the council is working towards this goal with the new theatre and the Claudelands facility being used more. I also enjoy the Boon Arts festivals and the garden arts festival. | The core of the council's art strategy should be helping people explore their own creativity and local arts. | Art often means different things to different people. Everyone is creative in their own way so it is good to provide many different art and creative experiences so that all people can be involved with the arts in Hamilton I feel the council should spend money on making art accessible for everyone while at the same time watching how much it spends. Spending on arts groups to help get more people involved in arts is a good spending. So is helping with art festivals that bring people from the wider community together. Having arts festivals also helps in creating a thriving city that is fun. |
| Jack | GEILEN | (see responses in Mayor section) | | |
| Horiana | HENDERSON | (see responses in Mayor section) | | |

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| Amy-Leigh | HOPA | <p>My most recent favourite arts experience, I'm unsure if it counts, but it was meeting the team down at Free FM. They may not necessarily remember who I am, but I loved the whole kaupapa. Freedom of expression is so important, and to have a space to do that (whatever it looks like), if it was comedy, storytelling, singing or yarning... the resources, the community vibe. Genuine amazingness, and I was so damn giddy after walking away.</p> | <p>"Where there is no vision, the people will perish" A whakatauki (or saying) that upholds the lessons, experiences and core values needed to keep successive councils aligned with the important role art and culture has on our people's quality of life through self-expression, and to uphold councils current vision of a thriving city.</p> | <p>Council acknowledgement and training around the impact art has on wellbeing. Revisit the current funding models with the intention to increase investment into both funding and the community spaces that improves access and supports the growth of our arts community.</p> |
| Peter | HUMPHREYS | <p>Take a moment with us at the Waikato museum</p> | <p>In Hamilton we have a diverse pallet of artistic ventures and the council is not the best guardian or organization to direct any strategy about the arts. The tenure of councilors can be short due to the 3 yearly elections. There is also a tendency for councilors sometimes only to have a single interest in the art scene. So for me, the arts strategy for Hamilton needs to be directed by the arts community. Creative Waikato needs to be the driver of the art strategy. For example, we have seen how well the Meteor has done since the community took over the governance and running of the theater. By adopting an art strategy driven by the arts community or Creative Waikato, there can be long-term planning regarding making Hamilton a more creative artistic city to live in.</p> | <p>The Creative Partnership Fund created in 2021/22 should be a consistent amount given to the arts each year. If art benefactors want to match the amount stipulated this should be a bonus rather than a requirement to receive the funds. By doing this there is a certainty that the arts community will have ongoing support from Council. Having personally been a member of the Hamilton City Councils Single Year Community Grants committee, I found the application for funding was dominated by community groups that often needed the funds to survive, hence the arts were often the last cab of the rank. If elected I will be seeking reinstatement of a community representative group to distribute the Single Year Community Grants funds. I will also be pushing for a strong representation of the arts community on this committee.</p> |
| Tania | TEMONI-SYME | <p>It would be the mural art on the Council building, it's my favourite piece of art, this Taonga Whakairo mural represents transition it is a</p> | <p>To support the arts and culture and to incorporate arts culture music into the Economic, Tourism community to improve wellbeing, to strengthen our</p> | <p>Having an infrastructure in place for arts culture performances through stories shared and displayed on walls that speaks about culture iwi hapu also</p> |

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| | | <p>pare which is usually found above a doorway a doorway represents leaving one place or zone and entering another usually from the outside of the building into the interior of the building in this scenario the counselling building it symbolizes the thoughts, the decisions, thinking and decision making that occurs within the council, and transition, into reality within the Community the attributes of the painting reminds Council to appreciate that maori are treaty partners and have a philosophy, and way of operating that is conducted to a vibrant, prosperous Community.</p> | <p>community so it will bring unity and diversity into safe green spaces with infrastructure around, so people feel apart and have a sense of belonging within their space.</p> | <p>engaging and introducing the rainbow  hub to get involved actively and to share their art and stories on the walls including everyone bringing Community and cultures together through art.</p> |
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West Ward Candidates

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| Michael | WEST | <p>My wife and I recently attended the Orchestras Central Trust “Nature Inspired” concert which we thoroughly enjoyed.</p> | <p>Allow the people at the core of the arts communities, who best understand the needs of those communities, to function without hinderance from regulation and trust them to achieve their desired outcomes by providing easy and inexpensive access to public facilities and have an open mind to community led initiatives that support the arts.</p> | <p>By maintaining council owned facilities which support the arts communities, to a level representative of local participation and proportional to those provided for sport and other forms of recreation.</p> |
| Jose | GONZALEZ | <p>My favourite recent arts experience is an arts project that I project managed on behalf of the Waikato Hispano Latino Trust (as a Trustee). The project was funded through Hamilton’s Creative Communities Scheme, which is administered by Creative Waikato. The project involved delivering a 5(W)x3(H) backdrop design that portrayed the history, landmarks, and culture of more than 20 Spanish speaking countries! The project was</p> | <p>Hamilton City Council currently doesn’t have an approved arts strategy. I think a priority for council should be to develop an arts Strategy that influences council’s Long Term Plan decisions regarding the maintenance and investment in creative spaces/facilities to support Hamilton and Waikato artists. Four key objectives of an arts strategy (if developed) should be:</p> | <p>Hamilton City Council should develop a strategy with key arts projects and arts facilities that are funded through council’s Long Term Plan. Additional to allocating funding for this, council should also define performance measures, so the community knows if council is delivering or not. The council should continue to partner with expert organisations like Creative Waikato, to fund the arts through schemes like Creative Communities. It is important that community funding is maintained</p> |

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| | | completed by Constanza Briceño, a Chilean artist based in Tauranga. She did an amazing job! The aim is to unveil it at this year's Hispanic Spring Festival, on the 24 of September at the Hamilton Gardens. | Create (& maintain) physical spaces where our city can celebrate arts and support local artists; To make arts accessible and affordable to all Hamiltonians; To continue to fund community art projects; and To support the learning of the arts across council facilities. | to form strong partnerships with private and non-profit community organisations. |
| Dan | STEER | Boon after Dark 2022 and seeing the amazing, glowing, temporary sculpture installations! This year included 'Phonic Light Bridge' by Phoenix de Vere in Garden Place and the interactive 'UV Spaghetti' by Angus Muir at Victoria on the River. A few months ago I also attended the Saw Wave – Music Concert at Mesoverse which included a creatives market and street art displays. | We need an arts strategy that will allow our council to look for opportunities to bring collaboration and creativity in all that we do. I am reminded of the recent Matariki ki Waikato Festival and the previous Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival and seeing crowds of thousands both local and visiting drawn to participate in all that the festivals have to offer. Hamiltonians love the arts, culture and creativity, so it is essential for council to look for those opportunities, be bold and feel inspired. | We need creative spaces where our artists, musicians and performers can showcase their talents, this is essential for bringing life to our city. An example was when the Immersive Experiences group was gifted a temporary building lease by Hamilton City Council to create the Mesoverse immersive art installation space in the central city. We need to further support artists and the arts in Hamilton and focus on inclusion, visibility and success of our cities artists and arts organisations. I am also excited for the Waikato Regional Theatre which will be truly transformational for our city. |
| Emma | PIKE | My favourite recent arts experience was a show at the Meteor called "Hui (Pronounced Who-ee)" which was held as part of the Matariki Festival. It was created and performed by two locals, waahine toa Hinerangimarie Berryman and Fairfield's finest Benny Marama who carefully constructed a softly confronting conversation with the audience as the characters battled with their own identity and role in the workplace and beyond. I have regularly attended performances at the Meteor over the years and enjoyed a smorgasbord of acts on | The core of the Council's arts strategy needs to be accessibility. I grew up in Hamilton City and one of the things I often reflect upon is the way the arts and music scene supported me in my teenage years. I was lucky enough to be amongst the local music scene (despite having zero musical talent myself) when there were many local venues such as Youthzone, 89fm, Ward Lane, Yellow Submarine, and Upsett Records, which offered all age safe spaces where young people could enjoy music, arts and have a creative outlet. If these venues were not accessible to me at that age I would | I would support more grassroots investments in the arts. If we expose more artists and performances at a grassroots level it will normalise it and encourage participation while inspiring other creatives to engage. In terms of infrastructure I think we need to open up more venues so event organisers can use them without too many restrictions which will allow our artists to utilise spaces and maximise their capacity. While the Regional Theatre will be an obvious asset to the city attracting world class talent and audiences, we need to continue to nurture the underground art scene |

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| | | offer including bands, improv theatre, musicals, burlesque shows, a zombie beauty pageant and I have even hosted a previous political event there too. | have lost so many opportunities, connections, friendships and perspective. To me, accessibility at all levels to our arts needs to be the core focus to allow our city to thrive. | which I believe is at the heart of Kirikiriroa's unique character. |
| Ewan | MACLEOD | I really enjoyed The Phonic Light Bridge by Phoenix de Vere as part of the Boon After Dark 2022. | I believe Hamilton City Council have a critical role in ensuring the city has a thriving arts and culture scene. | I feel Council's role is to enter into a partnership funding model rather than Council funding all the project and owning the venue. I supported the Waikato Regional theatre project with Momentum and the gifting of the Meteor Theatre as this is in my opinion the optimum model. |
| Angela | O'LEARY | Boon Street After Dark | Council doesn't actually have an 'arts strategy' at the moment but arts and performance is within one of our city's visions. At the core of supporting arts should be a commitment to investment in arts infrastructure and Council has done that through a financial commitment to the new Waikato Regional Theatre. | Answered in Q2. As the Councillor who proposed the gifting of the Meteor and Clarence Street Theatres back to the performing arts community, I think I have shown my commitment to arts over the years. |
| Melissa | SMITH | It's hard to pick a favourite! At the Meteor, I attended the Wintec Student Showcase (The Big Night Out!) and "Assassins". Meanwhile, I attended "Move Over Mrs Markham" at Riverlea Theatre. All the shows I have seen in Kirikiriroa Hamilton are brimming with talent and never fail to remind me of my love for live theatre. It is always so electric to be in the same space as the actors! | Clarence Street Theatre and the new Waikato Regional Theatre will bring in big productions and large audiences, but we must not forget local theatre. We should centre small, multi-use spaces such as the Meteor across the city in different communities so that actors have plenty of opportunity to stage productions, engage with the community, and gain experience in the arts. Additionally, we should ensure that there are many community spaces across the city for Hamiltonians to experience a variety of arts. | We must work and co-design with local communities and actors in order to meet their needs. We should also ensure that theatres and art infrastructure are well-connected to the rest of the city by a modern transportation network so that all Hamiltonians have the opportunity to enjoy our amazing art. |
| Sanjay | JOSHI | I had been to Paris and I saw artists, for decent fee, sketched a portrait. | a) Council should search the talented painters, portrait artists. b) Train and groom them to become good painters or portrait artists. | All the above steps will need following investment a) Spot the talent at school level and give scholarship etc. to train them. |

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| | | | <p>c) Give them enough publicity by TV and other media or books like lonely planet.</p> <p>d) Create a website so the visitors can choose an artist and take an appointment.</p> <p>e) A beautiful setting like Hamilton Gardens for a portrait or painting.</p> <p>f) For a top end experience, a wooden carving can be considered.</p> | <p>b) Advertise the service in media, travel agencies, travel books.</p> <p>c) Create a website where an artist can showcase the artist's work and the customer can book an appointment, prepay for the portrait or painting.</p> <p>d) The customer can select the setting in Hamilton Gardens or elsewhere.</p> <p>I feel, we will use the available resources and the investment will be very modest.</p> |
| Louise | HUTT | <p>A tie between Mesoverse - which is one of the coolest things I've been to, just really blew me away for the scale of the installations - and the art around Alexandra Street where I work. I particularly love Te Tatau ki Kirikiriroa (the MESH Sculpture at Victoria on the River) which I used to bike through every day as part of my commute. I love that art can be embedded into everyday life and I'm looking forward to going to more performances now our COVID-19 numbers are dropping (and I'm recovering from having COVID).</p> | <p>Investing in the arts as a public good that strengthens our connections to our history, our places, and each other;</p> <p>Ensure that there is a spread of funding across the spectrum of creative mediums as well as between new projects and established ones;</p> <p>Growing our audience share through realising the arts as a platform for tourism - regionally and nationally;</p> <p>Ensuring that we're tapping into funding schemes from the government and other organisations, and using Council's position to advocate for the arts in Hamilton at a national level.</p> | <p>Council should ensure the proposed arts panel is realised so that the arts community is at the forefront of decisions being made about it.</p> <p>Enable Hamilton to be a place where you can have a career in the arts, put food on the table, and pay your collaborators you work with... When I studied film at the University of Waikato, it was the top screen and media department in the country, but we've lost so many creatives because it's easier to make a living elsewhere - we need better funding that covers the true cost of creative work.</p> |
| Matthew | SMALL | <p>Boon Street festivals in the last few years have made parts of our city look beautiful. So glad it's going out to suburbs like Dinsdale.</p> | <p>I would like to see more Boon Street Festivals around the city.</p> | <p>This is where I'm not an expert, I would like to sit down with the experts if I'm elected and spend time learning more about the arts and Creative Waikato's vision. Then I would have a position.</p> |
| Roger | STRATFORD | <p>Enjoyed the brief street artwork north of Founders as I walked past.</p> | <p>Blend Eurocentric with Maaoriora in visual and performing arts.</p> | <p>Lobby Gambling Commission by encouraging extra pokies revenue for art charities from further uptake of extra pokies access for punters.</p> |

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| Sarah | THOMSON | <p>The Kate Sheppard musical 'That Bloody Woman' at the Meteor. I loved learning more about the life of a woman who was so influential in Aotearoa's history. The show had lots of humour and fantastic energy.</p> | <p>I think it'd make sense to use the Waikato Arts Navigator as a starting point for an arts strategy - it's a good regional strategy that was developed in consultation with the arts community and sets out five key areas of focus (creative wellbeing, prosperity, experiences, education and innovation).</p> <p>It's also important that we clearly articulate how the arts contribute to all of the four wellbeings so that decision makers and the community can have a deeper understanding of the important role that creative arts play in society and why we need to invest into the arts locally.</p> | <p>The Long Term Plan is where we can affect significant change. I would like to see us start preparing for the next Long Term Plan now by working together to identify key opportunities and priorities for the arts in Kirikiriroa for the next few years. We are doing a review of community space at the moment and this is also an important opportunity to work with the arts sector to address infrastructure needs such as rehearsal space. Beyond grants and infrastructure provision, there are other ways the council needs to support the arts, for example, there are increasingly issues with live music and events and noise complaints which we may need to address through district plan changes.</p> |
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Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward Candidates

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| Moko | TAUARIKI | <p>My favourite recent arts experience are the Maaori designs that feature on an abutment wall at the Ohaupo/Peacocks roundabout when heading towards Ohaupo. While that is not directly a HCC initiative, I know that HCC have been involved in supporting those types of creative pieces from developers.</p> | <p>That it is informed by diverse artists and their credentials around how to design and implement an arts strategy. I don't think councilors should be informing the strategy in detail because we are typically not experienced in the arts (massive assumption and happy to accept the backlash). As a Maaori I would expect that the composition of creative arts people designing and informing this space would include Maaori as part of its decision making process.</p> | <p>Generational planning that recognises the value that the arts brings to our city. It is always good to look at how arts can provide some fiscal return as part of sustaining itself in the future or enhancing its own infrastructure revenue. A 10yr projected budget that recognises and provides for the arts to be innovative and aspirational. I would like to explore the possibility of our Arts staff to work alongside developers to help inform aspects of their landscaping and in some cases the general aesthetics of proposed developmental nodes across Kirikiriroa and perhaps wider. These are potential contract opportunities</p> |
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| | | | | for Creative Waikato to explore which would go some way towards revenue generation. Council would have a fair idea of what the next 10yrs looks like and therefore can share that with you as an Innovative option. |
| Team Response | | | | |
| Team | Integrity | Travelling around the city experiencing the various forms of art. The Team has been working on restructuring Founders. The reason is to provide a cost effective solution for all forms of art with the hope of encouraging start-up artists to begin their talent discovery. Our research tells us that this capability is in short supply and access often restricted by commercial hire and lack of dining facilities. | Core purpose - to facilitate and support <u>community-led</u> creative experiences and engagement. This can be achieved in a local way through the implementation of Community Boards. | <p>Review and make transparent the funding criteria, with the aim to free up funding from current council Recreation & Visitor spend. Reallocate more to community-led initiatives to foster creativity eg local school 'celebrations' in arts, music and dance etc... Celebrate the ethnic diversity with celebration weekends. Seems HCC spends millions on rugby and cricket and events facilities (Subsidising \$166M from FY2011 to FY2021), but we question the \$350K in support for the city's community houses who then compete with each other to raise more than \$3m themselves for their activities.</p> <p>In summary, we support more effort going towards the small to medium arts communities with outcomes defined by the local community, with guidance from organisations such as Creative Waikato. We believe that the most cost effective way of getting there is through Community Boards and Founders Community Hub.</p> |