

HAURAKI DISTRICT

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?
Mayoral Candidates				
No Response				
Paeroa Ward Candidates				
No Response				
Plains Ward Candidates				
Luke	VAN VLIET	This August the 20 th I had the privilege of playing a major role in the organizing and putting on of the Kerepehi Brass Bands 75th Anniversary. It turned out to be such a fantastic event with large numbers turning up from the local communities. It was encouraging to the band growing, thriving and doing so well.	I believe that the council's art strategy should be based around the development of groups and organisations that are adding to the community. Whether it be through services to the community or through inclusivity. Encouraging and making the arts attractive to younger generations is also something that should be near the core.	A lot of the infrastructure used by the arts communities, whether it's the town halls or their own halls/venues is beginning to age. Investment into aid in the refurbishment of some of these venues and facilities would be beneficial. Secondly investment aimed at encouraging the next generation to get into the arts. There seems to be less involvement from young people in this sector. It is important to see that these organisations have a future long term.
Waihi Ward Candidates				
Josh	MARTYN	The most impactful performance experience I recently attended was a small show put on in-part by a good friend of mine. This was part comedy, and part performance art. I had to travel out of town to see the show, so would love to see more locally produced and performed shows of this type.	Recognising arts as one of the pillars of community. Encouraging inclusivity and diversity in the arts. Celebrating creative local pursuits. Making it easier for artistic events to take place.	I believe the council has a role to play in making our town a place where the creative community thrives and is easily accessible. This should include investment in, and maintenance of, creative spaces, and easily accessed grants for community groups. The council can also sponsor and encourage artistic pursuits and events in public spaces to diversify the types of arts that our town can experience.

Sarah	HOLMES	As the editor of the local newsletter Waikino Whisper, in 2022 I've had the opportunity to interview and write features on local Waikino creatives including Con Kiernan (mosaic artist) and Elette Wheeler (painter, illustrator, writer, designer). We have also featured Art Johnstone (poet) and Audrey Ranga (florist). It was inspiring to hear what drives these creatives, their support systems, and the creative process from the artist perspective. It has been a privilege to capture the emotion and soul that goes into creative work.	Engaging with the creative community, using the council's platform to showcase and spotlight local creatives. Working with creatives to build business around their passions. Incorporating local creative work in public spaces, and facilitating codesign. Helping to create a culture in our small towns that embraces all aspects of creativity, including music, performance art, sculpture, writing.	Depends on the funds available, level of investment required, and the benefits of individual initiatives and infrastructure. I would generally support financial assistance towards local theatres, arts societies, public installations etc, as I believe the value is returned to the community in culture. The culture of a community is what makes it special and somewhere that people want to live. When somewhere has a 'nice feel' about it, it's likely because the local culture is good, and this is impossible to do without creative input.
Amanda May	RYAN	Difficult to choose, as an art practitioner, I loved collaborating with three Hauraki artists on a Creative Kindness project last month to create a video "Water as Kindness". The National Youth Jazz Competition is an annual event I organise with my husband on behalf of the Tauranga Jazz Society. This year 525 secondary school students competed over two and half days. I love to see the enthusiasm the students have for music and the joy it creates for them and the audience providing an empowering arts experience and one which the students never forget.	A thriving arts sector delivers economic and wellbeing benefits to the community. Our arts strategy should promote: Participation – Enabling all people in Hauraki to have access and the means to participate in the arts Identity – Reflect who we are as a diverse community, and this be visible in our townships and infrastructure Creative Economy – Support the sustainability of our creative economy and ensure it thrives.	Set up an Arts and Events Support Fund to provide financial support to a wide range of community projects and events that create opportunities for our community to engage with and participate in arts activities. Put 1% of council's annual capital projects budget aside to fund public art in new and existing infrastructure. Consider greater recognition and visibility of Toi Maori in Hauraki arts infrastructure and engage with and support local creatives.
Anne Marie	SPICER	My son is Hazey - a DnB DJ. Watching him perform locally at the Gold Rush festival here in Waihi (we were the oldest by miles!) was a huge highlight for me personally. I also really enjoyed the last Waihi Art and Street Festival - an event the whole town embraced with great activities for all ages in different locations. It's on again this summer on the 28/29 of January.	We need to create a framework supporting current and future arts and culture here in Hauraki. One which focuses on building better connections with organisations like Creative Waikato and with arts funders. And one that creates a good network for local artists and events organisers, providing them with the support they might need	We live in a district where deprivation is high and rates affordability is a concern. Council, therefore, needs to invest with this in mind in all it does. However, the Arts are important - from murals to cultural events, plays and festivals, these can all help lift our spirits and encourage us to get out and socialise. They can also be educational, interesting and fun. I'd like to see our

			to help them with projects and events our communities will enjoy.	Council partner with organisations to secure external funding so that we can invest better locally in the Arts. We should also ensure that Council incorporates more art and heritage into its civic projects and that it continues to administer the Creative New Zealand' Creative Communities Scheme,' as per Council's Manaaki Toiora strategy.
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