

## Community Summary Long Term Plan Hauraki District Council

Arts, culture and creativity contributes to thriving communities. When arts, culture and creativity is supported, strong and visible communities are strong and visible.

Arts, culture and creativity is woven through all aspects of life. It has a key role to play in creating thriving and liveable towns and cities. The creative activation of public spaces supports the preservation of council assets, and promotes social cohesion and community connection. Sustainable creative career opportunities attract and retain workers and innovative businesses.

Arts culture and creativity supports community and individual wellbeing. In Waikato, those who report being highly engaged with arts, culture and creativity have 5% higher overall wellbeing as compared to those with little or no engagement.<sup>1</sup> Research has shown that recreational arts can support mental wellbeing. ‘Those who engaged in 100 or more hours/year of arts engagement (i.e. two or more hours/week) reported significantly better mental well-being than other levels of engagement.’<sup>2</sup>

Councils are currently seeking community feedback around their long term plans (LTPs). Long Term Plans outline Council’s activities and how they are managed, delivered and funded<sup>3</sup>. Under the Local Government Act, Councils must consult with their communities on the LTP (or 10 year plan) every 3 years.<sup>4</sup> A common theme across these consultations is the need to be strategic around prioritising investment.

It is important that investment in community wellbeing is prioritised and protected. The core role of council, as outlined in the legislation, is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities. This is the required (or statutory) purpose of council.

We have a role to play in supporting council in this work, by letting them know that we will support them to deliver these wellbeings. We can share

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<sup>1</sup> Huber Social, ‘Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato’ (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p.22, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

<sup>2</sup> Christina Davies, Matthew Knuiman & Michael Rosenberg, ‘The art of being mentally healthy: a study to quantify the relationship between recreational arts engagement and mental well-being in the general population, BMC Public Health, vol.16, <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-015-2672-7>.

<sup>3</sup> Waikato District Council

[https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan#:~:text=The%20Long%20Term%20Plan%20\(LTP,\(including%20proposed%20rate%20increases\).](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan#:~:text=The%20Long%20Term%20Plan%20(LTP,(including%20proposed%20rate%20increases).)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

with the council and with others in our community that we know and care about more than solely economic concerns. It is important that we share about the other things that we value in our lives.

This can be as simple as writing an email or letter to council about the things that you care about.

### **Consultation closes Friday 26 April 2024**

[Here](#) is a link to the council's resources for the Long Term Plan feedback process. It is important to know that you do not need to answer every question, or go into great detail. You can speak from your own experience, and share about what you really value and care about. Anything you can do to add your voice to the chorus is powerful.

You can find the consultation document, supporting documents, and feedback portal here: <https://letstalk.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/2024-ltp>

You will need to create an account to provide feedback.

We have pulled out some key moments where arts, culture, creativity and community are mentioned. You might want to mention some of these, and what you want to happen with regard to these. Feel very free to copy and paste from here, and make any edits or additions you would like.

The Hauraki District Council highlights 4 community outcomes which drive everything we do at Council'.

These are:

'Healthy environment | Te Mauri o te Taio

**Connected people** | Tūhono

**Vibrant and safe communities** | Te Oranga pai o Hapori

Strong Economy | Oranga Ōhanga'

There is also a strong focus on '**Community placemaking**'. This is: 'the idea that strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, through a collaborative process, can shape our public spaces and maximise the benefit to the community'.<sup>5</sup> Arts, culture and creativity can play an important role in this placemaking, with creatives contributing to the creation and activation of public spaces.

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<sup>5</sup> P.21 of consultation document

There is also a clear focus on ‘**community wellbeing**’ throughout the consultation document.

Arts, culture and creativity supports community wellbeing. There is research to support this, like the 2022 Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in the Waikato report here:

<https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>. You could point your council towards it.

The document also shares about a **Public Arts Fund**, which was created as part of a Public Arts Policy in 2023. ‘With the aim for our district to be home to many pieces of public art, which reflect and value the diversity of culture in our community. [...] We’re proposing an annual contestable public arts fund of \$30,000 in this Long Term Plan’

So if you talk about these things, and use these key words, then good stuff.

In the portal, there are some specific issues that the Council is asking for feedback on:

#### **Q 8+9. Issue 2: Waihi Arts Centre and Museum**

##### **How do we address the earthquake strengthening that this building requires?**

(You can read more about this on pages 33 and 34 of the consultation document).

If you think that the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum should be kept as a community space, and strengthened, then select this, (option 2, or 3 if you would like to see further upgrades) and in the ‘further comment section’ you can share why. You could talk about the events and taonga that matter to you, or why this is an important community space to you and your whānau. What value does the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum contribute to the community? Do you think it draws visitors and tourism? Does it contribute to local cultural identity and preserve history? Share what you think.

#### **Q. 12.**

##### **Development Contributions policy feedback**

In this section, you might share something like:

‘I support the collection of development contributions which include community infrastructure. Community spaces and the support of the people who activate them are important to the growth of this place. Some of my favourite community spaces are \_\_\_\_\_. As Hauraki grows, I support community infrastructure growing too’

**Q. 15.** At the end of the submission process, there is a section called:

**Anything else you’d like to get off your chest about our plans for the next ten years? Let us know here.**

It is important to let Council know when they are on the right track. This box is a good opportunity to lead with a positive vision, and show that you support the positive steps that Council are taking.

You might want to use this box to celebrate the Council’s investment in the public arts fund, and the Public Arts Policy. You could talk about some of your favourite public art or local artists.

There is a supporting strategy that, while not in the main consultation document, is referred to, and which we think is worth sharing your support of. The Manaaki Toiora Strategy takes the approach of putting wellbeing at the centre of Council’s thinking.

You might agree with Council, when they say that ‘We need a strong sense of identity and belonging. We should feel safe and secure in our communities and have the opportunity to participate in arts and cultural activities and join groups’. And including social and cultural wellbeing in Council’s work and vision. You might agree with their image, that ‘Like a kete, economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing are all interwoven. They are not separate, they are four strands of a whole’. If you do agree, you can say so, to encourage and tautoko Council.

You might share that ‘vibrant, creative spaces’ are important to you, and you support this focus. You might support the creation of the Street Art Policy they signal, and appreciate the support of the ‘District Events Coordinator who will work with each town to strengthen or develop key events- this includes working with artists, groups and organisations for the promotion and enhancement of local arts, culture and events.’<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> P.17 of Manaaki Toiora strategy

Creative Waikato are submitting to the long term plan too, and advocating for support for arts, culture and creativity in the Hauraki district. If you want to read some of what we will be sharing, you can check out these documents on our advocacy page:

<https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/standing-up-for-the-arts> - this will contain links to all our public submissions.