

MATAMATA-PIAKO 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				
Adrienne	WILCOCK	There is much talent across our district. I regularly support local events and went to two shows recently where locals showcase their talents, have some fun and entertain the patrons: Any Port in a Pandemic at the Matamata Dramatic Theatre and the Encore Cabaret at the Matamata Musical Theatre.	A strategy could be that council will enable the broad range of arts to be active and visible in our district through connecting with specialist groups like Creative Waikato and the community groups involved to facilitate great outcomes.	To me this is about building relationships, working with the people, for the people and not so much about council investing in bricks and mortar. Enhancing the vibrancy the Wallace Gallery already brings to Morrinsville through existing council support is a great example. Investing in the arts through enabling local events organised by local arts groups. There are numerous voluntary groups operating in this space representing a wide range of what is collectively called the arts. The creative arts and community grants schemes is available to support the arts in our community. There is further opportunity to include the arts into the heart of the district's towns including events to create vibrancy and add to the look and feel of our communities through Pride of Place work.
Te Aroha Ward Candidates				
No Response				
Te Aroha Ward Candidates				
Sarah-Jane	BOURNE	Our 14 year is a member of her schools choir so recently we have been fortunate enough recently to attend the Big Sing regional competition and then the Big Sing finale. The talent of	In Matamata-Piako we have a wide range of talent in our community. I believe continuing to promote and support local talent should be at the core of the councils art strategy.	I believe Matamata-Piako District Council should continue to support and invest in local talent. We already have the cows in Morrinsville, recycled metal sculptures in Te Aroha and

		the youth in this country is absolutely amazing!		various sculptures and murals in Matamata; all by amazing local artists. With the “Pride of Place” projects in the early stages, I hope to see further involvement of local artists in these projects.
Morrinsville Ward Candidates				
Zarsha	OSBORNE	Taking our family around the heritage landmarks. We love our history and we love walking, learning on the trails. My favourite art experience was the Van Gough exhibition in Auckland.	I like the current strategy of Provision of appropriate and sustainable arts, culture and heritage opportunities at the local and district levels. I definitely think there should be more of a push now we are post lockdowns, needing to get more community events happening again.	I think we have a lot of great infrastructure currently but need to ensure timely maintenance and repairs, and keep communication up to date with the partners and providers to the needs of the community.
Sharon	DEAN	My favourite recent arts experience is at our local photography club. I personally find photography relaxing and a way to be able to express myself in different ways. It is a great way to form new friendships with like-minded people and take on board new ideas. Photography leads on to other areas of creativity such as art/painting and design so opens up for creativity across the board.	Developing a strategy for the arts needs to be inclusive of the community as a whole. Arts covers anything from painting, photography, design through to gallery exhibitions and theatre performances. It is not limited to a specific age demographic so therefore planning should be focused on research and communicating with participants in each category, advisory groups, and key partners.	Council needs to focus on the cultural diversity and inclusive of all community members by encouraging participation in the arts/performing arts. An arts hub would be ideal in terms of providing inclusiveness, access to one venue, innovation within a district enabling a state of the art arts/performing arts hub. We need to recognise that arts/performing arts are growing in our district and cater accordingly. A state of the art hub like this would bring visitors/tourism to our district.
Dayne	HORNE	I little while ago my wife and I took our kids to the Wallace gallery in Morrinsville, while a number of exhibits were interesting and engaging, there was some three-dimensional cardboard steampunk type models that the kids and I thought were incredible, as a design engineer in my day-to-day job it was something I could really relate to and appreciate.	Engagement- how do you get people that wouldn't normally take the time to look through an art gallery to appreciate art? As an example, I think the cows around Morrinsville and Adrian Worsley's art around Te Aroha are fantastic for the towns and a great example of taking art to the people. I would ask are there opportunities to leverage these interactions to increase engagement in	I think it should be done in a way that would benefit other areas of the town at the same time, people that don't understand another person's passion will always look at that money as wasted, Council is constantly accused of wasting money, if that money spent appeals to more than just those that are interested in the arts there is less kick back and more engagement.

			the arts past them just sitting in front of businesses? Can we take that engagement and get people wanting to go and visit the local gallery somehow?	E.g., maybe promotion and encouragement of a busking and entertainers' afternoon around a quiet time for local hospitality industry, that way you have multiple areas of the community onboard at the start.
Matamata Ward Candidates				
Stephen	COPE	I recently visited the Mokena Geyser in Te Aroha Domain and my children discovered a sign advertising the start of reading trail. They were so excited to see the cover of a bilingual book, printed out nice and large, illuminated by the sun, welcoming them for a walk and a story. Their enthusiasm was infectious and it warmed my heart to see how they responded to the illustrations and words.	"Provision of appropriate and sustainable arts, culture and heritage opportunities at the local and district levels." That was the wording in 2009. We need to be a bit louder and prouder of the amazing work that goes on here in Matamata-Piako. Better visibility and continued funding.	Through our existing facilities and funding we are providing well regarded libraries in our towns, but there is still room for more that could be done, specifically in regards to the number of places for displaying art. That's a good start. Some of the live arts venues have also been struggling financially in the wake of Covid and will likely need some direct assistance to stay alive, as losing them would have long term negative effects.
James	SAINSBURY	I recently attended an Auckland Writers Festival Event where Jane Campion was talking about the Power of Film. Very inspirational to hear about the huge amount of hard work and creativity that has gone into Dame Campion's success. Closer to home, and slightly less recent, I attended "Any Port in A Pandemic" at the Matamata Little Theatre. The show was written by local talent, directed by a local talent and performed by local talent - all exceptional!	Enabling creativity to thrive.	Co-investment. Council providing seed-funding and/or support for the creative community so they leverage investment from elsewhere is key to a sustainable creative community.
Sue	WHITING	The Matamata Dramatic Art Society Production, "Any Port in a Pandemic"	Approving appropriate funding levels for local arts groups to ensure that they can continue to offer the community their valuable arts related expertise and events.	Continue to allocate funds to support Creative Waikato's initiatives and continue to provide grants to local arts groups.
Adrienne	WILCOCK	(see responses in Mayor section)		

