

THAMES-COROMANDEL 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				
Cherie	STAPLES	<p>Our Rohe Thames-Coromandel is home to some of New Zealand's most talented artists. They are visionary, they spotlight creativity that the rest of us never dreamed or imagined could be. I wonder if the passion to create is a relentless calling, everywhere they look there must be an image or a sculpture they visualise for that place.</p> <p>Our Thames town has been transformed from a blank canvas, a transformation that only an artist or visionary could see....Thames is alive with colour, history and culture with the very Murals that appear on walls that once stood bare.</p> <p>Our Whare Taonga has recently opened a display which exhibits a model of Te Totara Pa which shares insight into the lives of Our Tangata Whenua and there connection to land and sea.</p> <p>Our Hauraki Cycleway and Kuranui Walkway is a showcase of sculptures that are pleasing to the eye and some so practical as being a Jandal Seat. We all know that 'The Jandal' is a Coromandel signature.</p>	<p>Having looked at the Coromandel Arts and Creative Industries Strategy, I think there is no need to change what appears to be the core of the arts strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledging and promoting our Creative Community. 2. Develop partnerships for sustainability. 3. Fostering the arts in community development and education. <p>This link will take you to our Coromandel Creative Arts Strategy. https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/Global/1_Your%20Council/Documents%20including%20Bylaws_Policies%20and%20Strategies/4283188.pdf</p>	<p>Our Council has a long history of supporting the Arts, events and infrastructure here in our Thames Coromandel district. I know the history of Arts & Creativity started well earlier than the arrival of the potters around the 1960s and 70s. Our communities arts groups voiced that an arts strategy was needed to develop, promote and sustain local artists and arts activities.</p> <p>However if the Arts groups within our communities have questions regarding the strategy or feel the need to develop further than what is implemented than that is a discussion to be had with a full Council and Local Community Board Members.</p> <p>At this time I fully support the implementation and aspirations of the TCDC's current Coromandel Arts and Creative Industries Strategy.</p>

Peter	PINKHAM	My favourite recent experience was visiting the Maori Portraits exhibition at Auckland Art Gallery.	I find it hard to answer the next two questions because there are a number of local and national influences. There are a number of successful artists and performers in the area, and there are number of community groups. Philosophically I support artistic endeavour, and I have supported individual artists in the last few years both through purchasing works of art and I did set up and own an Art gallery for 18 months (which struggled financially). Fair to say I don't have enough knowledge to critique and offer any new ideas – but I am sympathetic.	(See answer to Q2)
Len	SALT	Mamma Mia live stage show in Thames, June 2022.	An understanding of the value of the arts and a willingness to support the arts in real terms. An appreciation of the contribution that arts and artists make to the economic and social well-being of the community. Arts and recreation contribute \$23 million a year to the Coromandel economy (Source: Infometrics). Creative Coromandel, which is the Trust established to deliver the TCDC Arts Strategy, is grossly underfunded, and our district continues to miss opportunities for significant economic development.	Thames-Coromandel should be funding a full-time senior level arts Chief Executive on a long-term contract. The role should be resourced to support the hundreds of small businesses and individuals working in the arts, and to provide a coordinated and measurable plan for growth and development of the sector. A vibrant and supported arts community benefits people of all ages, with a range of skill sets that spans the entire community. There are direct and tangible benefits to retired people. The positive benefits of involving young people in the arts are well documented. Bring these elements together and you have the formula for a healthy end engaged community.
Ron	JULIAN	Music - Whitianga Summer Concert Stage - Warhorse Movies - Top Gun: Maverick	The "Arts" are so hugely diverse meaning many different things to many different people, each element	All Council investment should be put to the test of value to the community and adjudicated upon

		Street - Steam-Punk, Thames	promoted by it's participants and supporters ahead of another. No one-size fits all in this sector which therefore requires a high order core strategy of Recognition, Balance and Equity	accordingly in balance and equity with all areas of expenditure. The Arts have a place in our culture along with the many other social and development sectors.
John	FREER	Van Gogh Alive and the production of Mamma Mia by Thames Music and Dance.	The creative arts are part of a range of elements which play critical roles in enabling cohesive and happy communities. My focus is people and communities matter. The arts, along with recreation and sports, enable people to evolve by both participating or simply experiencing the enjoyment of others creating or performing. The arts, in their many shapes and forms, must sit as a key contributor to cohesive communities for any council.	Investment in art must firstly be determined by the arts community - those as the providers of the arts are the best people to know what is required to achieve a functioning, effective, arts community. Councils as the enablers must work with appropriate stakeholders to prioritise recommendations so that they can come to fruition. Councils need to consider investment in shows and exhibitions to stimulate both participation or the pleasure and rewards of being a spectator.
Steve	HART	Personally I'm a major fan of the acrylic paintings of several NZ artists who focus on Impressionist Landscapes eg Helena Verharren, Helen Blair, Tony Ogle, Velman ,Blackburn and Galloway to name a few. I have used Velman and Blackburn in my websites and facebook group page. www.theecologistparty.com www.ecology-architect.com	The primary function of Council must be consulting the people. Listening to the people, their expectations, demands, wants, needs and most importantly engaging with their creative intelligence. Which we have a vast wealth of in this country. Such will be a rebirth of democracy which seems to have disappeared from NZ politics over the past 40 years and getting more abusive by the day. We must celebrate all arts, theatre and drama. It is a key element in the health of our culture. There exist a wide range of initiatives that could be engaged. A well facilitated Working Group with constructive aims and objectives would be an	As above...by instigating a Working Group fully represented from all sectors of The Arts. To brainstorm all opportunities and assist in instigating the initiatives created, creatively. Council should never be an easy touch for funding...it does need to facilitate and convene constructivism positively and creatively.

			excellent start that engaged representatives from right across the industry with an open door policy will see a lot achieved in collaboration.	
Coromandel-Colville Ward Candidates				
No Response				
Mercury Bay Ward Candidates				
Deli	CONNELL	The local Monkey House Theatre hosted Sean Kelly and Super 8s...a fabulous mix of historic super 8 film and spoken and sung stories. Best thing I've seen in years.	We have an Arts Strategy in TCDC. Whilst there is a lot of written support there hasn't been a lot of financial support. Money does need to be aligned with strategic goals of a vibrant community filled with performing and visual arts. Two things achieved thus far is the securing of land for a civic building and arts centre in Whitianga (future) and my being on a committee trying to secure funds for performing arts space in the interim.	The arts need to get into a budget line to start with. Other infrastructure always seems to take precedence...water, waste, street-lights and footpaths. There needs to be greater engagement with the community to create a priority list of desirable facilities and events. At present events can apply for CB or Council funding and support can be given 'in kind' like waiving fees etc but it doesn't go far enough.
South East Ward Candidates				
Terry	WALKER	The Whangamata Harcourts Challenge, held over 2 days in January each year, the event starts with a 150 ticketed wine and cheese evening for the prize giving, headed by an independent Art judge and sponsored by Harcourts and local business. The artists art promotes 2D and 3D and comes in many forms, representing Whangamata and surrounding towns, along with a strong local school section. There is a money reward for 2D & 3D winners with the overall grand winner receiving at trophy for a year and name inscribed. The event is increasing in size each year.	The TCDC Council needs a strong arts strategy that celebrates creativity, enriches the coromandel lifestyle by empowering and nurturing artists and fostering the arts. Council LTP funding to support Creative Coromandel administration of CCNZ grants and the role of an Arts Coordinator to connect and collate Coromandel Art Collectives events into an event calendar.	Connect the arts sector across the whole of the Peninsula, encouraging collaborations and referrals which spark creative activities identify, develop and promote shared arts spaces, facilities and resources, and encourage skill sharing and mentoring (inter- and intra-community). Develop strong on-line presence for the arts in the district. Build arts skills through training and development so that our creatives thrive. Support Toi (means Arts) Maori. Liaise with regional art providers (Creative Waikato) and promote capability building programmes. Raise awareness of the

				arts in the public and local government eye and increase audiences and arts participation
Thames Ward Candidates				
Robyn	SINCLAIR	I absolutely love street art- I love walking around a corner and seeing something I don't expect, or a snippet of something through windows or between trees ready to be discovered fully. But I also really love seeing art in a new way; I recently saw a small child interacting with a mural on Mary St, Thames. She was touching the birds, which were giant to her, experiencing the piece in sheer delight. It was magical; I watched it being painted and have seen that mural every few days for 2 years and saw it then with new eyes.	Primarily we need to collaborate with and enable the arts community. Enabling and commissioning work where appropriate to showcase our local talent, but also being open to opportunities presented where we haven't seen them. Relationships are going to be key, and I know there is already an established link with Creative Coromandel. This needs to be strengthened with greater collaboration.	Council should spend some time planning to ensure that the regulatory processes are easy and streamlined for the arts, this could aid installation of sculptures in our reserves or closing of streets for mural painting or performances. With great collaboration will come better ideals for this investment, to make better decisions about proposals for funding (for example), or promotion of events (when applicable).
Patrick	O'BRIEN	I've not (because of trucking work and covid) had a recent arts experience. Except perhaps if we include my own last personal stage appearance. After publishing 2 books, apparently ... I am a 'performance Poet'. Unadvertised not trumpeted about, but humbly shared simply by word of mouth.	The core of arts council strategy would be 2 retain and strengthen, bolster and encourage, talent we already so abundantly have. Reinforcing and maintaining a well established Arts council with afore mentioned in mind, would achieve that.	I'm unsure of investment. But not of the Arts. Through Encouragement I'm thinking. Encouraging artists, encourage creative ideas, encourage wide varied skills, encouraging infrastructure capable of displaying and promoting all artists and all their efforts...with growth and functionality always in mind.
Coromandel-Colville Community Board Candidates				
No Response				
Mercury Bay Community Board Candidates				
No Response				
Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board Candidates				
Warwick	BROOKS	None other than keeping an eye on local talent & displays	Promoting local art and artists	I think our council does a pretty good job considering our district's wide and diverse communities
Thames Community Board Candidates				

Rob	JOHNSTON	A recent arts experience that I enjoyed was working on the reinstatement of Michael Smithers “Colour Harmonics - Homage to Richard Pearse” with Paul Silvester of Thames Public Art Trust. We (TPAT) have ongoing work with TCDC at the moment trying to install more sculptures in and around the township.	At the core of council’s Arts Strategy should be an acknowledgement of the importance of the arts as a key component of everyday life that contributes to the wellbeing of society as a whole as well as having an economic benefit to the community and therefore something that they need to actively support.	TCDC needs to allocate significant funds to the arts industry in the area to allow practitioners and those whose businesses revolve around the arts to grow and prosper.
Fiona	CAMERON	My favourite recent art experience was the Matariki Art Exhibition I organised with my girls school, St Francis School here in Thames. It was a major fundraising event for the school and was the culmination of months work for my self, the children & artists involved. I held the exhibition in my gallery Bounty and all the artist who were involved I have worked with for years, many were local artists. The children's art works were on display in a public space called The Vibe, in the middle of Thames. We ran a Matariki Art’s Whanau day at the school and invited some artists to teach the children their crafts which then we exhibited in the children’s gallery space at The Vibe. I loved how this creative & cultural event involved many different people from our community & enjoyed seeing the Children's pride & the publics enjoyment of the two spaces we created to celebrate Matariki.	I think people & community should be at the core of our councils Art’s strategy. Promoting & making the creative arts, culture & heritage important and accessible to our communities brings social cohesion & emotional well being for all. It builds relationships & vibrancy in our towns & communities & can reflect what our values are. A strong Art’s strategy from a council has positive social, cultural & financial well-being for all.	I think our council should continue & increase its funding into local creative funding scheme’s like the Creative Community Scheme. It should provide funding or facilitate more creative workshops in our communities for children & adults. The creation of a public art space or exhibition, performance venue for all. The promotion & financial support by the council of our cultural & heritage sites & venues so they continue to be places of importance & looked after in our community. The coordination of local arts trails, open studios & creative events that the council can invest in and promote. The ongoing support of groups like the Thames Public Arts Trust so they can continue to put public artworks into our local environment. It should also make sure the creative arts sector is built into any long term plans & visions for our town and communities.
Whangamatā Community Board Candidates				
No Response				