

Review of Creative Communities Schemes (CCS) undertaken by Creative New Zealand Background to Changes Made

During early 2009 advice was received from Creative New Zealand that the process started in 2008 to review the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) was largely underway with the terms of reference established for the Review being:

- (a) What benefits does investment in the Creative Communities Scheme currently deliver for Creative New Zealand, local authorities and local communities?
- (b) How can the Creative Communities Scheme be enhanced to strongly deliver to Creative New Zealand's Strategic priorities and purpose?
- (c) What are the options for improvements that will assist the Creative Communities Scheme to fully achieve Creative New Zealand's Strategic Priorities.

Whilst the three questions above may not mean much to the lay person or groups and organisations that have received funding from the source in the past, it was nevertheless an important exercise to undertake to ensure that community engagement in the Arts was either strengthened or enhanced.

As part of its Strategic Plan Creative New Zealand was increasingly shifting its emphasis from that of just a funding agency to one working towards Art Development as a while. It also recognised the very strong role played by Territorial Authorities like the Horowhenua District Council in making local funding decisions through its appointed Local Assessment Committee, confirming that Territorial Authorities are the preferred arts provide for this scheme.

As with all funding schemes there has to be a sense of purpose as well as benefit to the recipient group and the CCS funding scheme has been refocused on supporting applications that meet one or more of three key funding criteria.

These are:

Broad Community Involvement - the project will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in art activities.

Diversity - the project will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity.

Young People - the project will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage with and actively participate in the arts.

It is felt that the Horowhenua District Council's Local Assessment Committee that administers the CCS funding scheme has over recent years worked under the above criteria reflecting the diverse membership of the Committee and its desire to make a difference or to make things happen around the whole local Arts scene. There have been exciting things happening in our District Art wise, and we hope this will continue.

Applicants for funding under the CCS funding scheme will from 1 July 2010 note that there are changes to the application form - focusing on how the project will benefit the community, how, when and where the project will be carried out and the actual people involved.

It is anticipated that the new format of the Application Form and supporting funding criteria will make requests for funding that much easier for individuals and groups alike. Eligibility for such funds will be a major consideration, however, again the criteria is clearly laid out making an application easy to follow.

The Local Assessment Committee has endeavoured over the years to foster the arts, encouraging new and exciting projects to take place and in reality the changes that take place from 1 July 2010 are very much what has been the Local Assessment Committee's objective, developed over the years.

The only significant change applications will note is that this scheme now no longer funds capital items or equipment (ie whiteware, floor coverings, furnishings, theatre equipment, instruments, costumes or uniforms).

It should be noted that the next funding round closes on 31 August 2010 and advertising under the new CCS criteria will commence late June/early July. The Local Assessment Committee will continue with the two funding rounds per annum closing on 28 February and 31 August as currently applies.

If you seek further information please contact the CCS Administrator Dennis Cole phone (06) 366 0999 or email denniscc@horowhenua.govt.nz.