

# Horowhenua ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan is aimed at community development and empowerment to encourage involvement in arts and culture, and the recognition of the heritage sector. The Action plan recognised the unique role Māori, as tangata whenua, hold in our community and is underpinned by the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Desired outcomes include improved community self esteem,

understanding and cooperation and improved relationships between Council and our communities. It is aimed at breaking down barriers to involvement in activities that contribute to a healthy community. This Action Plan will work in tandem with the Horowhenua District Heritage Strategy which incorporates planning for the identification and protection of historical buildings, structures and sites.

## Horowhenua Arts, Culture and Heritage Vision Statement:

“Horowhenua is a vibrant, creative and friendly community with an abundance of art, rich cultures and a strong sense of heritage.”

## Principles

**This Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan is based on the following principles:**

- **Reciprocity – a way of sharing information, consulting and engaging between multiple community groups, Council and other agencies**
- **Sustainability – meeting the needs of our current residents and future generations**
- **Diversity – of lifestyle, ethnicity and culture**
- **Prosperity - abundance of opportunities**
- **Accessibility – removing barriers, providing opportunity**
- **Partnerships – that are open, honest, and undertaken with integrity**
- **Innovation – encouraging inspiration, creativity and the unexpected**
- **Pride – in people and places, our identity and history as a community**

## Who are the stakeholders of this Action Plan? / Who is the Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan for?

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan originally began life in 2004 as the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. This document outlined Council's objectives and actions for the Horowhenua District in this sector until 2006. However, these outlined actions went by the wayside, and were not fully implemented within the proposed timeframes. Hence, in the 2013/2014 Annual Plan, Council committed to reviewing and reinstating an Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan for the 2014 – 2017 period.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan is the sixth Action Plan that fits under the Community Wellbeing

Strategy. This document works in conjunction with the other Action Plans; Youth, Positive Ageing, Education, Disability and Pride and Vibrancy.

## Who participated in formulating this Action Plan?

When Council began to review the Action Plan, a number of groups were consulted with to ensure the document reflected views from across the sector.

### These groups included:

1. Te Kotahitanga O Te Iwi o Ngāti Wehi Wehi
2. Fale Pasifika
3. Horowhenua Art Society
4. Historic Places Manawatu-Horowhenua
5. Te Takeretanga o Kura-Hau-Pō
6. Foxton Historical Society
7. Horowhenua Historical Society
8. Foxton Flax Stripper Museum Trust
9. Levin Chinese Cultural Group
10. Muaūpoko Tribal Authority
11. Shannon Progressive Association
12. Levin Pottery Club

Council will continue to work with these organisations, among others, to implement the Arts, Culture and Heritage Action Plan.

Those iwi and hapu that Council currently have a formal Memorandum of Partnership with - Ngāti Wehi Wehi, Ngāti Tukorehe, and Muaūpoko - will continue to be engaged to provide appropriate advice and input to Council. Council is also currently working to develop a formal relationship with Ngāti Whakarete, and will engage them in the ongoing development and implementation of this action plan.

## What has already been done?

There are a number of community-based organisations that are making significant contributions to the Arts, Culture and Heritage sector in Horowhenua. The majority of these groups rely on volunteers and external funding and cover areas from art to genealogy, local and international cultures to museums and galleries. Many groups have members, clubrooms and gallery spaces, public areas or temporary exhibitions of works and historical material. Groups also often have a collection of historical artefacts including paintings, sculptures and other artworks and historical pieces.

## Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

A significant development since the last Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was written is Te Takeretanga o Kura-Hau-Pō, Horowhenua's Culture and Community Centre. Commonly known as Te Takere, the complex is based in central Levin and is home to a number of functions. Listed below are the aspects that are particularly relevant to the Arts, Culture and Heritage sectors.

- **Conference and meeting facilities**
- **Youth Space**
- **Te Ao Māori**
- **Exhibition space**
- **Education suite**
- **A Research and Heritage space, which is host to both the Horowhenua Historical Society and the Horowhenua Family History Group**

Te Takere has created a central location where many different community groups can exhibit their members work, locals and visitors can investigate their history and the history of the district, and where locals and visitors alike benefit from having a space where visiting exhibitions can be shown.

Similarly, plans are currently underway to build a new centre in Foxton called Te Awahou. Te Awahou will be similar to Te Takere in that it will be a multipurpose space, with the functions to be determined by what will best suit Foxton and Foxton Beach residents and visitors.



## What are the current issues facing Arts, Culture and Heritage?

- **Funding shortages for community groups, including a lack of knowledge about where to obtain funding from, as well as how to gain Charitable Trust/ Incorporated Society status to improve accessibility to funds.**
- **Fewer volunteers willing to be members of committees and a lack of experience for incoming volunteers.**
- **Lack of coordination of the many cultural, arts and interest groups – duplication, gaps, and groups/projects/ events working in silos to one another.**
- **Parochialism – tensions between community groups based strongly around their own communities of interest and hidden agendas.**
- **Lack of inexpensive spaces for individuals or groups to meet, use as studios or hold their activities.**
- **Restrictions on informal happenings – the creative desire to 'do things' without too much financial structure or rules, for short timeframes and in previously unconsidered spaces.**
- **Inconsistent programmes and events.**
- **Availability of an appropriate performing arts venue (seating 500+ people).**

## Key Objectives and Actions

### Aim 1: Participation

To create opportunities for Horowhenua residents, Māori as tangata whenua and other community groups to participate in a wide variety of arts, culture and heritage activities - appealing to the region's diverse range of ages, cultures and interests.

#### Actions:

1. Work with Māori, Pasifika, Chinese and other cultural groups to promote their arts, cultures and heritages.
2. Investigate options for bilingual support, to enable residents with language barriers to get involved in artistic and cultural activities.
3. Support, profile and celebrate opportunities for children and young people to create and present their own creative experiences in the art, culture and heritage areas.
4. Investigate the level of community support and opportunities for third party funding for a purpose built Performing Arts Centre.

### Aim 2: Support

To support and develop a flourishing art, culture and heritage sector in the Horowhenua District.

#### Actions:

1. Facilitate Grants and Funding Schemes, including the Creative Communities Scheme, to increase access to and provide funding opportunities.

2. Coordinate Capacity Building Programmes that are relevant to Art, Culture and Heritage Groups that will assist in creating sustainable organisations with knowledgeable and skilled members.
3. Facilitate and support networking opportunities for creative organisations to enable information and idea sharing between groups.
4. Advocate for and support other suitable arts, culture and heritage schemes.
5. Provide communications support through Council's website and publications for events, programmes and other projects.
6. Facilitate access to, and training in, the use of new technology.

### Aim 3: Celebrate

Arts, Culture and Heritage events, projects and contributors will be celebrated for the contribution they make to our community.

#### Actions:

1. Civic Honours awards are available each year to recognise those that greatly contribute to the sector.
2. Allow for exhibitions in public spaces – for example, Council's Civic Buildings, Te Takere's exhibition space, parks and other open spaces.

3. Partner with community groups that wish to celebrate aspects of Art, Culture and Heritage. For example, Pasifika Celebration Day.

### Aim 4: Promote

Recognise that Horowhenua is a district where we want a high visibility of arts activity, reflecting and enhancing our natural and cultural heritage and developing the role the arts play in sustainable regional development.

#### Actions:

1. Coordinate an annual plan of activities, events and projects by different groups.
2. Identify arts, culture and heritage as key drivers in attracting more visitors to the Horowhenua District and in turn increasing local visitor spending.
3. Endorse the use of the 'Horowhenua' Brand, to promote both specific events and the Horowhenua as an Arts, Culture and Heritage destination.
4. Investigate the scope of privately owned material, and options for central preservation/storage and public exhibitions of it, where the owners so wish.

# Horowhenua

For more information please call Council Ph. 06 366 0999, email [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz) or go to our website [www.horowhenua.govt.nz](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz)

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DISTRICT COUNCIL