

# Terms of Reference

## Public Art Advisory Panel



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### The vision for arts and culture in Auckland, for Aucklanders

The Auckland Plan sets the strategic direction for Auckland as a region. Arts and culture plays a key role in achieving several of the outcome areas of the plan and also contributes to achieving the vision of Auckland being a world-class city.

Business units with arts and culture directives are key operational and cross-functional teams within Auckland Council that support creative, inclusive and proud communities. Specialists provide curatorial and programming expertise, project and production management, art collection care, technical implementation skills, and advice and support to the arts and culture sector as well as dedicated front of house customer service and facility staff.

### The key purpose of Public Art Advisory Panel

Public Art Advisory Panel provides insightful, cohesive and expert viewpoints as strategic context and guidance for the art works in public places.

#### Supporting purposes

- In all its deliberations, the panel underscores the role of innovation, creativity and arts and culture as vital to Auckland being a world class city.
- The panel champions Aucklanders' ability to engage with creativity as part of their everyday lives.
- The panel provides independent advice to Auckland Council staff and through them, to elected members on selection processes, gift offers, acquisitions, and new work proposals.

Two key policy documents create the advisory framework of the panel: Auckland Council's Public Art Policy and Toi Whītiki:

- Auckland Council's Public Art Policy (2013), which mandates excellence, alignment, transparency and robust planning for the creation, delivery and care of permanent and temporal art in Auckland's public places. This policy commits council to working with an independent and external expert panel to ensure that council receives independent advice that meets the requirements of both a region-wide programme and the needs of council's shared governance structure.
- Toi Whītiki (the Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan) responds to the Auckland Plan's strategic direction for arts and culture.

In addition, operational guidelines for a range of activities such as sector investment, programming and collection management will both inform and respond to the work of the panel.

## Advisory panel scope

The independent, external expertise of the panel is expected to provide advice for the Arts and Culture unit's cross functional teams to report to elected members. The activity involves reviewing the unit's annual work programmes against its stated objectives and guiding documents. These opportunities are inherent to Auckland's arts and culture operating context.

It involves discussion and commentary on significant initiatives affecting Auckland's arts in public places, such as plans for integrated artworks, temporary public art activities delivered in isolation or through festivals or events.

Public Art Advisory Panel is neither a decision-making body, nor does the panel set expenditure. The panel does not substitute, replace or replicate in any way the need for stakeholder engagement on individual projects, events or facilities, or matters of policy. Stakeholder engagement will be directed by council's significance and engagement policy and will meet the requirements of the Local Government Act.

In order to provide advice about arts and culture in Auckland's public places, the panel makes an active contribution to the professional and public conversation about the role of arts and culture in the everyday lives of Aucklanders, in ways that create connections, encourages participation or growth of audience, partnerships and robust discourse.

It provides the independent expert advice required by Auckland Council's Public Art Policy.

## Advisory panel membership

The panel has between seven and nine members with a balanced array of arts, culture and design expertise, including a dedicated role for Te Māngai Toi. Particular professional practice expertise areas sought include (for example) creative entrepreneur, built environment designer or architect, artist, graphic, experience or product designer, curator or programmer. Collectively the panel will have:

- Thorough knowledge of the region's creative sector and the desire to contribute to position creativity at the centre of Auckland's growth and transformation;
- An informed view of Auckland's geography and an understanding of the place-making potential of arts and culture for the city;
- An understanding of Auckland's rapidly evolving demographics and diverse populations and the opportunities and challenges these pose to the city's development;
- A global perspective on the role creativity plays in creating an excellent, liveable city;
- Commitment to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- Philosophical alignment with the outcomes of the Auckland Plan;
- A robust and transparent approach to actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

## **Conditions of appointment**

Panel members are appointed for a limited term of three years, with a potential renewal of up to two years, to ensure a gradual succession of members. In addition, Auckland Council will from time to time recruit new members to replace members who resign during their three year term.

Auckland Council retains the right to nominate or make ex officio appointments to ensure requisite skills and expertise are present on the panel.

The appointment of panel members is made by the Manager Public Art, in consultation with an appropriate internal arts and culture representative, following an in-person interview. Advisory panel members are paid a meeting rate.

## **Advisory panel member responsibilities**

The panel convenes up to six times per year. The primary responsibility of the panel is to provide advice to officers.

The panel's Chair is elected by the panel, and will serve as its spokesperson if required. The chair will coordinate closely with the Manager Public Art regarding any external communication about panel activities, including with elected representatives or the media.

A key role of the Chair is to run effective meetings and ensure full participation of independent members.

Members are expected to offer independent advice to council, which can be transparent and discoverable if need be, without being attached to a particular individual, through written summary statements of advice in the panel minutes.

The Public Art Programme Planner will operate as secretary for the meeting, and the chair will work with the secretary to agree panel focus areas and activities, establish meeting agendas, and ensure that the panel's administrative needs are met.

## **All advisory panel members:**

- Raise and present relevant issues to the panel, and report accurately and objectively on these;
- Actively participate at meetings, share knowledge and encourage discussion;
- Work to achieve consensus on decision making, and where consensus is impossible for any reason, respect the panel's majority decision regarding advice provided to council while also accurately recording minority opinions;
- Respect the values of the communities and individuals that may be affected by panel advice;
- Be able to communicate Auckland Council's philosophical position related to arts and culture;
- Be available for phone and email correspondence between meetings as required for urgent matters;
- Treat fellow panel members and staff professionally and act in good faith;
- Maintain confidentiality as appropriate and as required;

- Serve independently with the ability to give impartial advice without financial interest and without representing the particular interests of specific groups or individuals;
- Disclose all potential conflicts of interest, and promptly provide relevant updates as required.

## **Auckland Council operating context**

Established on 1 November 2010, Auckland Council has both a governance and operational role.

Governance includes the Governing Body of His Worship the Mayor and 20 ward councillors. The Independent Māori Statutory Board (IMSB) ensures that Auckland Council enfold the views of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau and acts in accordance with te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi. Decision-making on matters of regional significance sit with the Governing Body.

At a local level, governance also includes 21 local boards spread across the region. Local boards make decisions on local matters in support of strong communities and provide input into region-wide strategies and plans.

The Governing Body (or its relevant committee), which includes an Independent Māori Statutory Board (IMSB) member, is the decision-making entity for public art matters at the regional level.

Generally, political decision-making is informed by expert staff advice. Arts and culture staff convey to elected representatives that Auckland's arts and culture landscape is best served by decisions informed by Mātauranga Māori (Māori world view) and a healthy balance between regional and local perspectives.

Arts and culture staff also work closely with Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs), such as Auckland Transport, Eke Pānuku Development and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.

Front cover image: *Justice*, 2017, by Lisa Reihana, Ellen Melville Centre. Auckland Council Art Collection

Photography by David St George

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