#

**He aha ngā take kōrero?
What’s the story? 2022**

# Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

# Increasing access to the arts

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### Large print and online

Arts Access Aotearoa’s *He aha ngā take kōrero? What’s the Story? 2022* can be downloaded from [artsaccess.org.nz/about-us](https://artsaccess.org.nz/about?src=nav)

Large-print copies of the report are available online and on request.

Arts Access Aotearoa thanks all its stakeholders, funders and supporters for their contributions to its work in 2022.

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**Arts Access Aotearoa: a snapshot**

Arts Access Aotearoa | Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa works in partnership to increase access to the arts for people in Aotearoa who experience barriers to participation as artists, performers, writers, audience members, and gallery and museum visitors. We do this by working with people in the disabled, mental health and Deaf communities. We also work with the professional arts sector to improve access to Deaf and disabled artists and audiences.

Arts Access Aotearoa provides a national advisory and advocacy service about accessibility and inclusion in the arts. This includes providing information, resources and research through the Information Hub.

We advise Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections on its arts programmes and activities, and advocate for the arts as a tool to support the rehabilitative process of prisoners and their reintegration back into the community on release.

### Vision

All people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts.

### Purpose

Arts Access Aotearoa works in partnership to increase access to the arts for people in Aotearoa who experience barriers to participation.

### Values

Arts Access Aotearoa provides its service believing in these values:

* Accessibility and inclusion in the arts, respect and kindness in our undertakings for and with all people
* Arts Access Aotearoa recognises the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to its kaupapa, with due regard for Te Tiriti’s articles and principles.

This recognition is reflected in the following values that underpin its work:

* Mōhiotanga – seeking understanding and awareness
* Rangatiratanga – respecting the mana of others
* Whanaungatanga – appreciating the value of relationships and partnerships
* Kotahitanga – working in harmony to achieve common purpose and shared vision
* Kaitiakitanga – service to others and nurturing leadership within others.

### **Investing in the arts for everyone in Aotearoa**

### Chair and Executive Director’s report on 2022

“If we’re going to make a go of Aotearoa Inc in the bottom of the South Pacific, with all the problems that now confront us, all the friction of multiple cultures, of plural political perspectives, of a planet in deep trouble thanks to us, I believe the arts will be the torch that shines the way.”

This powerful call was expressed by Justice Joe Williams at the opening of [Ngā Wāhi Auaha Creative Spaces Conference 2022](https://creativespacesnetwork.org.nz/Conference-2022) on 1 November. Justice Joe Williams – also a musician – spoke about the role of art in driving social change. He described the arts as a pill to invoke empathy and said that no community could survive without empathy. “It’s the glue that binds us together.”

Given the multiple social and economic benefits of the arts in Aotearoa New Zealand, it’s essential that our artists, performers, filmmakers and writers receive adequate and sustained funding to make art that gives us hope; illuminates our past, present and future; challenges our thinking; inspires empathy – and, indeed, binds us together.

Funding for the arts comes from various sectors: central and local government, sponsorships, philanthropic trusts and gaming trusts. In these challenging economic times, the Government supported the arts sector with additional funding to Creative New Zealand and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Local councils are – and should be – key players in funding the diverse arts and cultural organisations that enhance their community’s brand and attract visitors; foster the mental health and wellbeing of their citizens; and encourage social cohesion and optimism.

**Investing in artists’ practice**Acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 on the arts community over the past two years, Arts Access Aotearoa established [Ngā Toi Rangatira o Aotearoa Arts Access Fellowships 2022](https://artsaccess.org.nz/arts-access-fellowships-2022?src=nav). The four fellowships, worth $10,000 each, supported projects built around access, inclusion and participation in the arts.

We also saw the Fellowships as an investment in artists’ practice, and something positive, practical and forward-looking.

Warm congratulations to the four outstanding recipients: Ari Kerssens, recipient of the **Whakahoa Kaitoi Whanaketanga PAK’nSAVE Artist Fellowship; Salā Roseanne Leota, recipient of the Whakahoa Kaitoi i Te Ara Poutama Arts in Corrections Artist Fellowship; Magenta Creative Space, recipient of the Whakahoa Whakawatea Kaitoi Tangata Holdsworth Creative Spaces Fellowship; and Charlotte Nightingale, recipient of the Whakahoa Kaitoi Te Puna Toi Creative New Zealand Arts For All Fellowship.**

**Investing in creative spaces**

In 2021, the Government through Manatū Taonga invested $18 million over three years in the creative spaces sector. In 2022, all of the 54 creative spaces receiving the three-year funding experienced greater stability despite the challenges of COVID-19, the economy and environmental issues.

Across all 54 spaces, there was a 19% increase in employment. Other reported impacts included increased artist wellbeing, increased security for staffing with regular paid hours, increased access for participants and communities, new employment opportunities for artists and volunteers, and reduced cultural and social isolation among vulnerable communities.

Manatū Taonga funding also enabled Arts Access Aotearoa to establish a professional development programme to support the long-term capability of creative spaces throughout the country. This includes workshops, webinars, stories, resources, and a [website dedicated to Ngā WāhiWhatunga Auaha Creative Spaces Network](https://creativespacesnetwork.org.nz/?src=nav).

In 2022, the major focus of this programme was the online **Ngā Wāhi Auaha Creative Spaces Conference 2022, held over 1 and 2 November. The theme of the conference was “Igniting possibilities” and delegates participated in presentations by international and local speakers; panel discussions; and peer-to-peer learning workshops. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive.**

**Access, inclusion and participation**Collectively, [Arts For All Network](https://artsaccess.org.nz/Arts%2BFor%2BAll%2BNetwork) members provided at least 220 accessible events and services in 2022. They also continued to develop their organisation’s accessibility policies and action plans. This year, Arts Access Aotearoa worked with 32 member organisations on their policies and plans.

We have always stressed the importance of this policy work to embed accessibility across the whole organisation. We were pleased to work closely with Creative New Zealand, along with Deaf and disabled artists, arts leaders and disability-led organisations, through 2022 (and 2023) to support the development of Creative New Zealand’s Accessibility Policy, to be released in late 2023.

In September, Access, Inclusion and Participation Advisor Stace Robertson travelled to Melbourne to attend the Alter State arts and disability festival, which showcased Touch Compass dancer and Artistic Direction Panel member Rodney Bell and his autobiographical work, *Meremere*, produced by Movement of the Human.

The visit was an opportunity to strengthen relationships with Victorian arts organisations such as Arts Access Victoria, Writers Victoria and the NGV, and learn more about their support for d/Deaf and disabled artists and audiences.

In his role advocating for accessibility to the arts, Stace also did a number of guest lectures at universities, and presentations to conferences and arts organisations.

**Investing in d/Deaf and disabled artists**

Arts Access Aotearoa supports and promotes opportunities for d/Deaf and disabled artists and writers to have sustainable careers in the arts. To this end, we continued to engage with d/Deaf and disabled artists and writers to establish a national network and accompanying website.

This year, we were pleased to work with two organisations providing opportunities for d/Deaf and disabled artists. Wellington writer, spoken-word poet and playwright Helen Vivienne Fletcher received a commission from TAHI: New Zealand Festival of Solo Performance to write a full-length solo play. The work-in-development was staged at BATS Theatre later in the year.

We also worked with Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, which selected Wellington writer and disability activist Robyn Hunt as the inaugural recipient of its 2022 residency. Robyn’s project was to work on a collection of personal essays with a disability focus.

**Investing in Arts in Corrections**

Staff shortages, lockdowns and cuts to programming, including the arts, were a long-tail impact of COVID-19 on Corrections facilities in 2022. Amid the ongoing challenges, however, there was some light.

The announcement of the **Whakahoa Kaitoi i Te Ara Poutama Arts in Corrections Artist Fellowship** and our ongoing support for the recipient, [Salā Roseanne Leota](https://artsaccess.org.nz/Fellowship-to-explore-storytelling), was the highlight of the 2022 Arts in Corrections calendar. With the support of her mentor, writer and performer Tusiata Avia, Roseanne is exploring ideas and opportunities that are feeding into her writing project.

Another [Arts in Corrections](https://artsaccess.org.nz/Arts%2Bin%2BCorrections) highlight was the partnership between Manatū Taonga and Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections, which resulted in the $3 million Creative Arts and Cultural Wellbeing Prison Initiative. Artists and arts organisations applied for funding to deliver arts projects or programmes in prisons and 12 recipients were selected. By the end of 2022, contract negotiations were still under way but it is expected that the initiative will result in a significant increase in high-quality and strategic arts activity across prisons in Aotearoa.

We continue to advocate for a national framework or strategy to deliver arts programmes across all 18 prisons and it is pleasing that the Department of Corrections has allocated a policy advisor to oversee and progress this work.

There are several clear benefits to developing an overarching, national framework. These include supporting the Department’s Hōkai Rangi Strategy; achieving consistent, culturally relevant arts participation; and enabling us to provide more effective data and measure the impact of these arts programmes.

**Funding and finances**Arts Access Aotearoa’s activities across the country would not be possible without the grants, donations and in-kind support we receive. We are grateful for this support, along with vital core funding from Creative New Zealand, contracts with Ara Poutama Aotearoa and Manatū Taonga, and significant grants from Foundation North, Auckland Council and Wellington City Council.

Careful financial management has meant we have made a surplus, which improves our financial health and sustainability.

**Our people in 2022**

With great sadness we learned that on 28 May 2022, Arts Access Aotearoa’s Founding Chair and Patron, Mel Smith CNZM, died. We are indebted to Mel’s outstanding service, support and encouragement of our organisation.

Richard Benge said in tribute: “Mel’s kind, insightful words of encouragement will not be lost as we carry on, sad as we are to have lost our friend, but grateful that we ever had the good fortune to be supported by such an esteemed gentleman.” Kei te pouri matou engari kei te tino mihi.

This year, the pandemic continued to challenge Arts Access Aotearoa and its stakeholders to do things differently. Our sincere thanks to Arts Access Aotearoa staff for their commitment, skills, and ability to pivot and adapt.

Thank you also to our Kaumātua, Bill Kaua, and Dame Rosie Horton, our trustees and volunteers. In particular, we said farewell and thank you to trustees Olivier Lacoua and Ruth Smithers, who retired from the Board in 2022.

Heading into 2023, let’s all continue to work together, advocating for the role of the arts to evoke empathy, bind us together and shine the way – at the same time ensuring central and local government understand the importance of investing in the artists and arts organisations of Aotearoa so all people can have access to the life-giving force of the arts.

Lynley Hutton            Richard Benge MNZM

Trust Chair |Toihau                                    Executive DirectorI Kaiwhakahaere Matua

26 May 2023                                              26 May 2023

**Our people in 2022**

as at 31 December 2022

### Kaumātua

The Venerable Wiremu (Bill) Kaua ONZM

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Horowai, Rongowhakaata, Rakaipaaka, Te Aitanga a Hauiti

### Patron

Dame Miranda Harcourt ONZM

### Patron, Arts Access Accolade

Dame Rosemary Horton DNZM, QSO, QSM

### Trustees

Lynley Hutton – Chair from August 2021, joined board in November 2017

Jo Burrell – joined board in May 2021

Olivier Lacoua – joined board in July 2019, retired in May 2022

Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp – joined board in August 2017

Stew Sexton – joined board in February 2017

Ruth Smithers – joined board in February 2018, retired in January 2022

Paige Sullivan, joined board April 2021 as a youth member and as a trustee in February 2022

Frances Turner – joined board in April 2021

#### Staff Richard Benge MNZM, Executive Director | Kaiwhakahaere Matua

Kezia Bennett, Communications Assistant | Kaiawhina Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero

#### Hannah Dahlke, Creative Spaces Funding Advisor | Kaiārahi Kohi Moni

Dawa Devereux, Business Administrator | Kaipakihi

Airini Gordon, Administration and Projects Assistant | Kaiawhina Whakahaere a Mahi

#### Milly Hampton, Advisory Programmes Assistant |Kaiawhina Whakahaere MahiKate Hiatt, Creative Spaces Advisor | Kaiārahi a Toi Whakawātea Tangata

#### Sam Morgan, Digital Content Developer | Kaiwhakawhanake Ihirangi Mamati

#### Iona McNaughton, Communications Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Whakawhitiwhiti KōreroStace Robertson, Access, Inclusion and Participation Advisor | Kaiārahi a Toi

#### Dev Singh, Finance Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Putea

#### Chris Ulutupu, Arts in Corrections Advisor | Kaiārahi a Toi Ara Poutama

#### Neil Wallace, Creative Spaces Funding Advisor | Kaiārahi Kohi Moni

### Volunteers

Thanks to all the volunteers, who did so much to support Arts Access Aotearoa and its work in 2022.

**Ngā Toi Rangatira o Aotearoa Arts Access Fellowships 2022**

Artists, a creative space and projects built around access, inclusion and participation in the arts were the inaugural recipients of Ngā Toi Rangatira o Aotearoa Arts Access Fellowships, announced in November 2022.

[For more information about the recipients and their projects](https://artsaccess.org.nz/And-the-fellowship-recipients-are)

“The fellowship has been a great opportunity for me and I'm so grateful. It’s accelerated creative possibilities for me, and I've been given the space and freedom to truly explore where I am, who I am and where I could go. I can't thank Arts Access Aotearoa enough and am looking forward to my final presentation.” – Salā Roseanne Leota, **Whakahoa Kaitoi i Te Ara Poutama Arts in Corrections Artist Fellowship**

“The fellowship has enabled me to focus on testing and developing the multisensory storyscape for *Spark* with members of our community with PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities). It’s made me realise how important it is to have our audience front and centre when developing art, particularly for the PMLD community where meaningful and accessible arts experiences are few.” – Charlotte Nightingale, **Whakahoa Kaitoi Te Puna Toi Creative New Zealand Arts For All Fellowship**

"The opportunity to collaborate on a project I’m passionate about, with a friend whose art I admire deeply, and do so at a scale enabled by these funds has been incredible. Tash and I are looking forward to the exploring and learning that will come as we move from recording to editing and mixing our sound art piece.” – Ari **Kerssens, Whakahoa Kaitoi Whanaketanga PAK’nSAVE Artist Fellowship**

"A powerful outcome of this fellowship is the way it’s uplifting members of our community and giving them a voice. Access to these kinds of opportunities has been limited for Samara, our artist leading the programme. She has embraced the mentoring aspect and is now using her new skills to deliver a meaningful te ao Māori youth programme.” – Maria Anderson, Outreach Co-ordinator, **Magenta Creative Space,** **Whakahoa Whakawatea Kaitoi Tangata Holdsworth Creative Spaces Fellowship**

**Igniting possibilities**

The theme of Ngā Wāhi Auaha Creative Spaces Conference 2022, an online conference organised by Arts Access Aotearoa in November, was “Igniting possibilities”. It celebrated everything creative spaces make possible, including support for artists to fulfil their creative potential; a sense of belonging; and improved mental health and wellbeing.

The conference was a key professional development forum, with keynote speakers, panel discussions and peer-to-peer learning presentations.

[For more information and video presentations of the conference](https://creativespacesnetwork.org.nz/Conference-2022)

Evaluation and feedback from conference delegates was extremely positive.

“The conference was a great opportunity to connect. Thank you for the work that went into making it all happen.”

“Everything I saw was very valuable and informative. Some of the speakers were very inspirational too! Thank you.”

“A mighty BIG thanks to the Arts Access team. I really enjoyed the presentations I attended and look forward to seeing those I missed when they go online. A great resource for the community to have on tap for the next few years.”

“There were heaps of practical takeaways, and I also loved the videos and dance activations peppered throughout!”

“Holding the conference online vastly increased accessibility and ensured that many more people got to enjoy the content than would have if it was in-person.”