

**Increasing
access
to the arts**

**What's
the story?**



Arts Access Aotearoa: a snapshot

Arts Access Aotearoa is a national organisation advocating for people in New Zealand who experience barriers to participation in the arts, as both creators and audience members. Key stakeholders are artists and arts organisations in the community and professional arts sectors; people with physical, sensory or intellectual impairments; and people with lived experience of mental ill-health. Arts Access Aotearoa is also the key organisation in New Zealand facilitating the arts as a tool for rehabilitation in prisons.

Vision

All people in New Zealand are able to participate in the arts.

Purpose

Arts Access Aotearoa advocates for all people in New Zealand to have access to the arts by supporting people who experience barriers to participation or whose access is limited.

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 our kaupapa, with due regard for its 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.

Strategic goals 2016 – 2018

- **Knowledge:** to be the centre of knowledge and excellence in applied practice regarding access to the arts. All our programmes will contribute to the future building of this knowledge base.
- **Leadership:** to strengthen the leadership skills of people who experience limited access to the arts, developing their capability as successful advocates to increase arts accessibility and inclusion.
- **Inclusion:** to increase and strengthen the capability of live performance venues, producers and cultural institutions to be accessible and inclusive of people with access needs.
- **Impact:** to strengthen the collective impact and sustainability of community sector arts organisations to deliver inclusive arts programmes and opportunities for people with limited access.
- **Rehabilitation:** to be the leading centre of knowledge and applied information, advocating for the arts as a tool for rehabilitation and reintegration for offenders in Corrections.
- **Partnership:** to be the lead organisation that works in partnership with non-arts organisations, increasing and enabling the capacity of excluded communities and individuals to be included in the artistic and cultural life of New Zealand.

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Performance Review 2017

Arts Access Aotearoa's independent Auditor Reports for the year ended 31 December 2017 are published in its *Performance Review 2017*. This document includes its Statement of Service Performance, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes to the Performance Report.

Large print and online

Arts Access Aotearoa's *Performance Review 2017* and *What's the story?* can be downloaded from www.artsaccess.org.nz/about+us

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

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Above and cover: Equal Voices Arts' production of *Salonica*, with actors Shaun Fahey and Mihailo Ladevac, uses New Zealand Sign Language, English and Serbian. It toured to Europe in 2017 before returning for a New Zealand tour, starting in Christchurch. Photo: Michael Smith

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*Did you know?



24%

1.1 million people in New Zealand live with a disability that impacts on their daily lives. Half (53%) of these have more than one disability.



14%

632,000 people (14%) have a physical impairment that limits their everyday activities.



9%

380,000 people (9%) are Deaf or hearing impaired.

5%

242,000 people (5%) have a psychiatric or psychological impairment.



4%

168,000 people (4%) are blind or have low vision.



20,000

20,000 people in New Zealand use New Zealand Sign Language.

Together, we can build a more inclusive society

At Arts Access Aotearoa, we believe that everyone has the right to be creative. This belief, which lies at the heart of everything we do, has guided the organisation since it was established in 1995.

We're a small, national organisation with a big vision of a society where everyone in New Zealand can participate in the arts as artists, audience members, and museum and gallery visitors. That's why we work alongside other individuals and organisations: together, we can build a more cohesive, creative, inclusive and diverse society.

People in the sectors we work with – arts, disability, criminal justice – value the opportunities to make connections, share insights and knowledge, seek advice and be inspired. Arts Access Aotearoa provides these opportunities through the regional networks it facilitates.

The Arts in Corrections Network, for example, has three regional networks and includes Corrections staff and volunteers, Community Corrections staff, artists and writers, academics, and people in the wider community interested in arts and social justice.

Network hui inside a prison

In 2017, the Arts in Corrections Network has grown significantly in strength and impact. For the first time, a network hui was held inside a prison with prisoners participating in the workshops, presentations and discussions, alongside the other network members. Northland Region Corrections Facility hosted the three-day gathering, where participating prisoners learned new skills and connected with the outside community as part of their rehabilitation process.

Five regional Arts For All Networks (Wellington, Otago, Taranaki, Canterbury and Auckland) meet twice a year to support their work in improving access to the arts and culture. The meetings bring together representatives from the disability sector, arts and cultural organisations, and venues, where they gain insights, seek advice, and share information and resources.

In *Arts For All: Ngā Toi mo te katoa*, a practical guide first published in late 2010, inaugural Arts Access Accolade recipient Philip Patston wrote: "There's a real opportunity to think differently about access and to me, it's a no-brainer for the creative sectors to be leading the way."

Since then, the arts and creative sectors have risen to the challenge and are leading the way in providing increased

Chair and Executive Director's report on 2017

access. Since these networks were established in 2011, there has been an exciting increase in access to the arts for disabled people – driven by the Network members, and supported and promoted by Arts Access Aotearoa.

In 2017, we worked with the Creative Access Network (CAN) and other community arts groups in Auckland to research their needs and strengthen creative spaces across the country. Another network of creative spaces meets in the Wellington region.

Building healthy communities

These community-based spaces play an important role in building more inclusive, healthier and happier communities. In 2017, we raised public awareness and advocated for creative spaces in the mainstream media and online.

However, we know from the extensive review we conducted of Auckland creative spaces that they feel under-valued, over-worked and under-funded.

In November 2017, the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern became the new Prime Minister under a Labour-led Government. On her first visit to Christchurch, she visited Ōtautahi Creative Spaces with Health Minister David Clark to witness the positive impact that art is having there on people's mental wellbeing.

Working with the Government

We look forward to working with the Government and advocating for better resourcing of creative spaces. We are also keen to progress the introduction of a companion card scheme to New Zealand, similar to the scheme in Australia, where it operates across all of its states and offers a free ticket for the companion or carer of a disabled person.

We've been advocating for this scheme since 2011 and will continue to do so in 2018.

A number of museums belong to the Arts For All Network and in 2017, we were invited by Museums Aotearoa to partner with the organisation on its annual conference, MA17, in May. In doing so, we engaged with museums, increasing their knowledge and commitment to being more inclusive of disabled and Deaf people.

The theme of the conference was "He Waka Eke Noa, Museums of Inclusion" and Arts Access Aotearoa presented two sessions about accessibility. We also presented the inaugural Arts Access Museum Award to Palmerston North's Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science



Arts Access Aotearoa trustees: Kim Morton, Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp, Karen Webster, Howard Fancy (Chair), Stew Sexton and Erin Gough.
Absent: Lynley Hutton

and History for its commitment to putting access and inclusion front and centre stage.

Arts Access Aotearoa's activities would not be possible without the support we receive through grants, donations and in-kind support. We are extremely grateful for this support, along with vital core funding from Creative New Zealand and a contract with the Department of Corrections.

Fundraising is an important and regular feature on Arts Access Aotearoa's calendar. We held a successful fifth Awesome Arts Access Auction in CQ Hotels Wellington on 30 November. The result of our fundraising efforts and careful management of funds means we can report a surplus for 2017.

All of our achievements and much more are due to the commitment and skills of Arts Access Aotearoa's team: staff, volunteers, trustees, Kaumātua Bill Kaua, and Patrons Mel Smith, Miranda Harcourt and Dame Rosie Horton. This year, we farewelled trustees Awhimai Reynolds and Josie Whipps, and welcomed Erin Gough, Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp and Stew Sexton.

We look forward to working with our partners and friends to make 2018 another rewarding year.

Howard Fancy

Trust Chair

28 April 2018

Richard Benge

Executive Director

28 April 2018

People in 2017

as at 31 December 2017

Kaumātua

Bill Kaula

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

Founding patron

Mel Smith

CNZM

Patron

Miranda Harcourt

ONZM

Patron, Arts Access Accolade

Dame Rosemary Horton

DNZM, QSO, QSM

Trustees

Howard Fancy CNZM,
Chair – Chair from August
2015

Erin Gough – joined board
in February 2017

Lynley Hutton – joined
board in November 2017

Kim Morton – joined board
in February 2016

Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp
– joined board in August
2017

Awhimai Reynolds –
joined board in August
2015, retired November
2017

Stew Sexton – joined
board in February 2017

Karen Webster – joined
board in April 2012

Josie Whipps – joined
board in May 2014, retired
May 2017

Staff

Richard Benge, Executive
Director

Dawa Devereux, Business
Administrator and Personal
Assistant

Iona McNaughton,
Communications Manager

Jacqui Moyes, Arts in
Corrections Advisor (part-
time)

Claire Noble, Community
Development Co-ordinator

Dev Singh, Finance
Manager (part-time)

Volunteers

Thanks to all the volunteers,
who did so much to support
Arts Access Aotearoa and
its work in 2017.

Jason Li, Dylan Bird,
Daniela Pavez, Eliecer
Reverol, Jesse Porter, Airini
Gordon

Arts Access Awards

2017: Sarah Benge, William
Thompson, Eliecer Reverol,
Lize Immelman, Daniela
Pavez, Rajeev Mishra,
Judith Jones, Nikoo Namini,
Narida Kuch, Nohemi
Guevara Garcia

Awesome Arts Access

Auction 2017: David
Feliua'i, Tom Noble, Nikoo
Namini, Airini Gordon,
Jesse Porter, Laura Harvey,
Dylan Bird, Binafsha
Didarali, Kilian Mercadal,
Rajeev Mishra, Dave
Wilson, Sarah Benge,
William Thompson, Perry
Piercy



Howard Fancy, Chair, Bill Kaula,
Kaumātua, and Dame Rosie
Horton, Arts Access Accolade
Patron, at the Arts Access Awards
2017



Room 5 artist Carmen Brown presents one of her artworks to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern when she visited Ōtautahi Creative Spaces with Health Minister David Clark on their visit to Christchurch in November 2017

“I’m going to hang this on my wall in the Beehive with pride and as a reminder of one of my first visits as prime minister to such a wonderful place.”

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, also Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage,
Room 5, Ōtautahi Creative Spaces, November 2017



Royal New Zealand Ballet dancer Kirby Selchow meets audience members after its sensory-friendly performance of *Ballet in a Box* at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, Auckland

“Ballet in a Box was such a rewarding performance and one I will always remember – especially meeting everyone after the show and seeing how happy everyone was. It really made me remember why I became a dancer: to bring joy and happiness to people. They all had so much love after the show: it was a magical moment.”

Leonora Voigtländer, RNZB dancer

Achievements in 2017

Arts Access Aotearoa fulfils its strategic goals through five key programmes:

1. Access and Participation
2. Community Development
3. Advocacy and Profile
4. Arts in Corrections
5. Information Centre

This section highlights the key activities in 2017 under each programme.

1. Access and Participation

This programme is about supporting arts organisations, companies, festivals, producers and venues to be accessible. It includes the Arts For All partnership programme with Creative New Zealand.

Key achievements

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- extended its reach and profile by partnering with Museums Aotearoa and its annual conference, MA17, in Palmerston North. At the conference, it participated in an accessibility panel, co-presented a session with accessibility consultant Robyn Hunt, and presented the inaugural Arts Access Museum Award to Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science and History.
- advised the Royal New Zealand Ballet on presenting the first audio described ballet in New Zealand: *Romeo and Juliet* in Auckland. The seeds for this project were planted at an Arts For All Wellington Network meeting and its success meant the RNZB has received funding for more audio described performances in 2018.
- worked alongside Fortune Theatre and the Regent Theatre in Dunedin to present their first relaxed performances. Both organisations are members of the Arts For All Otago Network.
- encouraged and promoted the accessible events and services of Arts For All Network members. We documented 65 accessible services at arts and cultural events around New Zealand. This includes 16 audio described events, 20 sign interpreted events and 10 relaxed performances.
- inspired accessibility projects and increased knowledge by facilitating ten Arts For All Network meetings in Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. At these meetings, members shared information and challenges, found solutions and learned about best practice in accessibility. Arts Access Aotearoa also liaised with the Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty communities about establishing networks.

5

Five regional Arts For All Networks around New Zealand encourage accessibility.

20

Of the 65 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2017, 20 were sign interpreted.

186

186 people attended regional Arts For All Network meetings in 2017.

R

Of the 65 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2017, 10 were relaxed performances.

16
AD

Of the 65 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2017, 16 were audio described.

82

82 people took part in the two touch tours and audio described performances of RNZB's production of *Romeo and Juliet* in Auckland

Magic at Te Manawa

Being inclusive, collaborative and accessible is part of a global movement, says Andy Lowe, Chief Executive of Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science and History.

“At Te Manawa, we thrive on the idea that museums are inclusive places, where the community has the opportunity to co-create spaces. Having diverse people rubbing shoulders creates a wild, surprising kind of energy, which means anything can happen – and often does.”

Palmerston North and Te Manawa hosted Museums Aotearoa’s national MA17 conference, attended by around 300 delegates from all over Aotearoa.

The conference theme was “He Waka Eke Noa, Museums of Inclusion” – a theme proposed by Te Manawa to tease out ideas around communities participating in their museums.

“Most New Zealand museums and many international museums are working in that space, and the conference was a great chance to focus on it,” Andy says.

In November 2016, Te Manawa set up NOA Open Studio in the main foyer. It’s open to all people of all abilities and the participants drive the space, responding to the museum’s collections, exhibitions and events through drawing, painting, sculpting, music and drama.

“Te Manawa is on a journey and many of our communities seem to be excited to be on this journey with us,” Andy says.

Arts Access Aotearoa presented the inaugural Arts Access Museum Award to Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science and History at the MA17 conference.



Accessibility champions

Lights and action are the lifeblood of live theatre but for some people, they can be overwhelming and frightening. A focus on working with communities to create accessible or relaxed performances has seen Christchurch’s leading theatre company, The Court Theatre, receive the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts for All Award 2017.

Rachel Sears, its Education Manager, says the theatre company has also worked to make its building as accessible as possible. “Just putting in new handrails changed the theatre by offering better seating options.”

A new approach to training also meant that more theatre staff understood patrons’ accessibility requirements and became champions of accessibility.

“A big part of our development is ensuring accessibility is owned by all of the staff – not just championed by a few,” Rachel says.

“Another key ingredient has been wider engagement with the different communities. We’ve really worked on letting people know what we do, and seeking out communities to better understand their needs.”

Working with Christchurch City Council, the theatre has staged outdoor productions with sign interpreted performances for Deaf people since 2015. In 2016, it introduced relaxed performances for all its children’s shows in partnership with Autism New Zealand.

These performances are designed to welcome people who benefit from a more relaxed performance environment, including people with autism, sensory and communication impairments or a learning disability. The performances are supported by an information pack.

The Court Theatre also works in partnership with Dementia Canterbury to deliver a targeted theatre and storytelling programme for people living with dementia in Canterbury.

Orchestra Wellington and Tim Bray Productions were Highly Commended in the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For all Award 2017.

Children enjoy meeting actor Criss Grueber as part of the relaxed performance of *Snow White* at The Court Theatre in July 2017

Photo: Rachel Pugh



Artist Jonathan Kan and Anaru Davis, co-facilitator of NOA Open Space in the foyer of Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science and History

“At Te Manawa, we thrive on the idea that museums are inclusive places, where the community has the opportunity to co-create spaces. Having diverse people rubbing shoulders creates a wild, surprising kind of energy, which means anything can happen – and often does.”

Andy Lowe, Chief Executive of Te Manawa, Museum of Art, Science and History

2. Community Development

This programme is about building the capacity of community-based arts organisations, in particular creative spaces, to deliver high-quality arts programmes for people with limited access.

For more information about creative spaces, including a directory of creative spaces throughout New Zealand, visit Arts Access Aotearoa's website.

Key achievements

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- increased its knowledge of Auckland creative spaces by completing a review to learn more about what they are delivering, what resources they need, and what role Arts Access Aotearoa can play to strengthen their capability.
- consulted with a steering group of creative space leaders to develop a national network.
- strengthened the capability of creative spaces by supporting them to set up Flightdec community websites to better communicate, share and promote what they do. Nine creative spaces now have Flightdec websites.
- supported and promoted the Creative Spaces Capsule Project, an innovative touring exhibition that had its final displays in Wellington at the NZ Fringe; at the Dunedin Fringe Festival; and then during the Southland Arts Festival in April 2017 in Invercargill, where the exhibition was launched nine months earlier. Pablos Art Studios and Studio2/Margaret Freeman Gallery were Highly Commended in the Arts Access CQ Hotels Wellington Community Partnership Award 2017 for their role in leading this project.



15

15 creative spaces took part in the touring Creative Spaces Capsule Project.



54

54 creative spaces are listed in the Creative Spaces Directory on Arts Access Aotearoa's website.

“We love our Flightdec website. It helps us to share our stories and information, and network with our community.”

Glen McDonald, Coordinator, Vincents Art Workshop

An artist who works from The White Room, a creative space operated by SkillWise in Christchurch





Deidre Dahlberg, Director of Pablos Art Studios, with Pablos' artists in its ROAR! gallery

Photo: Vanessa Rushton

Diversity in our choices

By Deidre Dahlberg, Director, Pablos Art Studios

Tēnā koutou katoa, Ngā mihi nui ki ngā tangata whenua, ko Taranaki Whānui. He uri ahau nō Te Ati Awa, Ngāti Rangatahi, Ngāti Tūwharetoa. He mokopuna ahau o te whānau Skipper. Ko Deidre Mereana Dahlberg ahau. No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa.

Affirming identity through art ... This is Pablos' mission statement.

Pablos, as you may know, is an art studio with an attached gallery that provides free creative services to people who have had lived experiences of mental ill-health. Individuals who visit our space find an environment that is friendly, open, easy to use, and one that values and caters to their individual needs.

As a person begins their journey at Pablos, they are mentored to self-determine their creative path. Step by step, that person can focus on their creative pursuit, facing challenges and growing their confidence, learning their talents whilst leaving their struggles outside our doors.

At least for a little while.

Eventually, those little whiles become longer whiles until one day they can look back at their journey and recognise that they are talented and valuable, and they can deal with the issues they left at the door and in fact, those issues are now a lot less significant than their own self-worth.

Why art? Art affirms the identity of all of us in society – whether fashion, film, plays, writing, music, sports, advertising, cultural festivals ... Every single element we see around us uses art to claim identity. Pablos uses art to help individuals do the same for their own identity and hopefully then, they too can connect more with their community.

Who are these individuals? All of us are! All of us have mental health and all of us can be affected by a change in our circumstances – an accident, an impairment as a result of getting older, a trauma from bad experiences. You may be homeless; you may be burnt out from work or study; you may have been diagnosed with depression as a result of

Continued on page 14

Soraya XE, one of the Pablos' artists who attended the Arts Access Awards 2017



child birth or grief; you may be a traumatised soldier or a survivor of domestic abuse; you may live with a physical or intellectual disability that has caused mental distress. You may be a former refugee or a former prisoner wanting to change your life but finding it hard to escape devastating memories.

It may be any one of you out there worried to the point of needing help.

Pablos has helped thousands of people lost between the health system and their community. We are not the only NGO that has found a positive model of healing that works. There are others we work with and together, we provide choices for those who need our help.

Choices are what we all deserve. Just like the garment in the clothing store that is labelled one size fits all, we all know that the label isn't true. Many of us cannot fit into that garment. The same can be said for our health services. No one type suits all, we need diversity in our choices. We are equal as human beings but diverse in our experiences and needs. I would encourage our government to remember that when they make their choices. Kia ora!

This was Deidre Dahlberg's speech when she accepted the Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award 2017 on behalf of Pablos Art Studios. Mix and Alpha Omega Playback Theatre Company were Highly Commended in this award.

“Eventually, those little whiles become longer whiles until one day they can look back at their journey and recognise that they are talented and valuable, and they can deal with the issues they left at the door and in fact, those issues are now a lot less significant than their own self-worth.”

3. Advocacy and Profile

This programme is about raising public awareness and advocating for access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand. We do this by profiling, celebrating and advocating for the individuals, organisations and communities with whom we work.

Key achievements

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- profiled and celebrated the artists, creative spaces, Arts in Corrections leaders, performing arts companies, producers and venues who provide access to the arts at the Arts Access Awards 2017. In response to feedback gathered through a survey, measures were taken to enhance the awards ceremony in Parliament and its accessibility. Another feature this year was acknowledging the contribution of the blind and low vision community with Dunedin's Julie Wood (aka That Blind Woman) co-presenting with Richard Benge, Arts Access Aotearoa.
- increased awareness and advocated for inclusion by writing and posting online more than 160 stories, blogs, video, resources and profiles about accessibility and the arts. Many of these were promoted in digital and mainstream media.
- provided a voice and profile for disabled people through the Arts Access Advocates website and by working with convenors of Disability Pride Week 2017 to build a Flightdec community website and promote its events.

“Asked if Down syndrome is an extra challenge to overcome, or an essential component of who he is and his dancing, Duncan Armstrong says: ‘I don’t know what that means. I am a person’.”

Duncan Armstrong, Highly Commended, Arts Access Artistic Achievement Award 2017, *The Dominion Post*



234

234 guests attended the Arts Access Awards 2017 at Parliament.

70/90

70 stories and 90 items, resources, videos or events were written and promoted online.



Áine Kelly-Costello, a blind university student who attended the touch tour and audio described performance of RNZB's *Romeo and Juliet*



Olivier Lacoua, recipient of the Arts Access Accolade 2017, with Julie Wood, who co-presented the Arts Access Awards 2017 with Richard Benge, Executive Director, Arts Access Aotearoa

“Businesses need to demonstrate their social responsibility and work with their community through partnerships and sponsorships. There are so many opportunities.”

Olivier Lacoua, General Manager of CQ Hotels Wellington from 2010 to June 2017

Accolade for Olivier Lacoua

Commitment, inclusion, community and leadership are just some of the words that describe accessibility champion Olivier Lacoua, General Manager of CQ Hotels Wellington from 2010 to June 2017.

Olivier is proof that it's good business to be socially responsible and inclusive. There were 50 staff when he started at the hotel. Now, there are more than 80 staff.

Over his seven years at the helm, he's introduced numerous accessible activities such as menus in braille and in New Zealand Sign Language; a lowered check-in desk; an accessible hotel information pack; and i-Beacon for visually impaired guests. Staff are also encouraged to learn New Zealand Sign Language.

With nine fully accessible hotel rooms, the hotel is recognised as the most accessible hotel in New Zealand.

Since 2012, the hotel has sponsored the Arts Access CQ Hotels Wellington Community Partnership Award. It's particularly fitting, says Richard Benge, Executive Director of Arts Access Aotearoa, that Olivier is this year's recipient of the Arts Access Accolade before he takes up a new role in Christchurch.

Supporting the community is a good way to build team work and get staff more engaged in what's happening around them, Olivier says. "A lot of people want to help but sometimes they don't know how. Here, staff get involved in a lot of community initiatives and feel like they are doing something valuable."

He also points out that if you're not accessible and opening your hotel doors to everyone, you are saying "no" to 24 per cent of the New Zealand population who are Deaf or live with a disability.

"Businesses need to demonstrate their social responsibility and work with their community through partnerships and sponsorships. There are so many opportunities."

Ballet in action through words

By Áine Kelly-Costello

What most stood out for me in the audio description of the ballet of *Romeo and Juliet* was the depth and abundance of descriptors and verbs that I and the other blind and visually impaired audience members were treated to. My appetite was whetted by words such as preening, shimmering, canoodling and rebuffering.

"That pas de deux," said Mum rapturously, as we lined up for ice cream after Act 1. I smiled. I too had experienced the initial hesitancy of the lovers, their youthfulness and their graceful oneness.

I studied classical flute at university so I can begin to imagine how hard the APO worked on such a technical, nuanced and intricate score. I'm also a Paralympian so I can begin to conceive of the immense dedication required of the ballet dancers to stay on top of their game.

And I'm a translation student, so I can contemplate the mental effort, Thesaurus-checking and willpower that would have gone into making the audio descriptions so colourful.

But I could not have known what it would mean to attend a ballet with my mother: to experience the whole show, not just the music. It was an artform I had subconsciously assigned to the "unreachable" pile.

"When you were two," Mum reminded me fondly as we pulled out of the parking lot and headed for the motorway, "you could do all your arabesques, first position, second position, plié ... I always wanted to take you to the ballet."

Áine Kelly-Costello is a blind university student and member of the Arts For All Auckland Network. She blogged about attending the audio described performance of the Royal New Zealand Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet*.

4. Arts in Corrections

This programme is about working with the Department of Corrections and the wider community through Arts Access Aotearoa's Arts in Corrections Advisory Service. We provide information and advice about arts activities and programmes that support the rehabilitation process of offenders and their re-integration into the community on release.

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- encouraged collaborations and connections when it facilitated the first Arts in Corrections Network hui held inside a prison (Northland Region Corrections Facility) with prisoner artists fully engaged in the three days of workshops, presentations, performances and discussions.
- forged new relationships between the arts and Corrections sectors by bringing together members of the Arts in Corrections South Island Network and members of the Arts For All Canterbury Network in a combined meeting. Christchurch Symphony Orchestra took part in a panel discussion about its one-week music workshop with the Youth Unit of Christchurch Men's Prison.
- enhanced the creative and career pathways of artist and former prisoner Simon Kerr by supporting, offering advice and promoting his solo show, *On the Way to the Opera with the Drug Lord and Mr. X*, held at the Potocki Paterson Art Gallery in Wellington in April 2017.
- increased knowledge about the role of Arts in Corrections by drawing on the expertise of UK academic and theatre practitioner Dr Selina Busby, who spoke at an Arts in Corrections Northern Region Network meeting about theatre and re-integration. The event was organised by the Critical Research Unit in Applied Theatre at the University of Auckland and Arts Access Aotearoa
- strengthened the national Arts in Corrections Network and showcased the arts activity happening in prisons and the community around the country at the Arts Access Awards 2017 and the Network meeting the following day.

122



122 people attended regional Arts in Corrections Network meetings in 2017.

70



50 prisoners and 20 visitors participated in the three-day Arts in Corrections Network hui in Northland Region Corrections in May 2017.

50



50 prisoners at Arohata Women's Prison performed to 600 people over two nights and raised money for Wellington Women's Refuge.

43



Arts Access Aotearoa advised on 43 arts projects and workshops held in Corrections facilities in 2017.

856



856 subscribers received the Arts Access in Corrections e-newsletter in December 2017.

“Without collaboration nothing will change. This event needs to be locked in each year so we don't lose sight of the power of great ideas – and making things happen.”

Participant in the Arts in Corrections Network hui at Northland Region Corrections Facility



A combined meeting of members of the Arts in Corrections South Island Network and the Arts For All Canterbury Network included a panel discussion about the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra's one-week workshop in the Youth Unit at Christchurch Men's Prison

Meaningful connections

Sharing knowledge and resources, talking about creative possibilities and challenges, and collaborating on Arts in Corrections projects are among the aims of the Arts in Corrections Network facilitated by Arts Access Aotearoa.

The networks cover three regions and include Corrections staff and volunteers, Community Corrections staff, prisoners, artists and writers, academics, community arts organisations, and people in the wider community interested in arts and social justice.

At least once a year, Jacqui Moyes, Arts in Corrections Advisor, Arts Access Aotearoa, facilitates a meeting in each region. Each meeting is tailored to meet the different needs of each community. In Auckland, the meeting was hosted by the Critical Research Unit of Applied Theatre at The University of Auckland. It included a presentation by UK academic Dr Selina Busby about the role of theatre in prisons and probation services.

In contrast, the three-day hui at Northland Region Corrections Facility focused on practical workshops and presentations. It

was the first time a network meeting had been held inside a prison and included prisoners taking part in the facility's arts programmes.

The hui included workshops on music, tape art, and yoga and performing arts. In addition, all the prisoners spoke about their work in the arts programme while men in the Shakespeare Behind Bars programme performed devised work for the visitors.

"This was hugely beneficial and participants could see a strong creative community in action," Jacqui says. "It was amazing to see how engaged and motivated the men and the arts team at Northland were. It was an example of how good the arts can be in bringing people together and making meaningful connections."

For more information about the Arts in Corrections Network, contact Jacqui Moyes (E: jacqui.moyes@artsaccess.org.nz T: 04 802 4349).



As part of Christchurch Men's Prison's Kotuku art project, prisoners created a large sign for the entrance to the Kotuku Unit. The final work showcases the skills of the men and the disciplines explored through the project: oil painting, carving and metal work Photo: Department of Corrections

Art tells stories of hope

Hope, family, respect, trust and truth are among the words painted on the walls of Christchurch Men's Prison by young offenders taking part in one of the art programmes operating across the site.

"I never imagined I could do what I have done," wrote one of the participants in the Youth Unit. "Mine tells a story of hope. I've learned different shading, transfer and painting techniques."

Another wrote: "Art helps me release my emotions. It helps me get through my depression and clears my mind."

Maree Hanford, Principal Adviser Rehabilitation and Learning, says staff at Christchurch Men's Prison are passionate about the value of the prison's arts programmes, and their buy-in is vital to its success.

"We try to provide art across as many units as possible and no one is excluded," she says. "We recognise the importance of having the arts as one of the subjects that can engage and benefit prisoners, and we cater for it in our annual budgeting."

The arts programmes can have therapeutic benefits; improve problem-solving and adaptability; build leadership and team work; and increase confidence and self-esteem. For some men, their new skills can become a means of supporting themselves and their dependants when they return to the community.

Award recipients

Christchurch Men's Prison received the Arts Access Corrections Leadership Award 2017.

The Bedtime Stories Programme at Arohata Women's Prison in Wellington received the Arts Access Corrections Community Award 2017 with Highly Commended certificates presented to Write Where You Are and Whānau Manaaki.



5. Information Centre

This programme is about providing a national information service on access to and participation in the arts, and advising on best practice.

Key achievements

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- built the capacity of its stakeholders and networks by providing accurate and relevant answers to a record 225 requests for information and advice from individuals and organisations (up from 175 requests in 2016).
- increased traffic and engagement to the Arts Access Aotearoa website. In 2017, the website attracted 18,397 unique visitors and 53,315 page views.

"Oh wow, you rock! Amazing help and fab ideas! You are always brilliant at communication, much appreciated."

Kayte Shaw, Deaf Aotearoa

 **18%** ↑

Facebook "likes" increased by 18% in 2017 to 2746.

 **13%** ↑

Twitter followers increased by 13% in 2017 to 2441.

 **1225**

1225 subscribers received the Arts Access in Touch e-newsletter in December 2017.

Ray Smith, CEO, Department of Corrections with Luan Smith, Maree Hanford and Pablo Godoy of Christchurch Men's Prison, presented the Arts Access Corrections Leadership Award 2017

Funders and sponsors

Arts Access Aotearoa thanks the following organisations that have supported its work to increase access to the arts in 2017. We look forward to your ongoing support.

We also thank individuals whose generous donations supported our work in 2017.

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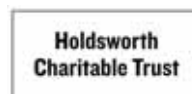


Grants



Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

Arts Access Awards 2017 sponsors



Awesome Arts Access Auction event partner



Supporting what we do

You can help Arts Access Aotearoa reduce barriers and increase access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand.

Make a donation

Help us ensure all people can participate in the arts either as creators or audience members. An easy and effective way to make a monthly donation and be kept up to date with events and activities throughout the year is to join Friends of Arts Access Aotearoa.

Arts Access Aotearoa is a registered charitable trust and donations of any size are gratefully received. You can claim a tax credit on donations of \$5 or more.

Options to support

Every dollar you donate will benefit artists, people and communities throughout New Zealand. Projects needing support include:



1. Arts For All: increasing access to arts and cultural events for everyone

“I could not have known what it would mean to attend a ballet with my mother: to experience the whole show, not just the music. It was an artform I had subconsciously assigned to the ‘unreachable’ pile.” Áine Kelly-Costello, a blind university student, blogs about attending a touch tour and audio described performance of Royal New Zealand Ballet’s *Romeo and Juliet* in Auckland.



2. Creative spaces: building the sustainability of community-based creative spaces throughout New Zealand

For Karen, an artist who attends Mix creative space in Hutt City, art making at Mix has been a way through a difficult personal time. “I got really sick, off work, was in the house all the time. Coming here has given me lots of opportunities and skills as I do my artwork and share it with other people in the class.”



3. Arts Access Awards: celebrating artistic achievement, and the individuals, groups and organisations providing access to the arts

“My performance is the accumulation of many layers: my disability, my Māori heritage, my experience on the streets, and my passion for movement and connection,” says Te Kuiti dancer Rodney Bell, whose achievements and contribution to New Zealand were recognised when he received the Arts Access Artistic Achievement Award 2017.



4. Arts in Corrections: using the arts as a tool supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners

Among the overwhelmingly positive feedback about the three-day Arts in Corrections Network hui in Northland Region Corrections Facility, one prisoner wrote: “Thank you for this opportunity and the great advice and positive energy that has made a huge impact on my ability to make music and enhance myself as a human being.”

Sponsorship and corporate support

By sponsoring Arts Access Aotearoa, your business can be strategically aligned with a national arts charity that increases access to the arts for everyone in New Zealand.

Leave a gift in your will

Your bequest will help us build a more inclusive society to ensure that future generations will experience the arts and creativity, without barriers.

Making your donation

Arts Access Aotearoa needs your support to ensure everyone in New Zealand, now and in the future, can engage in the arts. With your help, we can all experience the arts and creativity, without barriers.

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

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Please supply your email address so we can send you a receipt and keep you up to date with news and events. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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With a donation of \$ _____

Or:

- I wish to make a regular monthly donation as a Friend of Arts Access Aotearoa of \$ _____
- Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will so that more people in New Zealand will have access to the arts for years to come.

Please choose a payment option below or give online at www.artsaccess.org.nz/donate-to-arts-access-aotearoa

- I enclose my cheque payable to Arts Access Aotearoa
- or

- Please charge my credit card

Visa / Mastercard number: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

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Account name: Arts Access Aotearoa

Account number: 03-0502-0040862-00

Please include your full name as reference.

To arrange for your tax deductible receipt please call us on 04 802 4349 or email info@artsaccess.org.nz

Please return this completed form with your payment to Arts Access Aotearoa, PO Box 9828, Wellington 6141.

Thank you for your support

If you would like more information about how you can support Arts Access Aotearoa, please contact Richard Benge, Executive Director (T: 04 802 4349 or 021 217 1002 E: richard.benge@artsaccess.org.nz).