

**He aha ngā
tāke kōrero?**

**arts
access
aotearoa**
Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

**What's the
story? 2021**



**Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa
Increasing access to the arts**



Kaumātua Wiremu (Bill) Kaua and Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club welcome guests to Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 with a mihi whakatau
Photo: Elias Rodriguez, marktantrum.com

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 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:

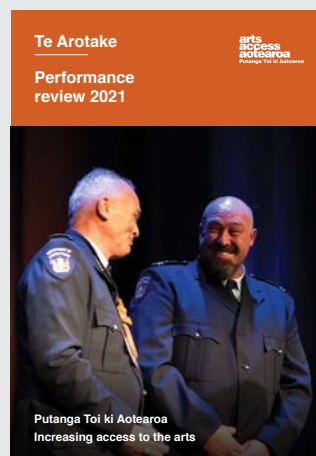
- **Mōhiotanga** – seeking understanding and awareness
- **Rangatiratanga** – respecting the mana of others
- **Whanaungatanga** – appreciating the value of relationships and partnerships
- **Kotahitanga** – working in harmony to achieve common purpose and shared vision
- **Kaitiakitanga** – service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

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Te Arotake Performance Review 2021

Arts Access Aotearoa's independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 is published in its *Te Arotake Performance Review 2021*. 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, Easy Read and online

Arts Access Aotearoa's *Te Arotake Performance Review 2021* and *He aha ngā tāke kōrero? What's the Story? 2021* can be downloaded from [Arts Access Aotearoa's website](#).

Easy Read and 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 2021.

Cover image: Hone Fletcher and Lawrence Ereata, Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, receive the Arts Access Accolade at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 Photo: Elias Rodriguez, marktandrum.com

Guided by our values

Chair and Executive Director's report on 2021

Here in Aotearoa and the rest of the world, we are learning to live with COVID-19 in our communities. This means constant vigilance and adaptability, as we work in different, often innovative ways.

As a national service and advocacy organisation, Arts Access Aotearoa's aim throughout the pandemic is to continue providing advisory services and events, and supporting vulnerable communities to access the arts.

How have we done this? We're fortunate to be funded for services and not reliant on tickets sales, as are many arts organisations. At a time when programmes, festivals and opening dates have gone out the window and incomes have been greatly reduced, leaders of arts organisations have relied on the values of their organisations to guide them.

We will always be grateful to former trustee Awhimai Reynolds, who guided us in the development of Arts Access Aotearoa's values. One value, in particular – "Kaitiakitanga: service to others and nurturing leadership within others" – strengthens our purpose and guides our activities.

The not-for-profit community sector provides support and advocacy about issues ranging from the environment and wage equity to health, education and, in the case of Arts Access Aotearoa, the rights of Deaf, disabled and marginalised people to be included in the arts.

As we advocate for the services, changes and improvements needed in these times, let's recognise the true value of what the arts provide to social cohesion, our sense of wellbeing and connection.

Research and policy

Research and policy development were features of Arts Access Aotearoa's programme of work over 2021 and has had a positive impact across the organisation. With additional assistance from a contracted policy advisor, we worked alongside central Government, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections, Oranga Tamariki and Creative New Zealand.

We were pleased to complete our pilot arts programme with Oranga Tamariki in two youth justice residences:

Te Au Rere a te Tonga in Palmerston North and Korowai Manaaki in Auckland. Funded by Creative New Zealand, the contracted artists delivered ten arts programmes to 90 rangatahi, some of whom participated in multiple programmes across music, singing, creative writing, theatre and visual arts.

An evaluation of the pilot resulted in a 78-page report of the findings, delivered to Oranga Tamariki in late 2021. The report concluded that the pilot achieved positive outcomes across both effectiveness and cost-effective metrics. We look forward to delivering more programmes to benefit the wellbeing and creative self-expression of rangatahi in 2022.

Access, inclusion and participation

In 2021, Wellington City Council adopted its new ten-year arts strategy, *Aho Tini 2030: Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy*, to deliver cultural wellbeing to the city. Arts Access Aotearoa worked extensively with the Council to ensure accessibility was an integral part of the strategy. *Aho Tini 2030* and the consultation process surrounding it provides a template for other local councils to follow and ensure they are responsive to their Deaf and disabled citizens.

Research and policy development also supported our advocacy to government organisations about the importance of recognising the need to embed accessibility and inclusion in everything they do.

Arts in Corrections

This year, Arts Access Aotearoa conducted a [major literature review examining the benefits of arts programmes in criminal justice settings](#): i.e. in prisons, with people on parole and in Community Corrections settings.

The review concluded that a national framework or set of guidelines to deliver arts programmes across all 18 prisons would support the Department of Corrections' *Hōkai Rangi Strategy*; achieve consistent, culturally relevant arts participation; and enable us to provide more effective data and measure the impact of these arts programmes.

Arts Access Aotearoa is committed to working with Ara Poutama Aotearoa Department of Corrections on the development of a national framework.



Co-hosts actor Jacob Dombroski and Richard Benge, Executive Director, Arts Access Aotearoa, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021
Photo: Elias Rodriguez, marktantrum.com



Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, visits Magenta Creative Space in Nelson

Arts, health and wellbeing

Delivered through Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Government's \$18 million Creative Spaces Initiative/CARE Fund will benefit 54 creative spaces over three years from 2021.

Arts Access Aotearoa was pleased to partner with Manatū Taonga in an advisory role and employed two additional creative space advisors, firstly to advise creative spaces on their funding applications and then to help build the capability of the funded creative spaces.

Included in the funding is an allocation for Arts Access Aotearoa to deliver a professional development programme for the sector over the next three years, including a creative spaces conference in 2022.

Even though creative spaces have been challenged by COVID-19 restrictions, their efforts to remain connected and deliver programmes to their communities have been outstanding.

Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021

These awards, introduced in 2008 and held at the Beehive in Parliament Buildings, are Arts Access Aotearoa's major advocacy tool to promote the leadership achievements of the organisations and individuals we work with. This year, we moved from Parliament and presented Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 in Te Papa Tongarewa.

There were many highlights of the evening, including the recipients of the Arts Access Accolade: Lawrence Ereata and Hone Fletcher, Principal Advisors at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison. These men have worked together for many years and are champions of prisoner rehabilitation and community reintegration through the use of tikanga and toi Māori.

Congratulations to all the fantastic recipients and those who were Highly Commended.

Lynley Hutton
Trust Chair | Toihau
27 May 2022

Richard Benge MNZM
Executive Director | Kaiwhakahaere Matua
27 May 2022

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, a contract with Ara Poutama Aotearoa, and significant grants from Foundation North and Wellington City Council.

This year we were pleased to receive funding through Auckland Council's Strategic Partnership Grant, which will increase our capacity to deliver for Auckland.

We were also pleased to work with Oranga Tamariki on a pilot programme delivering the arts to youth justice residences.

Thanks to our team

By the end of 2021, the pandemic had been with us for two years. Over that time, we have all been challenged to do things differently, becoming more resilient and creative.

Our sincere thanks to Arts Access Aotearoa staff for their commitment and skills this year. Thanks also to our volunteers, trustees, Kaumātua Bill Kaua, and Patrons Mel Smith, Miranda Harcourt and Dame Rosie Horton.

After more than nine years, Dr Karen Webster retired from the board as its chair in August 2021. Thank you, Karen, for your outstanding commitment and contribution.

At Arts Access Aotearoa, we continue to uphold all our values, including "Whanaungatanga: appreciating the value of relationships and partnerships". By working alongside others, we will strive to achieve our vision that "All people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts".

People in 2021

as at 31 December 2021



Kaumātua

The Venerable Wiremu
(Bill) Kaua ONZM

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti
Kahungunu, Ngāti
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

Dr Karen Webster, Chair
– Chair from May 2018,
joined board in April 2012,
retired August 2021

Jo Burrell – joined board
in May 2021

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

Olivier Lacoua – joined
board in November 2019

Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp
– joined board in August
2017

Stew Sexton – joined
board in February 2017

Ruth Smithers – joined
board in February 2018

Paige Sullivan, youth
member – joined board in
April 2021

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

Kate Hiatt, Creative
Spaces Advisor | Kaiārahi a Toi
Whakawātea Tangata

Iona McNaughton,
Communications
Manager | Kaiwhakahaere
Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero

Padma Naidu, Creative
Spaces Advisor –
Auckland | Kaiārahi a Toi
Whakawātea Tangata –
Tāmaki Makaurau

Benedict Reid, Creative
Spaces Funding Advisor |
Kaiārahi Kohi Moni

Stace 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

Intern: **Lachlan Giddens**,
Masters student,
Te Herenga Waka – Victoria
University of Wellington

Volunteers

Thanks to all the volunteers,
who did so much to support
Arts Access Aotearoa and
its work in 2021.

Aimee McNaughton, Amy
Boswell-Hore, Antoinette
Spicer, David Thomsen,
David Feliua'i, Haz
Forrester, Jesse Porter,
Jonathan Engle, Lize
Immelman, Moss Mirogren,
Nathan Wallis, Nina
Lesperance, Rajeev Mishra,
Sam Orchard, Sarah Joy,
Tom Noble, Una Dubbelt-
Leitch

2.



3.



4.



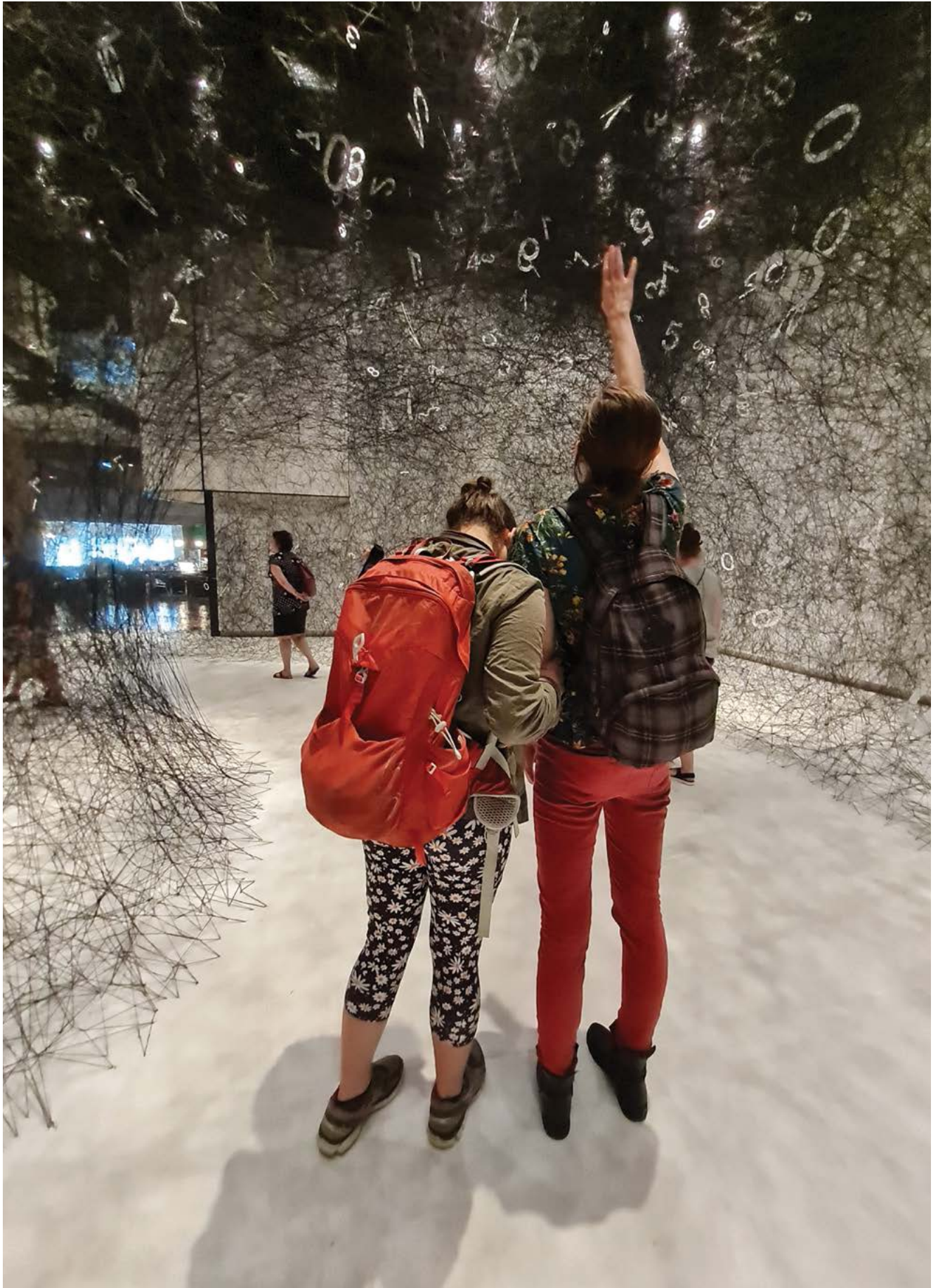
1. Board members at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Arts Access Aotearoa
2. Richard Benge and Chris Ulutupu prepare to record a 30-minute video presentation for the 2021 online ACEA Conference
3. Stace Robertson and former trustee Erin Gough present a disability training workshop to Arts Access Aotearoa staff
4. Kate Hiatt with Karen Seccombe, facilitator of Women's Art Initiative in Palmerston North
5. Iona McNaughton and Dawa Devereux with Te Aturangi Nepia-Clamp at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021
6. Mel Smith, Founding Patron, with Richard Benge at the 2021 Annual General Meeting

5.



6.





Visitors to Te Papa enjoy a Sense Art tour of *Web of Time*, an installation by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota Photo: Stacey Robertson

Achievements in 2021

Arts Access Aotearoa fulfils its strategic goals through five key programmes. This section highlights the key activities in 2020 under each programme.

1. Te Puna Toi | Access, Inclusion 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:

- ensured accessibility was an integral part of Wellington City Council's new ten-year arts strategy, *Aho Tini 2030: Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy*, by working closely with the Council.
- raised awareness about the importance of accessibility by delivering presentations, taking part in panel discussions and advising a number of organisations, including Massey University, EVANZ, Creative New Zealand, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, New Zealand Fringe Festival and Playmarket.
- expanded knowledge and understanding about accessibility in the arts by facilitating an in-person Arts For All Hawke's Bay Network meeting and five other regional in-person network meetings, and visiting several arts organisations in the Bay of Plenty.
- extended the reach of the national Arts For All Network by hosting four virtual Zoom hui on pertinent topics: accessibility policies and action plans, responding to COVID-19, and digital accessibility.
- built the capability of Arts For All Network members to develop accessibility policies by creating a comprehensive guide, presenting it virtually to members and posting on our website.

10

10 Arts For All Network meetings, either online or live, were facilitated in 2021.

44
AD

Of the 182 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2021, 44 were audio described.

37

Of the 182 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2021, 37 were sign interpreted.

R 37

Of the 182 accessible services at arts and cultural events recorded in 2021, 37 were relaxed performances.

50

A record 50 members attended the Arts For All Wellington Network meeting, held on 8 April.

58

58 events featured Deaf or disabled artists and writers.

"Stace is a great facilitator, presenter and advocate. It was an inspiring and engaging event."

Laura Vodanovich, Director, MTG Hawke's Bay and member of the Arts For All Hawke's Bay Network



NZSL interpreter Melissa Simchowitz signs to Deaf patrons about *The Little Mermaid* pantomime before the performance at Circa Theatre

“Glowing comments” for Circa

Demand for Circa Theatre's accessible shows has increased significantly since the Wellington theatre company's first audio-described performance in 2011.

More than 110 people from the Deaf community attended the 2020 NZSL interpreted performance of *Cinderella* – more than double the previous record of 50 people who attended *Alice in Wonderland* in 2019.

“It was the largest-ever NZSL audience in New Zealand, according to the Deaf community and our interpreters,” says James Cain, Circa's Accessibility Manager at the time.

Demand for the other accessible shows the theatre offers – audio described performance for blind and low vision patrons and relaxed performances for people with autism, sensory communication or learning disabilities – has also grown.

In October 2020, the theatre held its first sell-out relaxed performance, with about 90 people attending *The Glitter Garden*. It reduced noise levels and turned the lights up to accommodate the sensory needs of the audience. It also limited the number of seats available to allow audience members to move around or change seats if they needed to.

The response from the audience was extremely positive. “We got some really glowing comments,” James says. “It was a great experience for the actors too. It's a different experience from the traditional show but they found it exhilarating to be able to share the show with the audience, and see that they felt comfortable in a space many might otherwise find difficult to be in.”

Circa is committed to staging at least four accessible performances a year, maintaining best accessibility practices for staff and ensuring the venue is as accessible as possible. [Read the full story](#)

Circa Theatre received the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award, presented by Robyn Hunt at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021.

Theresa Cooper, NZSL consultant, and Nicola Owen, Audio Described Aotearoa, were Highly Commended.



Lusi Faiva performs Taupou at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 Photo: Elías Rodríguez, marktantrum.com

Smashing perceptions around disability

“Art can smash perceptions and boundaries, and Lusi Faiva wields one of the biggest hammers. Her courage to be a part of a world that is constantly letting her down fuels me to support her to find platforms where she can roar, changing the world through her magnificent artistic voice,” says Rose Kirkup, artistic director of Wellington theatre group Everybody Cool Lives Here.

Dancer Lusi Faiva is an active and highly regarded member of the arts community. She attends every show she is invited to, and always congratulates and supports fellow dancers and choreographers, in person and on social media.

In 2021, Lusi was appointed a member of the Touch Compass artistic direction panel.

Lusi says she has learned a lot from others in the dance and theatre communities, which has helped her perform better.

“I’m so grateful that I got to live my dreams and do something that I am passionate about. Being a performing artist has brought me a successful career with Touch Compass. I am so grateful for that each day.

“As a Sāmoan performer, I’d love to share the uniqueness of my own kaupapa and my disability. Showing the real me, being in a chair performing with style, in my way.”

Her advice to others is, “Don’t be afraid to do something that will bring confidence and teach people to understand how to achieve their goals in whatever they choose to do in life.

“As a performer with a disability, I have had to overcome barriers, with people saying that I can’t talk or dance. But it seems that I have proved them wrong. I believe it is possible for anyone who has a disability to achieve their dreams in this able-bodied world!” [Read the full story](#)

Lusi Faiva received the Arts Access PAK’nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award, presented by Kieran O’Sullivan at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021.

Writer and spoken-word poet Helen Vivienne Fletcher was Highly Commended.

2. Manaaki Hapori | Community Engagement

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.

Key achievements

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- boosted the morale of creative spaces throughout the country by providing a platform for them to celebrate their artists, tell their stories and share their innovative programme delivery during COVID-19 restrictions.
- built the capability of the 54 creative spaces funded over three years through Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, by advising, supporting and promoting them.
- consolidated the national Creative Spaces Network by facilitating a series of professional development virtual hui, focused on topics such as leadership, evaluation and best practice, within a collaborative learning environment.
- expanded the diversity of the Creative Spaces Network by connecting with creative spaces that work with marginalised groups such as women who have experienced violence and abuse, youth at risk, senior citizens, former refugees and migrants, and those living in isolated communities.
- strengthened individual creative spaces by advising and supporting them to improve their governance and management structures. Training in governance and management is in place for delivery in 2022.



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



54 creative spaces received funding through the Manatū Taonga Creative Space Initiative/ CARE Fund.



4 national Creative Spaces Network meetings were held online in 2021, one specifically for Auckland creative spaces working primarily with Māori and Pacific youth.



4 regions and their creative spaces had face-to-face visits from Arts Access Aotearoa regions before lockdown.



4 creative spaces pānui were distributed to approximately 110 subscribers.

“I’m pleased Manatū Taonga has partnered with Arts Access Aotearoa in delivering this initiative. With their wealth of knowledge and established relationships, they will also work with the recipients to help them with reporting, source longer-term sustainable funding, and share good practice with the Creative Space Network.”

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts and Culture and for Disability Issues



Maia with a puppet she created in Toi Ako Te Kauwhata's Creative Kids Programme. Toi Ako Te Kauwhata is a creative space in Waikato.



An artist at Art-East displays her artwork in the Family Recovery Garden Te Oranga Rā in Christchurch

Tapping into positivity through the arts

Art-East's founder and facilitator Lis Rate-Smith says it's "a privilege" to be part of the journeys of Art-East members. "Our purpose is to help people connect with community through the arts."

Art-East is aimed at people who have struggled or are struggling with alcohol or drug addiction issues, mental distress, isolation, social stigma, institutionalisation, and homelessness.

It's a multi-disciplinary art studio, incorporating drawing, painting, mosaics, stone-carving, papermaking, woodburning, printing and sculpture. There are regular field trips, and local artists are invited to share their skills at the studio.

"I wanted to begin an arts-based programme because of a growing dissatisfaction with a very medical model of alcohol and drug addiction treatment within mainstream services. The focus is invariably around a person's deficits and tends to have a narrow lens on what constitutes 'wellness'.

"Instead of focusing on what was 'wrong' with the person, we wanted to tap into undiscovered or existing strengths that would give them a stronger sense of self and purpose.

"I'm a great believer in the need to replace any maladaptive behaviours with positive activities, behaviours, and expression. For me, this can be achieved through the arts."

Lis says she continually receives "overwhelmingly positive feedback" from the artists about the value and significant difference the programme makes to their wellness journey.

"Many speak of the opportunity the programme has given them to express and process their situations and experiences safely. Positive social connection, community engagement and the ability to foster 'normal and healthy' interactions are all things we've come to observe and appreciate in our work." [Read the full story](#)

Art-East received the Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award, presented by Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and for Disability Issues, at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021.

[Cantabrainers Choir and Women's Art Initiative were Highly Commended.](#)



Kezia Bennett performs in *The Art of Observation* at the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts

Sharing a love of dance

By Kezia Bennett

Wellington Inclusive Dance (WIDance) is a diverse bunch. There are people here with and without disabilities. And among the disabled dancers, some are in wheelchairs or mobility scooters; some can walk but also use crutches; and some have a learning disability. Yet we all have a love of dance in common.

I'm a wheelchair user and a founding member of WIDance. We learn contemporary dance, improvisation and choreography. We occasionally go next door to the Circus Hub for workshops too.

Our funding comes from Wellington City Council and we also got funding from the Government through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's Creative Spaces Initiative. This funding is exciting because it means we can reach even more people with workshops, and regular classes in Porirua and the Horowhenua.

Our tutor, Sumara, does a lot of the choreography but the rest of us contribute our ideas and have a say. It's a very democratic and inclusive group. And although we're an amateur company, we have professional standards. "Good enough" or "close enough" doesn't cut it and slacking off is not an option!

Over the years, we've done lots of public performances and most recently, we performed at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 at Te Papa. We also have a small "showing" of the term's work for friends and family at the end of each term.

We often get reminded to adapt other people's dance moves to fit our own bodies, push our limits and our comfort zones. I know I used to say that some things were "too hard" or "I can't do that" before I even gave it a go. Now, I don't give up easily. I've learned to see challenges as opportunities instead of impossible obstacles.

I enjoy the camaraderie, plus the creativity and the endorphins I get from dancing. In WIDance, it doesn't matter if you have a disability. The focus is on what you can do, not what you can't. [Read the full story](#)

[Kezia Bennett is Communications Assistant | Kaiawhina Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero, Arts Access Aotearoa](#)



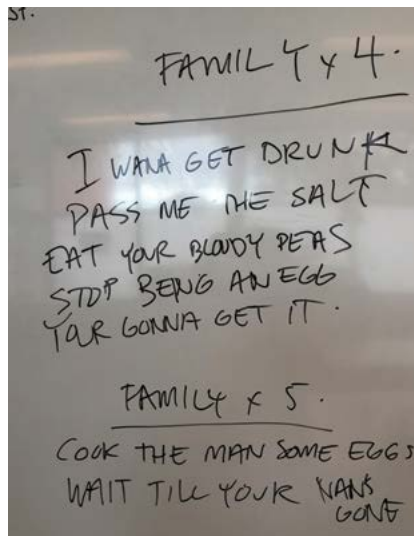
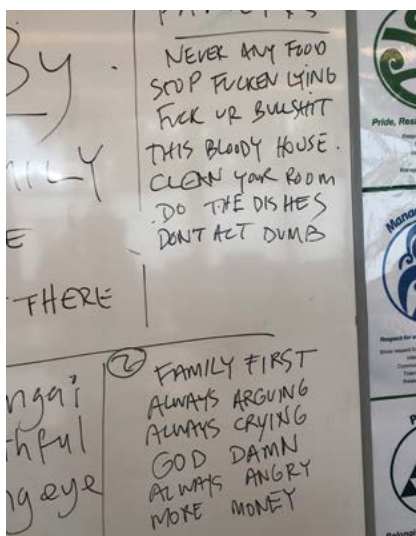
Mauri Ngākau: life force of the heart, a 78-page evaluation report of Arts Access Aotearoa's pilot arts programme with Oranga Tamariki in two youth justice residences.



Rangatahi in Korowai Manaaki youth justice residence created masks in a digital storytelling workshop, delivered by Edith and Jordan from Ranui 135 Youth Trust.

"I feel it in my heart, Miss."

This comment from a rangatahi, responding to the sound of a violin, inspired the title of the evaluation report.



Rangatahi wrote about their lives during Read NZ's poetry workshops, facilitated by Ben Brown.

3. Te Ao Marama | Sector Advocacy and Profile

This programme is about raising public awareness and advocating for access to and inclusion in 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:

- communicated the value of Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage's three-year \$18 million fund for creative spaces by writing and promoting news stories and profiles about some of the 54 recipients.
- increased opportunities for rangatahi in youth justice residences to participate in the arts by advocating to Oranga Tamariki, and completing and evaluating a pilot arts programme with Oranga Tamariki in Te Au Rere a te Tonga and Korowai Manaaki youth justice residences.
- built the digital capability of creative spaces by writing video guidelines and launching an Artist Spotlight video campaign promoting artists and the creative spaces they attend. This is an ongoing campaign, continuing in 2022.
- celebrated and increased the profile of recipients – artists, writers, creative spaces, Arts in Corrections leaders, performing arts companies – at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021, held for the first time at Te Papa Tongarewa. We also recognised excellence in reporting about accessibility and inclusion in the arts by presenting the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Media Award 2021 to Andre Chumko, The Dominion Post and Stuff reporter.
- increased awareness and advocated for access and inclusion by writing and posting online more than 250 stories, blogs, items, video, resources and profiles about accessibility and the arts. Many of these stories were published in digital or mainstream media, including columns written by Arts Access Aotearoa staff member Kezia Bennett and Royal New Zealand Ballet's Kristie Mortimer.

▶ 255

85 stories and more than 170 items, resources, videos and events were posted and promoted online.



Kristie Mortimer, a Dance Educator at the Royal New Zealand Ballet, rehearses with women in Arohata Women's Prison for the Inside-Out Matariki Concert in 2021.

“Thank you for a very special and well-organised Awards event. It was encouraging to meet so many different people from around the country and celebrate alongside them. Congratulations on this unique ceremony, which unites us in bringing arts to everyone.”

Cathy Irons, Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, [recipient of the Arts Access Manatū Taonga Community Arts Award 2021](#)



Celebrating the recipients of the Arts Access Accolade 2021 ... From left: Richard Benge, Hone Fletcher, Wiremu Kaua, Lawrence Ereatara and Beth Hill
Photo: Elias Rodriguez, marktantrum.com

Travelling the same pathway

Hone Fletcher and Lawrence Ereatara took different pathways to get to Hawkes Bay Regional Prison but they are travelling on the same pathway now, and they are confident that pathway will provide the way for the tāne they work with to leave the prison – and never return.

Hone (Ngāti Rehia no Ngapuhi me Te Paatu no Ngāti Kahu), started working at the prison six years ago after a career in education, counselling, addiction and mental health. He's also spent more than 40 years as a professional musician.

Lawrence (Ngai Tuhoë me Ngāti Kahungunu) comes from a more traditional Corrections background: he's worked for the Department of Corrections for almost 20 years and has held many roles at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison.

However, both men are steeped in te ao Māori and it's their deep knowledge that informs their work helping to implement the Māori Pathways programme at the prison.

The programme supports Corrections' *Hōkai Rangi Strategy 2019–2024* and uses kaupapa Māori and whānau-centred approaches to reduce recidivism and the proportion of Māori in the Corrections system.

Hone and Lawrence have been working together to help implement the programme since 2019. Both have worked closely with Arts Access Aotearoa during their years at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, including arranging for tāne to carve some of the trophies presented at the annual Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards. They have also been closely involved in the Arts in Corrections Network.

Their collaborative practice was recognised at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 on 5 July, when they were named the joint recipients of the Arts Access Accolade 2021. [Read the full story](#)



1. Weaver Juanita Davis receives her Highly Commended certificate from Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Corrections
2. Art-East representatives Lis Rate-Smith, Deborah Kavanagh and Geoff Howard received the Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award 2021 from Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
3. Kieran O'Sullivan, PAK'nSAVE, presents the Arts Access, PAK'nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award 2021 to Lusi Faiva
4. James Cain, then Accessibility Manager at Circa Theatre, receives the Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award 2021 from Arts Council member Robyn Hunt, with CEO Stephen Wainwright
5. Christchurch Symphony Orchestra representatives Mark La Roche, Cathy Irons and Gretchen La Roche receive the Arts Access Manatū Taonga Community Arts Award 2021 from Bernadette Cavanagh, CEO, Manatū Taonga



**Te Putanga Toi
Arts Access
Awards 2021**

4. Toi Ara Poutama | Arts in Corrections

This programme is about working with Ara Poutama Aotearoa 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 reintegration into the community on release.

Under this programme, Arts Access Aotearoa:

- highlighted the value of arts programmes in building prisoners' educational skills to an international audience. We facilitated a panel of three Arts in Corrections leaders (Rue-Jade Morgan, Beth Hill and Kristie Mortimer) in a 30-minute video presentation to the online 14th International Australasian Correctional Education and Training Conference in November.
- encouraged the Department of Corrections to instigate a national Arts in Corrections framework by conducting a literature review that examined the benefits that accrue from the delivery of arts programmes in criminal justice settings.
- promoted the value of arts programmes in prisons by working with mainstream media to publish three major Dominion Post/Stuff articles.
- acknowledged the outstanding delivery of arts and cultural programmes at Hawkes Bay Regional Prison by presenting five of its staff with awards at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021. We also welcomed two taonga created by a carver in the prison as the trophies for the two Arts in Corrections awards.
- advised and supported five prisoners or former prisoners through the Artists Pathways initiative to develop their arts practice in the community on release from prison.
- increased the visibility and raised awareness of prisoners' artistic talents by advising the Department of Corrections and then promoting its new gallery showcasing prisoners' art in its refurbished office in Wellington in 2021.

68



68 people attended a total of three face-to-face and one online Arts in Corrections Network meetings in 2021

20



20 artworks from 14 prison sites with distance learning through The Learning Connexion were displayed in the new exhibition space in Ara Poutama Aotearoa's refurbished national office in Wellington

5



5 prisoners or former prisoners were supported through the Artists Pathways initiative.

134



134 queries about Arts in Corrections were responded to by Arts Access Aotearoa in 2021.

221



221 people attend the ACEA online conference from Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland and USA.

886



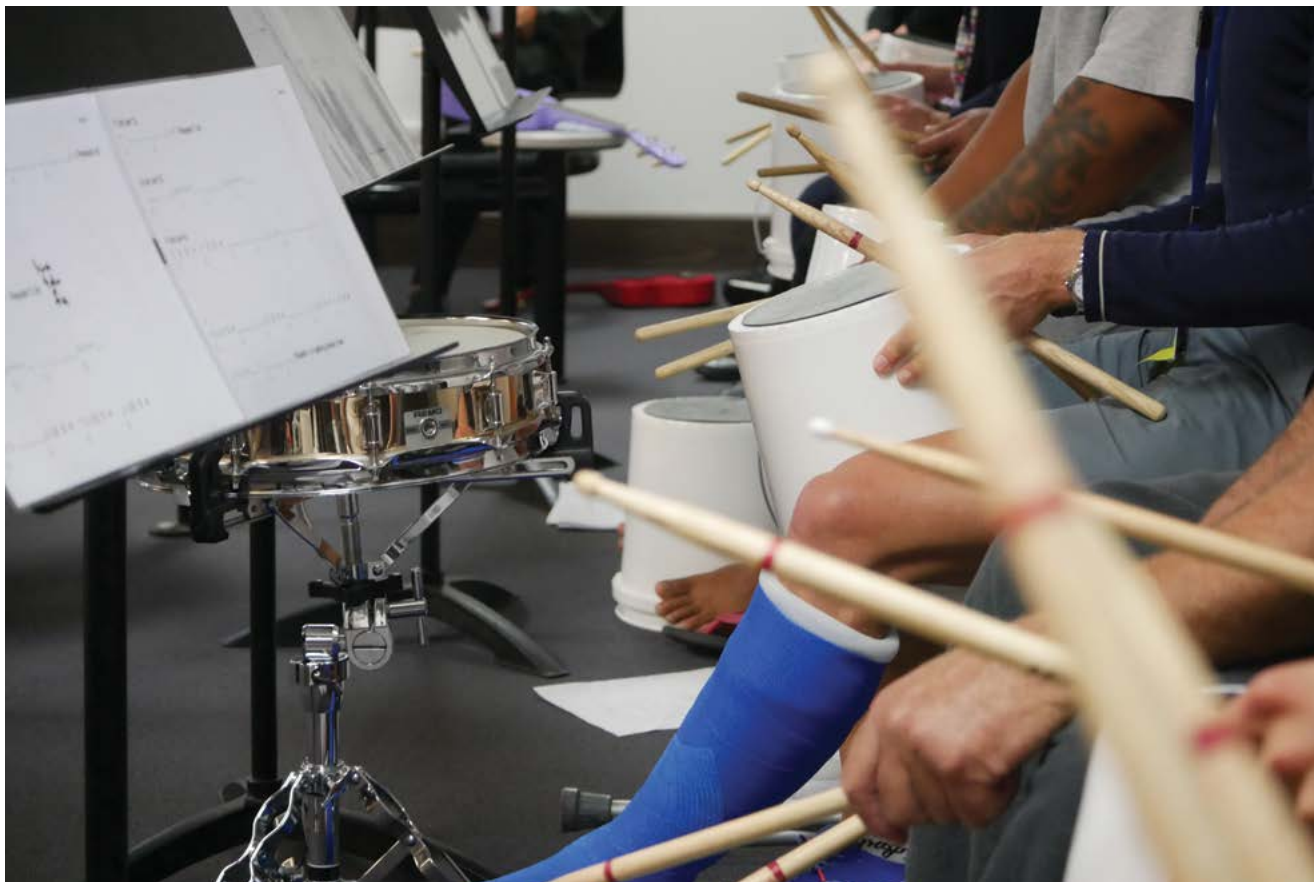
886 subscribers received the Arts Access in Corrections e-newsletter in December 2021.

“Congratulations on your excellent presentation with Rue-Jade, Beth and Kristie! It really highlighted the depth and breadth of what is offered in our prisons. We’re so lucky to have such dedicated people to work with those in our care.”

Dr Helen Farley, Practice Manager Education and Training – Southern Region, Department of Corrections, commenting on Arts Access Aotearoa's presentation to the online ACEA Conference

How tikanga and toi Māori can change lives

Juanita Davis, Whanganui Prison; Zak Devey and Youth Arts NZ; and Annah Mac, Otago Corrections Facility were Highly Commended.



Men in the Navigate Unit at Christchurch Men's Prison can participate in regular workshops with Christchurch Symphony Orchestra musicians

Research backs Pathway approach

Independent research is an important tool that Pathway Trust in Christchurch uses to track and measure the impact of its programmes aimed at reducing recidivism.

For example, a three-year study from 2011 to 2014 showed that men who participated in Pathway's Reintegration Programme were 43% less likely to re-offend within 12 months of release than if they hadn't undertaken the programme.

Using this research, Pathway approached the Department of Corrections about setting up a pilot programme called the Navigate Initiative within Christchurch Men's Prison.

Anaru Baynes, a therapist with the Department of Corrections for ten years and now Reintegration Manager at Pathway, set up the programme in 2018. Here, up to 20 tū ora (the name given to the men by local iwi Ngāi Tahu) live in self-care units on the prison grounds as they near the end of their prison terms.

Over six months, they are provided the necessary tools and opportunities to help them transition back into the community and make a fresh start.

Initially a two-year pilot, its success has resulted in it becoming an established programme in 2022.

"The Navigate Initiative can now be accessed nationally through a referral system and we're also looking to roll it out across other sites in Christchurch," Anaru says.

Everything the Navigate Initiative does is focused on preparing the men for life on the outside. It is guided by seven pillars: strength and identity, skills for life, education, employment, oranga (mental wellbeing), whānau and accommodation.

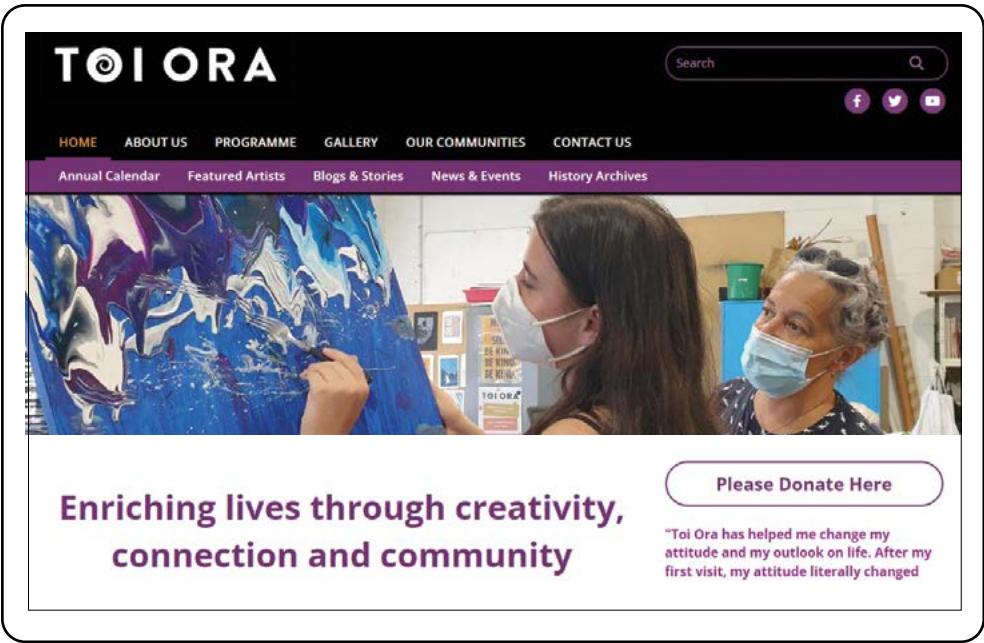
Developing positive relationships with themselves, others around them and the world is the key that will enable men leaving the prison to build pro-social lives and not re-offend, Anaru says.

He describes the arts as a powerful tool in that process. "The arts connect them to humanity; to the things that most matter and can be hard to find in prison. Things like identity, hope, inspiration, motivation and connection."

The men can participate in regular workshops with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and screen-printing with the Art-East creative space. There are also creative writing and waiata groups, a ukulele orchestra and a carving workshop. [Read the full story](#)



Thora Hübner and Mihailo Ladevac in *Where Our Shadows Meet*, devised by Equal Voices Arts and performed at Circa Theatre in 2021. Equal Voices Arts is a Deaf and hearing theatre company based in Aotearoa. Photo: Michael Smith



Toi Ora Live Art Trust in Auckland, one of 12 creative spaces working with Flightdec and Arts Access Aotearoa to connect with other creative spaces, and share their stories and events.


5. Te Pito Whakamarama | 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:


- increased traffic and engagement to the Arts Access Aotearoa website. In 2021, the website attracted 48,808 unique visitors and 58,215 website sessions.
- strengthened the capability and profile of 12 creative spaces by working with them and Flightdec to build and maintain their community websites.
- built the capacity of its stakeholders and networks by providing accurate, timely and relevant answers to requests for information and advice from individuals and organisations.

 **4.2%** ↑ Facebook “likes” increased by 4.2% in 2021 to 3808.

 **2.7%** ↑ Twitter followers increased by 2.7% in 2021 to 2910.

14.9% ↑ Instagram followers increased by 14.9% in 2021 to 1941.

48,808 ↑ 48,808 There were 48,808 unique visitors to Arts Access Aotearoa’s website, compared to 32,260 unique visits in 2020.

 **1430** ↑ 1430 subscribers received the Arts Access in Touch e-newsletter in December 2021.

Funders and sponsors

Arts Access Aotearoa thanks the following organisations that have supported its work in increasing access to the arts in 2021. We look forward to your ongoing support.

Core funder



Major contracts



Local government grants



Legal services



Grants



Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021 sponsors



Supporters

Thank you to the generous Friends of Arts Access Aotearoa whose regular donations supported the activities in this report. Thanks also to Rajeev Mishra, Otago Museum, Te Papa and the University of Canterbury Arts Centre for their in-kind support. Thanks also to our business supporters Fraser Carson and Flightdec; Craig Christensen and Graphic Solutions; Marty Brooky and Coherent; Ben Courtney and Base IT; Gordon Harris, Wellington; and Volunteer Wellington. Finally, thanks to Nope Sisters for supporting our mahi.

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.

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 art and creativity, without barriers.

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).

What your donation supports

Arts Access Aotearoa provides advice, support and promotion across four key areas listed below, with examples of accessibility achievements in 2021. You can decide which areas your donation will be used for.



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

Demand for Circa Theatre's accessible shows has grown significantly in recent years. This includes audio described shows for blind and low vision patrons; relaxed performances for people with autism, sensory communication or learning disabilities; and sign interpreted shows for Deaf people.



Creative spaces: building the sustainability of creative spaces throughout New Zealand

Artists in the Making is a creative space in Whitianga and Coromandel Town. In 2021, it's been reaching out to more Māori and Pasifika peoples, as well as people on low incomes. Living in remote areas can create access barriers but small communities are also interconnected.



Deaf and disabled artists: creating work and developing sustainable careers

Lusi Faiva's achievements were celebrated at Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021, where she received the Arts Access PAK'nSAVE Artistic Achievement Award. She was part of Wellington's CubaDupa 2021, performing a work called *Taupou*, made in collaboration with Everybody Cool Lives Here.

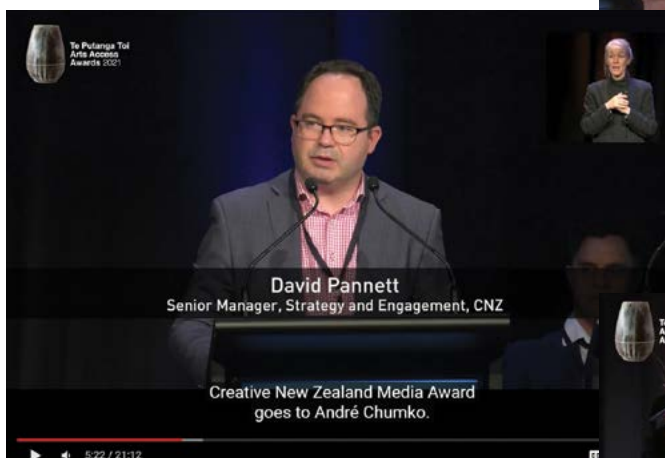


Arts in Corrections: using the arts as a tool supporting prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration

In her role as a Dance Educator at the Royal New Zealand Ballet, Kristie Mortimer teaches dance in Arohata and Rimutaka Prisons, and is also teaching a 30-week dance programme at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility.

Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021

Arts Access Aotearoa produced a 20-minute highlights video of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021, which included performances by writer and spoken word poet Helen Vivienne Fletcher and creative space WIDance. It is audio described, sign interpreted and captioned. [View the video](#)






"Congratulations to you all on returning the awards to an in-person event. I'm pleased it's being recorded so the highlights (with accessible features like audio description) will be available in video format for many more to enjoy."

Dame Rosie Horton, Patron, Arts Access Accolade

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