

# Arts Access Awards 2017

#ArtsAccessAwards2017



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Whakahauhou Katoa O Hanga

[www.artsaccess.org.nz](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz)

# An invitation to support Arts Access Aotearoa's work

Tonight is a showcase of leadership and outstanding contributions to accessibility and inclusion in the arts.

We invite you to support Arts Access Aotearoa and the work we do. Your donations will help us ensure everyone in New Zealand can enjoy the arts as both creators and audience members.

Arts Access Aotearoa is a registered charitable trust (CC33533). By making a donation, you will help us improve access to creative expression, arts events, galleries, live performances and other arts activities. For more information, visit [www.artsaccess.org.nz](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz).

One in four people in New Zealand has a disability that impacts on their daily lives. Every donation we receive helps us make a difference to their lives by improving their access to the arts.



**Thank you**

**Howard Fancy**

Chair, Arts Access Aotearoa



**Richard Benge**

Executive Director, Arts Access Aotearoa

## Join the Friends of Arts Access Aotearoa

As a Friend of Art Access Aotearoa your regular donation supports a project of your choice. You receive regular updates and invitations to events.

## Payroll giving

Payroll giving allows you to make a regular donation to Arts Access Aotearoa before your salary is taxed, providing real-time tax relief. This eliminates the need to retain donation receipts or wait to claim at the end of the tax year.

Speak with your employer about contributing to Arts Access Aotearoa through payroll giving.

**“In every field, let us foster organisations that provide motivation, reward and recognition to the endeavours of people with a disability. Let’s lose the ‘dis’ and focus on the ability. Let’s use better labels for this community – athlete, dancer, actor, musician and, of course, artist.”**

Merrill Holdsworth,  
Holdsworth Charitable Trust

# Welcome to the Arts Access Awards 2017

Welcome to the Arts Access Awards. Tonight, we celebrate the achievements of individuals, community groups and organisations providing opportunities for people with limited access to engage with the arts as artists, audience members and gallery visitors.

In addition, we recognise the outstanding achievements and contribution of disabled artists.

This year, we also highlight people and organisations in the blind community. They enrich New Zealand's diverse landscape.

Arts Access Aotearoa would like to thank Parliament and Hon Nicky Wagner, Minister for Disability Issues, for hosting this event.



## Arts Access Awards 2017

### Art on display

The art on display is by artists who attend creative spaces. These artworks travelled from Invercargill to Auckland as part of the Creative Spaces Capsule Project in 2016. The "capsule" visited 15 creative spaces in eight cities, collecting artwork along the way until it reached 15 artworks in Auckland. The capsule then returned to Invercargill during the Southland Festival of the Arts in April 2017 via the Fringe festivals in Wellington and Dunedin.

Thank you to Gordon Harris, Vivian Street, for the use of their easels.

### Performances during the evening

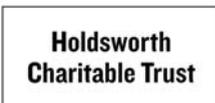
Mark Wilson, a finalist in the Arts Access Artistic Achievement Award 2017, is a singer, composer and pianist from Queenstown.

The kapa haka is performed by Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club.

A dance performance features Rodney Bell and Duncan Armstrong, Touch Compass Dance Company.



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA





## Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award 2017

**Recipient:** Pablos Art Studios, Wellington

Pablos Art Studios has been providing people who have lived experience of mental ill health with free materials, tuition and support to make art, and access to a professional gallery since 1993. Today, it works with more than 130 artists a year.

The studio gives people a social and creative experience that helps them regain their confidence to re-engage with their family, friends and the wider community.

“I like it because there are lots of lovely people and we share inspiration. My mental health has improved since I came here,” says Nyx, a Pablos artist.

Pablos also includes ROAR! gallery, which supports and showcases artwork by Pablos artists, as well as artists in the community who may have limited access to traditional dealer galleries.

Pablos Art Studios extends its reach into the wider community through outreach art programmes for at-risk youth in Cannons Creek, weekly art programmes at Tangaroa Mental Health Unit, Kenepuru Hospital, weekly art for Wellington City Housing tenants and weekly art programmes for Pathways Community Space in Lower Hutt.

Pablos staff and volunteers are committed to providing a safe, structured and welcoming place. By “affirming identity through art”, participants are encouraged to use their personal experiences to create new ways of healing and communicating.

**Judges’ comment:** “Resounding applause for Pablos Art Studios for its focus on artists and the pathway it provides from isolation to social inclusion. Its community outreach, innovative programmes, and opportunities for artists to showcase and sell their work are impressive.”

**Highly Commended:** Mix, Hutt City, for its strong presence in the Hutt community and its many partnerships that provide opportunities for artists to showcase their work. Its engagement with medical students is innovative.

Alpha Omega Theatre Company, Petone, for its outreach into the community and the way it provides a voice for the participants.

**Holdsworth  
Charitable Trust**



## Arts Access Corrections Community Award 2017

**Recipient:** Bedtime Stories programme, Arohata Prison, Wellington

Arohata Prison's Bedtime Stories is a programme for women in prison to remain connected with the children in their lives. The women read aloud from story books, donated by Cleanslate Press, which are recorded and sent to the children. This means children around the country can hear the voice of their absent female relative as often as they want.

Started by theatre practitioner Miranda Harcourt in 2014, the programme is facilitated by Victoria University lecturer Kerryn Palmer with actor/lecturer Perry Piercy, social worker Liz Langham and sound technicians Ryan Knighton and Tony Black.

The monthly programme works on many levels: helping the women to develop new skills, speak well, perform in front of peers, and give something of themselves to their children and grandchildren. The bonds with home are strengthened, and maintaining a regular connection with their children can help prisoners embrace the opportunities for change they have in prison and beyond.

The hope is that it will encourage them to read more with their children when they are

released. Knowing they are loved, cared for and thought about is vital for children when a parent is physically absent from their lives.

**Judges' comment:** "This programme has the wow factor! It's about literacy, communication, creativity and performance. Above all, it's about its positive impact on both the women and the children – demonstrated in the feedback provided. It's a practical community partnership that can change lives and be implemented in any prison environment."

**Highly Commended:** Write Where You Are, Wellington, for providing a voice for prisoners to express themselves, and gain confidence, literacy and communication skills. The group has become a charitable trust and is now expanding into the community.

Whānau Manaaki, for delivering tikanga Māori to prisoners in Hawkes Bay Regional Prison, including kapa haka, waiata, mau rakau and karakia – all enhancing the men's identity, wairua, mana and confidence.





## Arts Access CQ Hotels Wellington Community Partnership Award 2017

**Recipient:** Ennable, Tape Art NZ and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, Wellington

During Disability Pride Week 2016, Ennable and Tape Art NZ facilitated the creation of a mural as an interactive way for disabled people to commemorate the UN International Day of Disabled People on 3 December.

The partnership brought together 13 artists from Vincents Art Workshop and Pablos Art Studios in Wellington, Passionart in Palmerston North, and the Laura Ferguson Trust and Thumbs Up in Petone to create a tape art mural in Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

The large windows in its café on Taranaki Street were used as the canvas. Erica Duthie and Struan Ashby of Tape Art NZ collaborated with the artists, who had a diverse range of impairments.

Feedback from the participants was full of enthusiasm, pride and praise for the organisers and the opportunities the project offered. One participant commented that she often felt like an outsider. “But being here, I feel like a part of it. I have never felt like an artist before. Here I feel included and with artists around me. We are all at different levels but we are all together.”

The project was designed to redress the lack of opportunities for disabled and Deaf artists to express their thoughts through

art in the public arena. Through a bonding and creative collaboration, the group was empowered to produce a visual statement that spoke to how they were and how they wanted to be perceived within society.

**Judges’ comment:** “The quality of the engagement and strength of the partnerships are outstanding features of this project. Overcoming the impact of the November earthquake, the partners provided tape art workshops for Deaf and disabled participants, followed by the making of a stunning mural in the windows of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.”

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**Highly Commended:** Creative Spaces Capsule Project, for its innovative touring exhibition that connected, promoted and empowered creative spaces throughout New Zealand.

Toi Ora Live Art Trust and University of Auckland, for its innovative research partnership that showcases the value of creative spaces to society.



## Arts Access Creative New Zealand Arts For All Award 2017

**Recipient:** The Court Theatre, Christchurch

The Court Theatre is a shining example of inclusion, creating a physically inclusive space to meet the needs of as many Cantabrians as possible.

“A big part of our development is ensuring accessibility is owned by all staff – not just championed by a few,” says Rachel Sears, Education Manager, The Court Theatre.

In 2016, it introduced “relaxed performances” for all of its children’s shows after extensive consultation with Autism NZ. These performances are designed to welcome people with autism, communication and sensory impairments, or a learning disability.

There’s a relaxed attitude to noise and movement, with more muted lighting and sound effects. The auditorium has a smaller than usual capacity so patrons can move around more easily, and there are chill-out areas in the foyer.

A March 2017 relaxed performance of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, where the lead character has autism, included a complementary education programme to support autism awareness.

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

Working with Christchurch City Council, the

theatre has provided New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performances.

Other measures to make the venue more accessible include support rails; discounted tickets through the Christchurch City Council’s KiwiAble scheme; and a hearing loop and headsets in the auditorium.

The Court Theatre is a member of Arts Access Aotearoa’s Arts For All Canterbury Network.

**Judges’ comment:** “A standing ovation for The Court Theatre! From front-of-house and discounted tickets through to its programming and community outreach, it is building new audiences and making theatre accessible to diverse audiences.”

**Highly Commended:** Tim Bray Productions, for its sign interpreted performances for Deaf children and audio description for blind and low vision children. The company is an outstanding model of inclusion.

Orchestra Wellington, for developing an accessibility policy, engaging with the blind community and building partnerships that are truly impressive.



## Arts Access Artistic Achievement Award 2017

**Recipient:** Rodney Bell, Ngāti Maniapoto, Te Kuiti

Rodney Bell is internationally recognised for his skill as a physically integrated dancer within a contemporary style that combines people with and without disabilities.

He redefined movement in his life after he was paralysed from the chest down in a 1991 motorcycle accident. After rehabilitation, he joined the New Zealand wheelchair basketball team and then discovered dance as a founding member of Touch Compass Dance Trust in 1997.

The seeds for the next phase of Rodney's life were laid in 2005 at a dance summer intensive in Seattle with the Axis Dance Company. Two years later, he was invited back to become a principal dancer with the company in Oakland.

Rodney's Māori culture and its values are integral to his work. While overseas, he introduced his colleagues to Māori rituals and concepts.

He won numerous awards, including the 2008 Isadora Duncan Dance Award for an ensemble performance with Sonsheree Giles titled *To Color Me Different*.

His life took an unexpected turn when he found himself homeless on the streets of San Francisco for three years after his contract ended.

He returned to New Zealand in 2015, drawing on his life experiences, Māori heritage and disability to create *Meremere*, in collaboration with choreographer Malia Johnston and Movement Of The Human. This premiered at the 2016 Tempo Dance Festival in Auckland.

"I came back wanting to share my experience and my passion, so working with and empowering others is something that really inspires me," Rodney says.

A member of Arts Access Aotearoa's Arts For All Auckland Network, Rodney is a passionate advocate for access to the arts. He plans to tour *Meremere* in 2018, including performances in prisons, marae and schools.

**Judges' comment:** "Rodney Bell's artistic achievements in Aotearoa and on the international stage are many. His career, leadership and advocacy as a disabled performing artist are outstanding, and it is an honour for us to be able to acknowledge him."

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**Highly Commended:** Duncan Armstrong, for his many artistic achievements and his contribution to the arts and disability sectors as a talented dancer, musician and actor.



## Arts Access Corrections Leadership Award 2017

**Recipient:** Christchurch Men's Prison

Christchurch Men's Prison is proud of its all-inclusive approach to the arts. Its commitment to arts education and artistic expression as a therapeutic, rehabilitative and re-integrative tool is a cross-site approach.

The keys to this approach and its ongoing success are its collegial approach to the arts; building strong partnerships with community groups; and involving art tutors, programme co-ordinators, unit staff, case managers, external providers, volunteers and offenders.

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

Its Youth Unit accommodates male offenders between the ages of 17 and 20. The focus of the arts in this unit has resulted in a wide range of new opportunities and community partnerships in visual arts, music, drama and kapa haka.

The response from the young people has been outstanding, Maree says. "We've seen marked improvement in their motivation and engagement. Staff have also noted improved communication and dialogue, more respect for themselves and others, and a sense of

pride and pure joy at the success of their projects."

Men involved in the arts across the prison learn a range of skills (e.g. problem solving, leadership, team work, adaptability) that support their rehabilitation and reintegration, and add value to the prison environment. For some, their new-found skills offer a future means of supporting themselves.

"The prison is privileged to work with dedicated and visionary art tutors, who explore our ideas and goals," Maree says. "Through their art, they transfer these ideas to prisoners and we have seen results that more than meet our expectations. This is what inspires the prison to do this work."

**Judges' comment:** "Starting with its Youth Unit, Christchurch Men's Prison has built community partnerships to ensure the arts are an integral part of its rehabilitation programmes across the prison. Clearly, the prison recognises the benefits of the arts to teach new skills, help change lives and develop pathways back into the community."





## Arts Access Accolade 2017

**Recipient:** Olivier Lacoua, Wellington

Commitment, inclusion, community and leadership are just some of the words that describe Olivier Lacoua. The General Manager of CQ Hotels Wellington, Olivier is an experienced hospitality leader, with successful business strategies but also a strong sense of social responsibility.

Olivier is leaving his role at CQ Hotels Wellington to take up a new position in Christchurch in July. Under his leadership, the hotel is now recognised as the most accessible hotel in New Zealand.

Olivier's partnership with Arts Access Aotearoa began in 2012 when the hotel sponsored the Arts Access Community Partnership Award.

He has continued to demonstrate his belief in Arts Access Aotearoa's vision of a society where everyone in New Zealand can participate in its artistic and cultural life. Some of the ways he does this is by displaying artwork by artists from creative spaces and in the community on the hotel walls. And for the past two years, all VIP guests receive a copy of *Changing the World One Painting at a Time* by Yaniv Janson, a Raglan artist who has Asperger syndrome.

CQ Hotels Wellington now has nine fully accessible hotel rooms. Among its accessible features are a lowered check-in desk; an accessible hotel information pack; i-Beacon for visually impaired guests; and braille and New Zealand Sign Language restaurant menus. Staff are also encouraged to learn New Zealand Sign Language.

Olivier's desire to make society more inclusive inspired him to work closely with Workbridge, a professional employment service for people with disabilities, injuries and different skill levels. From this collaboration, several people are permanently employed in the hotel.

**Dame Rosie Horton, Accolade patron:**

"Olivier Lacoua has demonstrated the mutual benefits of a business partnering with a not-for-profit organisation, going beyond preconceived notions of what sponsorship can achieve. As a champion of Arts Access Aotearoa's work and the artists for whom it advocates, Olivier has helped the organisation raise its profile in the private sector – essential to its sustainability and growth. His support of its purpose that everyone in New Zealand has the right to be creative confirms his place in the heart of the organisation."

## We remember ...

Arts Access Aotearoa remembers champions of access to the arts who have passed away over the past year.



Desmond Tihema Ripi (Ngāti Whatua, Ngai Takoto), QSM, Kaumātua, Department of Corrections, worked in prisons for more than 20 years and helped set up carving and art courses.



Lisette Wesseling was a soprano, music teacher and braille advocate. She received a Highly Commended citation in the Arts Access Artistic Achievement Award 2014 and was a member of the Arts For All Wellington Network.



Alexia Pickering, CNZM, QSO, was a formidable accessibility advocate and a member of the Arts For All Wellington Network.



Alexandra Smith loved the arts. She was a dancer with WIDance and a member of the Arts For All Wellington Network.

# Thank you for your support

## Host

Hon Nicky Wagner, Minister for Disability Issues

## Kaumātua

Bill Kua (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Horowai, Rongowhakaata, Rakaipaaka, Te Aitanga Hauiti)

## Patrons

Mel Smith CNZM (founding patron), Miranda Harcourt ONZM (patron), Dame Rosie Horton DNZM, QSO, QSM (patron, Arts Access Accolade)

## Funders

Creative New Zealand, Department of Corrections, Foundation North, Holdsworth Charitable Trust, CQ Hotels Wellington, Mazda Foundation, National Foundation for the Deaf, Nikau Foundation, Thomas George Macarthy Trust, Wellington City Council, Wellington Community Trust, Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

## Legal services

Chapman Tripp

## Award presenters

Julie Woods, Hon Nicky Wagner, Hon Louise Upston, Olivier Lacoua, Stephen Wainwright, Ray Smith, Tanemahuta Gray, Dame Rosie Horton

## Volunteers

Alice Fitzgerald, Jenny McArthur, Judith Jones, Lize Immelman, Daniela Pavez, Rajeev Mishra, Dave Wilson, Maryam Namini, Narida Kuch, Nohemi Garcia, Sarah Bengé, William Thompson, Elicier Reverol

## Judges

Richard Bengé (Arts Access Aotearoa), Stephen Wainwright (Creative New Zealand), Alex Granville (NZ Opera), Felicity Birch (Wellington City Council), Paul Smith (Artsenta), Katie Fellows (CQ Hotels Wellington), Rachel Leota (Department of Corrections), Simon Tanner (Northland Region Corrections Facility)

## Trustees

Howard Fancy (Chair), Erin Gough, Kim Morton, Stew Sexton, Karen Webster, Josie Whipps

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