

TOI ORA

Artists' Hui Minutes, 10 November 2022

4.00pm – 5.00pm

At Toi Ora or on MS Teams

Attendance: 2 Artists

Staff: James, Paul, Ricky, David, Ekaterina, Peace, Dan (intern), Samara, Susanne

Board: Frances, Brendan and Farhana (joined at 4.30)

Frances welcomed everyone to the hui and invited Susanne to start with a karakia. Frances then blessed the kai.

The icebreaker allowed each person to introduce themselves, with their name, connection to Toi Ora, their favourite artist and favourite medium.

The intention for this hui was to focus on reviewing the draft strategic plan. For this purpose the board circulated the feedback provided to date and invited attendees to explore a number of themes that emerged in the feedback.

Frances suggested to start the conversation by discussing the following aspects:

- 1) Diverse, local and national classes
- 2) Engaged and thriving artists

Discussion notes:

- Ricky: It would be great to see if our current demographics reflect the diversity of Auckland and then from there, work to see if we can match the demographics of the tutors and artists respectively and make sure the space is welcoming.
 - Brendan: Maybe we can achieve this through popups at cultural events and festivals around Auckland.
 - James: We can consider reaching out to the LGBTQIA+ community as well through specific events and going to community centres as well.
 - David: Poetry community and NZ Poetry Society could bring in more diversity for poetry class.
 - James: Printopia could bring more people into Toi Ora (and we can connect more through the organiser, Arohanui (sp?).
 - Artist: Facilitating artists going together to events and exhibitions so that it's less intimidating.
 - Samara/Susanne: Ensure clarity on which groups are the priority for outreach.
- James: Getting more clarity on whose goals include getting into competitions, etc so we can know what stage people are at and support them.
 - Artist statements can be the biggest barrier for a lot of people.

- Samara: If you know of competitions, then send it on to us so we can put it in the Newsletter or in an artist's memo.
- Samara: Potential to do a template or 1 page resource on how to do your artist statement.
- Samara: Should we look at having some classes that are based on identities or other classifications that help people feel they are coming to a safe space?
- Susanne: There is something for us to think about around how to ensure that we address the feedback that some people feel unsafe with some of their classmates.
- Frances: Do we have the right repertoire of classes? Some ideas were floated:
 - Ricky: Dance, Yoga (breathing and movement)
 - EK: Abstract art and painting class
 - James: Figurative art
 - Brendan: Sculpture
 - Susanne: suggestions have come from the feedback re: Printmaking and T-shirt, cake decorating
 - Samara: Wood-carving class
 - Artist: Offering occasional workshops for people to dabble
 - Frances: Weaving
- Susanne: Timings of classes
 - What about the 5:30-7:30 time slot?
 - Frances: What about Saturdays?
 - Maybe a mix?
 - Artist: Keen on Saturday morning classes.
 - Tutors agreed that they know people who would come to evening classes.
- Brendan: What about classes that are just more holistic happening in this space (healthy cooking, composting, etc)
 - Samara: This could be a way to combine audiences, get new people in our space, and have our artists build relationships with other organisations as well.
 - David: Might be good to have a sister organisation
 - James: Studio One is a little bit like a sister organisation.
- James: Important to have an offering during the term break. Feedback from people was that it was nice to get out of the house.
- Ricky: The breaks are really hard for people who are used to having Toi Ora as the main source of socialisation.
- Frances: These discussions are really valuable, enabling Susanne and Toi Ora to consider these ideas and to understand the context of these recommendations in line with our priorities and budgets. Thanked everyone (and the wider community of Toi Ora) for their contribution.

Summary: Overall consensus was that it would be great

- to increase community engagement, for example by attending community events, pop-up stations, working with sister organisations
- support artists to enter competitions, enter their work in exhibitions
- organise visits to exhibitions and galleries, concerts or other artistic events
- Improve communication of artists' goals to tutors
- To expand classes to afternoons, evenings, and weekends, especially Saturday mornings

Closing Karakia: Frances. The hui finished at 5.05pm