

16 April 2021

Christchurch City Council  
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By email to: [cccplan@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:cccplan@ccc.govt.nz)

E te Koromatua, ngā Kaikaunihera mā, tēnā koutou katoa

**Submission to:** Christchurch City Council  
**Subject:** Christchurch City Council Long-Term Plan 2021–2031 (the Plan)  
**From:** Creative New Zealand

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Christchurch City Council's ten-year plan. Arts, culture and creativity are an important part of developing strong and prosperous cities, and cohesive and healthy communities. We encourage Council to recognise the essential role arts and culture play in the wellbeing of its residents as it makes decisions for the future of the city.
2. We'd be happy to discuss this submission with you further. The key contact person for matters relating to this submission is:  
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#### Key Points

3. **The 2021–2031 Long-Term Plan marks a key moment for Ōtautahi.** A decade on from the earthquakes, it is an opportunity to rethink how Council can plan and invest most effectively, to enable Christchurch to develop into a 21st century garden city residents are proud to live in.
4. **We welcome investment in the Arts Centre through the capital grant for restoration.** The Arts Centre is a major part of Christchurch's unique cultural and historical identity, and is also a platform for residents and visitors to engage with a wide range of artforms and creative activities. The capital grant signals Council's recognition of the value arts and culture create for the city, and is essential for the Arts Centre to continue operating.
5. **We're disappointed to see a proposed cut to the Christchurch Art Gallery's operational hours and programming.** We encourage Council to reconsider this cut so that the gallery can

remain open consistently and confidently, and continue to deliver core services to Christchurch's diverse communities, including its high-demand education programmes.

6. **We encourage Council to consider reinstating the Public Art Fund through the Plan.** The partnership between Council and SCAPE Public Art, Matapopre and the private sector has attracted significant investment and supported a body of works that have become landmarks in the city. An ongoing commitment to this partnership is an opportunity for Council to continue its strong track record of making high quality artworks accessible to the city's residents and visitors, and to reach an international standard of central city public artwork.
7. **It's excellent to see an ongoing commitment to funding the Performing Arts Precinct in the central city.** In the lead up to the Precinct's opening, we encourage Council to continue to work with arts communities, business owners and tourism authorities to develop strategies to attract residents and visitors to the precinct, and to view its opening as an opportunity to make Ōtautahi an even more vibrant place to live and visit.
8. **We're proud to be continuing our support for the Toi Ō Tautahi Arts and Creativity Strategy as one of the Strategy's foundation partners,** and encourage Council to ensure the Plan shows tangible recognition of its own commitment to arts and culture, and aligns with the vision and directions of Toi Ō Tautahi.

### **Draft Long-Term Plan 2021-2031**

#### *Strategic Priorities and Community Outcomes*

9. The Chief Executive's introduction states, 'at the heart of the Council's decision-making is the goal of promoting community wellbeing in its widest sense'. We welcome Council's commitment to supporting community wellbeing, and encourage it to recognise arts communities as well-placed partners to help Council deliver wellbeing outcomes to Christchurch's diverse communities.
10. The Plan outlines 18 community outcomes. It's fantastic to see specific mention made of arts and culture through the outcome 'Celebration of our identity through arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation'.
11. We encourage Council to also recognise the strong contribution investment in arts and culture makes to other outcomes, in particular:
  - Strong sense of community – artistic and cultural activity increases social cohesion through connecting people and communities
  - Safe and healthy communities – participating in arts and cultural activities contributes to our wellbeing, and to physical and mental health
  - Valuing the voices of all cultures and ages (including children) – artistic expression is a powerful way to amplify and celebrate the voices of diverse communities
  - Vibrant and thriving city centre – artistic and cultural activity can play a major role in placemaking and rejuvenation to create great places to live and visit
  - 21st century garden city we are proud to live in – arts and culture cultivate creativity, innovation and resilience
  - Great place for people, business and investment – artistic and cultural activity equips people with the skills needed to create a more highly-skilled workforce

- Inclusive, equitable economy with broad-based prosperity – artistic and cultural activity have a strong ‘multiplier effect’ and attract economic activity to our cities
- Modern and robust city infrastructure and facilities – incorporating arts and cultural elements into infrastructure projects can create landmarks and contribute to a unique sense of cultural identity and increased sense of ownership.

### *Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor*

12. It’s great to see Council committed to a co-governance model for land development, in partnership with mana whenua. As work continues on the development and revitalisation of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, we encourage Council to build on its strong track record of incorporating arts and culture elements within infrastructure projects. There’s great potential to continue working with mana whenua to incorporate toi Māori (Māori arts) elements throughout the Corridor, and to share stories of cultural and historical significance along the awa.

### *Our Facilities*

13. We tautoko the substantial investment being made to support a network of community facilities. Community centres and halls, libraries, Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, Christchurch Town Hall and Tūranga all provide spaces and services that contribute to the social and cultural wellbeing of their community and support the arts community.
14. We acknowledge, in particular, Council’s continued commitment to investing in the Performing Arts Precinct. The precinct will act as a catalyst for the central city and build audiences, increase economic activity and make arts experiences more affordable and accessible.
15. As the Precinct’s development continues, we encourage Council to consider where there are opportunities to activate existing performing arts spaces to attract people to the central city and provide vital space for arts communities (eg, is there a way to better utilise and increase access to the Town Hall?).
16. As the Performing Arts Precinct develops, we encourage Council to continue engaging with key stakeholders such as arts communities, business owners and tourism stakeholders, to consider how to promote upcoming events and shows. It will also be important to work with these groups to explore how to manage regulatory levers in a way that enables other sectors (eg, hospitality and events) to work alongside the Precinct, to drive economic, social and cultural growth.
17. There are a number of new facilities under development, including the Hornby Library, customer services and south-west leisure centre, Metro Sports Facility and Canterbury Multi-Use Arena. As Council continues to build and develop these facilities, we encourage you to consider:
  - whether any of the new spaces developed could support arts communities by providing spaces where they can make and show their work to audiences (eg, could an indoor multi-court space function as a multipurpose space used for rehearsals and performing arts events? Could sprung floor gyms also be accessible to dance groups?)

- how multipurpose facilities could provide more people with opportunities to engage with and participate in arts and culture, which has similar benefits for communities' physical and mental wellbeing as sport
  - whether any former spaces (ie, Horncastle Arena) and other spaces that Council may look to deploy following the development of new facilities could be repurposed to provide vital space for arts communities to make, share and present their work
  - how to work with local artists and arts practitioners to create a strong sense of cultural identity at each of these facilities.
18. While we understand the need for cost savings, we note that the proposal to reduce late opening hours at libraries and remove the Mobile Library service may also affect people's ability to access important library services, particularly older and vulnerable populations.
  19. It was disappointing to see a reduction to the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū opening hours and public and school programmes proposed. Reducing the number of late nights each month would negatively affect people's ability to engage with the exhibitions and activities on offer at the gallery. The late nights can have a multiplier effect, by attracting people to the central city area where they may go to see a show or purchase food or drink nearby.
  20. The 25 percent reduction to the programmes offered to public and school groups per year is concerning for several reasons. Firstly, Council has identified in the Christchurch Art Gallery Activity Plan that education resource is at capacity, and thousands of school students are not able to access the Gallery due to the constraint on the number of school visits which can be hosted. Therefore, a further reduction to programmes would only exacerbate this demand, and fewer children will have an opportunity to visit one of the city's most important education resources.
  21. In the Activities and Services Statement of Service Provision, one of the negative effects the Gallery's services may have on the wellbeing of the community Council identified was its difficulty reaching all communities due its central city location. The mitigation outlined was school programmes and outreach programmes, some of which receive external support to transport lower decile schools to participate in Gallery education programmes. A further reduction to programmes would also exacerbate this negative effect by further reducing the Gallery's accessibility.
  22. We urge Council to reconsider these cuts, and make provisions to maintain the Gallery's current hours and programmes.

#### *Capital Programme*

23. We support the capital grant of \$5.5 million for the Arts Centre. As New Zealand's largest collection of Category One heritage buildings, the Arts Centre is a significant asset and an important part of Christchurch's unique cultural and historical identity. Furthermore, the Arts Centre provides residents and visitors with access to a wide range of creative activities across museums, galleries, film, craft workshops, concerts, and as a venue for residencies, arts festivals and public artworks. Given the Arts Centre does not currently receive consistent government or council funding, Council's support is of great value.

24. We support Council's commitment to continue funding for public artworks and monuments, a unique part of Christchurch's landscape and identity. Public art can increase the use of public spaces, improve the aesthetics of a place, encourage a sense of ownership and community pride, and create landmarks and distinctive features in the urban landscape.<sup>1</sup> It also produces flow on benefits for education and community connectedness.
25. We encourage Council to reinstate the Public Art Fund through the Plan. The partnership between Council, SCAPE Public Art, Matapopore and the private sector has attracted significant investment, and for every \$1 of Council funding, the group have attracted \$4.15 in private funding to deliver to the first 10 years of the partnership. Therefore, Council funding of \$2.1 million over 10 years has been leveraged to raise an additional \$6.7 million and deliver assets of \$8.9 million to the city – an excellent return on investment. The Fund has supported works that have become iconic landmarks in the city, and is an opportunity for Council to continue its strong track record of making high quality artworks accessible to residents and visitors.
26. We support both the restoration work and the additional investment for base isolation of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery. Investing in base isolation would make the gallery a fit-for-purpose space that is able to host high quality exhibitions and protect its valuable collections for years to come.

#### *Fees and Charges*

27. We welcome the decrease in hourly hire fee for larger community spaces by community not-for-profit groups. Though a small reduction, this signals Council's commitment to ensuring these spaces are accessible for smaller, community-based organisations, including many arts groups.

#### *Grants*

28. We note there's a proposed reduction of 5 percent to community and grants programmes, including the Strengthening Communities Fund. As noted in the consultation document, this funding provides crucial support for volunteer and not-for-profit sectors, and delivers investment to a number of Christchurch's key arts organisations including the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, SCAPE Public Art, the Court Theatre, the Physics Room, the Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki and Ōtautahi Creative Spaces.
29. Funding for Strengthening Communities has been unchanged since 2010. While we understand further investment may not be viable for Council currently, we encourage it to reconsider the 5 percent reduction and maintain current levels of investment.

#### *Potential Disposal of Council Owned Properties*

30. We note 5 Worcester Street is a vacant heritage building included in Council's list of properties for potential disposal. The arts community have identified the site's potential, and we encourage Council to consider how the site could be repurposed to provide space for artists and creatives to make, share and present their work. The property's proximity to the Arts Centre and Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū add to its potential.

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<sup>1</sup> A review of the Henderson Youth Art Project (2016). Unitec.

### *Concluding Points*

31. We urge Council to continue supporting and developing ways for Christchurch residents to engage with and participate in the arts over the next 10 years. Arts and culture have an essential role to play in the wellbeing of Māori, Pasifika and Christchurch's diverse communities, as well as social cohesion between the many communities that call Christchurch home.

### **Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Christchurch**

32. Creative New Zealand is the arts development agency of Aotearoa, responsible for delivering government support for the arts. We're an autonomous Crown entity continued under the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa Act 2014. Our legislative purpose is to encourage, promote, and support the arts in New Zealand for the benefit of all New Zealanders.
33. We recognise the importance of Canterbury to the arts in New Zealand. For arts that are delivered in the Canterbury region, **\$6.35 million** of direct financial support was provided in 2019/20. Our overall support includes the funding of individual arts projects as well as arts and cultural organisations.
34. Our overall support includes the funding of individual arts projects as well as major Christchurch-based cultural organisations. These include galleries, theatres, public art, festivals and literature.
35. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we also fund territorial authorities directly to support local arts activities. In 2019/20, funding provided to Christchurch City Council under the Scheme totalled **\$248,100**.
36. As noted earlier in this submission, we're also a partner in Toi Ō Tautahi Arts and Creativity Strategy, alongside Council, Rātā Foundation and ChristchurchNZ, working with others with a deep interest in arts and culture across the city. We're proud to be continuing our investment into bringing the Strategy to life in the coming years.
37. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further (my contact details are at the start of the submission).

Ngā mihi rārau ki a koutou katoa, nā



Stephen Wainwright  
**Tumu Whakarae • Chief Executive**