

# Ngā Toi in Aotearoa

**2020 and beyond**

*Improving wellbeing and prosperity  
through culture, creativity and the  
arts in Aotearoa*

# Ngā Toi in Aotearoa – 2020 and beyond

Last week over 6,000 viewers logged on to an online election forum to hear Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Associate Minister of Arts Culture and Heritage) Jonathan Young MP (Arts Culture and Heritage spokesperson National Party), and Chlöe Swarbrick MP (Arts Culture and Heritage spokesperson Green Party) discuss with broadcaster Miriama Kamo the current state of ngā toi | the arts and culture sector, and to consider options for the sector's development.

The level of interest in the forum is indicative of concerns about the sector's vulnerability pre-COVID19, and the impacts of the pandemic, particularly on the performing arts.

The forum was initiated by the Ngā Toi Advocacy Network with support from Auckland Live, The Spinoff, and The Big Idea. The Network, which is convened by Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi as Auckland's regional arts trust, brings together a diverse range of arts organisations, arts advocacy groups, festival directors, independent arts consultants and researchers, and arts administrators. It aims to identify how to strategically strengthen ngā toi in Auckland, and in Aotearoa.

Over the last six months, the Network has developed the attached submission on sector issues and potential responses for arts and culture spokespeople, party leaders, and party policy makers. It includes calls for action around:

- a transparent investment strategy for the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Recovery Fund, and for future arts funding and mechanisms
- resourcing to build leadership, capability and infrastructure
- embedding and resourcing culture, creativity and arts across the education system

There was strong alignment between the ideas put forward by the Network in the attached submission, and the issues and questions sent in from the sector to be raised in the election forum.

The Network was heartened by the degree of cross-party agreement evident at the forum on the importance of the sector, and the potential value of some of the proposals outlined in the attached submission. The Network's hope is that this can translate into a commitment after the election to establish a cross-party working group to help shape the future for ngā toi | the arts and culture sector.


Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi and the the Ngā Toi Advocacy Network would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the issues and potential responses raised in this submission.

Ngā mihi



Alison Taylor  
Chief Executive

- government leadership and engagement
- a national ngā toi strategy



**The COVID 19 crisis  
has highlighted the  
vulnerability of New  
Zealand's arts sector**



# Ngā Toi in Aotearoa – 2020 and beyond

## *Improving wellbeing and prosperity through culture, creativity and the arts in Aotearoa*

Ngā toi (culture, creativity and the arts) are vital to our wellbeing, and to our success as a nation. Our artists, film makers, photographers, composers, writers, actors, dancers, weavers, singers, carvers and other creators feed our spirits as individuals, as whānau, as communities. They are supported by a diverse range of people providing services such as lighting, costume design, make-up, fundraising, marketing and management. This constellation of skills and experience nurtures Aotearoa's wider creative sector – music, games, books, film and television industries, design, advertising, software and architecture.

COVID 19 has shown how vulnerable, however, this sector is. The Government response to the impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector has been wholehearted and prompt. The additional funding allocated to the Ministry of Culture and Heritage is very welcome.

The Ngā Toi Advocacy Network wishes to begin a conversation

with government leaders about opportunities to consider how, as we address the immediate needs of the arts sector, we can also achieve the long-term support and investment needed to strategically strengthen ngā toi in Aotearoa.

There is so much to gain. Ngā toi are a vehicle for:

- Health and wellbeing, including a sense of belonging, inclusion and identity
- Employment, training and business development
- Economic sustainability, resilience, productivity and growth
- Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Improving educational outcomes
- Shifting to a low carbon economy
- Enhancing New Zealand's global reputation.



## 2020 AND BEYOND – SHAPING THE CONVERSATION

To help shape a dialogue about strengthening the sector, representatives from the Ngā Toi Advocacy Network identified key issues for consideration, through hui, email networks and conversations. The intent was to bring forward proposals that could lead to:

- Greater understanding of the role of ngā toi in wellbeing and the COVID-19 recovery
- Reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles
- Support a joined-up government approach to ngā toi
- Bring government and the ngā toi sector closer together
- Improve funding equity
- Increase investment in ngā toi and strengthen infrastructure supporting ngā toi.

Five action areas were identified. We urge the next government to engage in inclusive conversations with the ngā toi sector about these action areas and commit to progressing them in the next term of Parliament.

## Reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles



### GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT:

*How can government leadership and engagement around ngā toi be strengthened?*

We ask government leaders to consider the following actions:

- Express a clear government ambition for the ngā toi sector
- Take a cross-Ministry approach to ngā toi
- Connect in an inclusive, joined-up way<sup>1</sup> with the ngā toi sector
- Elevate the profile of the of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Portfolio, as part of COVID-19 recovery<sup>2</sup>.



## STRATEGY:

*What could a national ngā toi strategy deliver for Aotearoa?*

We ask policy makers to:

- Create a national ngā toi strategy, that is co-designed across relevant Ministries, and with local government, funding bodies and the ngā toi sector.
- This strategy would inform policy, decision making and investment. It will also amplify the role of ngā toi in improving wellbeing and growing shared prosperity.

## Create a national ngā toi strategy



## INVESTMENT:

*How can we invest to support core infrastructure and established organisations, and support ngā toi in our diverse communities?*

We ask policy makers to consider the following actions:

- Implement a transparent investment strategy for the Arts and Culture COVID-19 Recovery Fund, and for future arts funding and mechanisms, to address current funding shortfalls and inequities, and clarify funding priorities.
- Identify where ngā toi are currently unsupported in our increasingly diverse communities, and address investment needs for these communities.





**Embed and resource  
culture, creativity and  
arts in schools and across  
the education system**



## SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

*How can we strengthen ngā toi leadership, capability and infrastructure at national, regional and local levels?*

We ask policy makers to consider the following actions:

- Dedicate resourcing to build leadership, capability and infrastructure, based on discussion with the ngā toi sector, to ensure that support is directed equitably, where it is needed. Government support for toi Māori should recognise tikanga Māori structures.

## Build leadership, capability and infrastructure



## EDUCATION:

*How do we nurture the roots of our creativity as a nation?*

We ask policy makers to consider the following actions:

- Embed and resource culture, creativity and arts in schools and across the education system, with a priority on indigenous and national arts, as the building blocks of a more inclusive, creative, just and prosperous Aotearoa.
- Acknowledge, resource and support other cultural contexts of education and learning within and across Aotearoa.

### References:

1. This means resourcing genuine, inclusive engagement across the range of arts, culture and creative forms.
2. This includes recognising and upholding different worldviews on ngā toi at a government and national level – see for example this ‘Arts of Moana Oceania’ research project supported by Te Taumata Toi a Iwi: <https://www.tetaumatatoiaiwi.org.nz/moana-oceania>.



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*The Ngā Toi Advocacy Network looks forward to engaging with government on these calls to action.*

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