

Waikato Arts Navigator

Report to Waitomo District Council

An arts approach to post-crisis recovery



Creative Waikato
Toi Waikato

Waikato
arts
NAVIGATOR

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Introduction

The Waikato Arts Navigator (WAN) is a framework developed by Creative Waikato available to all Councils in the wider Waikato region. Its goal is to build a collective vision for arts and creative outcomes for all our communities.

The ultimate objective of WAN is to have all Councils in the region making decisions for arts development with the following outcomes in mind:

- Creative Prosperity
- Creative Wellbeing
- Creative Experiences
- Creative Education
- Creative Innovation

Framework

CREATIVE PROSPERITY	CREATIVE WELLBEING	CREATIVE EXPERIENCES	CREATIVE EDUCATION	CREATIVE INNOVATION
Creative economies	Mental, physical & spiritual wellbeing	People experience local, national, international arts	Participatory art projects	Business partnerships
Attract & retain residents	Positive collective & individual identities	Community & cultural expression	Upskilling creative professionals	Informing local government decision making
Tourism opportunities	Create, grow & strengthen communities	Recreation & interaction	Community art classes & projects	Local problem solving
Positive national perceptions	Inspired responses to challenges such as Covid-19	Community engagement & connection	Youth development	Distinct local expression
Increased investment from regional & national funders	Strengthened connection to place	Local pride	Audience development	Creative export opportunities

The foundation principles of WAN are that it is:

- Strength based
- Borderless
- Inclusive
- Tangata whenua
- Regionally aligned

This is a simple way to have an effective arts strategy utilising existing knowledge of local communities' activities and working from its strengths. It is a useful tool to develop a practical solution to unifying Waikato districts activities and goals within a single arts plan.

Creative Waikato will present the full Waikato Arts Navigator Strategy as part of its submission to your Council's Long Term Plan 2018-28.

Why is it important?

When arts and culture are strong and visible, so are our communities.

How does it work?

Councils and communities are able to –

- Clearly see their communities within the plan
- Agree with the priorities and understand how they can benefit their communities
- Identify elements within the plan that they can support or action, thus contributing to the realisation of the vision
- Recognise the importance of relationships between stakeholders and other communities in order for the vision to be realised

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to –

- Outline the predicted challenges facing Council post-lockdown
- Provide examples of how the arts can assist with post-recovery
- Seek Council agreement and commitment of approach

Background

Waikato Arts Navigator

In 2018, during the Long-Term Plan, Creative Waikato made submissions to all Councils in the Waikato region. The basis of this submission was that the Waikato Arts Navigator be endorsed and Creative Waikato work with Council staff to develop an arts action plan that aligns with WAN and funding to support and build focus within each district.

Creative Waikato has since worked with some arts communities to gain a clear and current understanding of the arts in their district. For the foreseeable future, we are proposing that we focus on post-covid recovery and how the arts can be used as a solution to challenges and/or opportunities each district may be facing moving forward.

COVID-19

The arts sector used this time of uncertainty to take a moment to settle in and think creatively about how we will respond. We know that there will continue to be an arts sector after this crisis – it may be different for a while, but it will continue. There will always be a need for arts and creativity.

Global catastrophes change the world. The impact of COVID-19 has amplified challenges that already existed, such as social inequality, mental health and economic fragility.

Arts and cultural activities serve as a coping mechanism for humanity. They help us to adjust to new conditions. They help us find clarity around who we are and how we connect. Because of this, we saw creativity on a level never before seen in human history. An appetite for culture was shown around the world. Online concerts, virtual galleries and musical performances not only provided entertainment and cultural uplift, but served to remind us of our humanity. What is needed now is to translate this into a broader understanding of the concept of value for the arts in the wider community.

COVID-19 impact on Waikato arts: survey summary

Creative Waikato completed a survey of our wider sector to examine the impact of COVID-19, but it was also intended to get a clearer picture of the support people need at this time. This informed the support services that Creative Waikato has developed in terms of our approach, our development of resources, and our change of focus. We also gathered information via ongoing communications (email, calls and digital meetings) with key stakeholders. This helped us to better understand the issues faced, and support required to ensure our sector can thrive after this.



Artists are resilient. They are used to adapting, but it is important that there is an ongoing framework to support their work. Having access to a thriving arts sector makes for an exciting and engaging city/town/region – there is a great strategic impact of setting things in motion to make this sector sustainable and active as it has a substantial contribution to the broader Waikato region in many of the key measures – not only through the lens of cultural wellbeing.

Predicted challenges post-lockdown

The main challenges post-lockdown mirror those being experienced globally to a greater or lesser extent. A few of the main challenges have been explored below.

Economic recovery

Pre-COVID-19, the labour market was already undergoing a significant transformation, driven by automation but also other factors such as climate change¹

When COVID-19 arrived on our shores, we experienced the same devastation experienced around the world - jobs were lost, small businesses closed, tourism came to a halt and planned projects and budgets were cut. All of this occurring against a backdrop of fear and anxiety as the country went into panic not knowing where this would all lead to.

The New Zealand Activity Index (NZAC) was launched² to provide a more granular and timely signal of movements in the New Zealand economy. It was constructed by staff at the Treasury, Stats NZ, and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand.

The NZAC index summarises changes in several monthly activity indicators. The first edition of the index shows that activity in April 2020 was 19 percent down on the same month last year and, even though activity bounced back in May, it still remained 6.5 percent down on May 2019.

While the NZAC is not an official statistic, it is a composite index that seeks to track New Zealand's economic activity each month.³

There has been some impetus shown from major Waikato companies to respond to Government's request for regions and groups to submit shovel ready infrastructure projects. This provides an integrated response and a focus on a plan for different activities.⁴

However, only time will tell what the real economic impact will be.

¹ Culture Lab 2030 'Voices of the City', p 4 - https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/sites/creative-cities/files/16_pages_villes_creatives_uk_bd.pdf

² Statistics New Zealand 'New index shows activity down in April and May' 1 July 2020 - <https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/new-index-shows-activity-down-in-april-and-may>

³ Ibid

⁴ 'How Waikato business leaders plan to revive regional economy' - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/121180802/coronavirus-how-waikato-business-leaders-plan-to-revive-regional-economy-postcovid19-lockdown>

Physical and mental health

COVID-19 is having a significant impact on how we interact with others, go about our lives, our work, study and many other aspects of our lives. We know that a combination of stress and uncertainty can have significant and wide-reaching impacts on the [physical and] mental wellbeing of people in New Zealand.⁵

In general, we know at-risk groups for long-term mental health issues will be the healthcare workers who are on the frontline, young people under 30 and children, the elderly and those in precarious situations, for example, owing to mental illness, disability and poverty. All this should surprise no one; insights on the long-term damage of disasters have been accepted in the field of trauma psychology for decades.⁶

Spotlight on inequality

The disruption caused by COVID-19 brings out the strengths and weaknesses across all sectors – it acts as an amplifier. COVID-19 is an equaliser in so far as no one is immune but it exposes our inequalities across our communities, our sectors, our societies.⁷

COVID-19 has hit the most vulnerable the hardest, including the 1 billion residents of the world's densely populated informal settlements and slums, as well as other people lacking access to adequate, affordable and secure housing. 'Without a house, it is impossible to heed the call to stay at home. Without safe shelter and access to basic services, the order to shelter in place has no meaning'.⁸

Put simply, if you are poor, your life expectancy is lower than someone with wealth. If you are also Māori or of Pacific Island descent, you can expect to be sicker and die even sooner. There is an argument that our current social systems have moved away from the local, away from the intimacy that drives empathy and compels action. We know where the problems are and the supporting information and knowledge to define and understand these, however, implementing effective solutions and acting on these issues has been less successful.⁹

The inequalities that were prevalent prior to the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified already vulnerable communities and added more pressure. It seems perplexing that 'our

⁵ Ministry of Health 'Mental health and wellbeing resources' - <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources>

⁶ World Economic Forum 'This is the psychological side of the Covid-19 pandemic that we are ignoring' <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/this-is-the-psychological-side-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-that-were-ignoring/>

⁷ The Big Idea 'Are you ready for reinvention?' article on PAANZ Hui, 21 April 2020, Shona McCullagh - <http://www.thebigidea.nz/stories/are-you-ready-for-reinvention/>

⁸ 'How life in our cities will look after the coronavirus pandemic' - <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/01/future-of-cities-urban-life-after-coronavirus-pandemic/>

⁹ Matheson, A – Ideas Room 'Covid019 lays inequality in NZ bare' - <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/ideasroom/2020/04/28/1143311/covid-19-lays-inequality-in-nz-bare>

indigenous people have so much knowledge in regenerative practice and collective knowledge about health and wellbeing¹⁰ and yet our health and social systems fail to value and utilise this taonga not only for Māori but for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

The arts can be a powerful force to help create more equality in how we respond. It values human impact and an ecosystem that is adaptive, resilient and embraces the collective rather than competitive behavior.

Examples of post-recovery efforts

Artists as first responders

The power of art to restore some wholeness to psyches and souls shaken by disaster has emerged as a major theme in artist-led recovery efforts.¹¹ The following examples show how artists have been the first to respond to disasters and crises and how they galvanise efforts to connect communities in providing post-recovery solutions.

Community resilience and wellbeing

Artists and community groups are able to take initiative and create innovative forms of leadership and local governance to provide necessary services and amenities in their communities.¹²

Some of these examples suggest that in addition to natural disasters, some 'man-made' disasters including certain political decisions from recovery authorities – have hindered a smooth recovery process. The result is that many community-led initiatives significantly contributed to social connectedness and mental and physical wellbeing.

Arts as part of our community eco-system



The arts can be, and should be, embedded in all facets of our community. They feed into a broader understanding of the ecosystem of our community and place.¹³ When we collectively utilise an understanding of arts-based methodologies there is a way to ensure that we can move forward in an inclusive and engaging way. We can see in the following examples how the arts have been part of recovery and strategies for re-imagining the way people thrive in their communities.

¹⁰ The Big Idea 'Are you ready for reinvention?' article on PAANZ Hui, 21 April 2020, Shona McCullagh - <http://www.thebigidea.nz/stories/are-you-ready-for-reinvention/>

¹¹ Forecast 'How artists help communities heal' - <https://forecastpublicart.org/how-artists-help-communities-heal-after-disasters/>

¹² 'Gauging the Impacts of Post-Disaster Arts and Culture Initiatives in Christchurch' - <https://www.eqrecoverylearning.org/assets/downloads/2045-Gauging-the-Impacts-of-Post-Disaster-Arts-and-Culture-Initiatives-in-Christchurch-main-document.PDF>

¹³ See attached Waikato Arts Ecosystem map (Appendix)

Location	Arts response and description	Impacts	Images	Link
New Orleans	<p>Transforma Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A five year artistic experimentation in New Orleans led by a group of artists and art professionals in response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. • Emerged out of community consultation • Co-ordinated by a 'diverse and fluid group of professionals, local and national, that provide the structural backbone of the initiative'. 	<p><u>HOME, New Orleans?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moves local participation forward in strengthening, revitalising, and rebuilding community. <p><u>Operation Paydirt/Fundred Bill project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to facilitate the complete transformation of New Orleans into a city with lead-safe soil through the delivery of a scientific solution to lead contamination while calling for action through a nationwide drawing project designed to engage young people. <p>These projects support and raise psychological and emotional wellbeing may also improve physical health. In this respect, participation in the arts is receiving increasing attention for its health promoting potential.¹⁴</p>	 	<p>https://www.transformaprojects.org/pdfs/transformaPilotProjects.pdf</p>

¹⁴ Bidwell, S 'The arts in health' Evidence from International Literature' Population Health and Community Engagement, 2014, p 5 - <https://www.pegasus.health.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Arts-in-Health-Susan-Bidwell.pdf>

<p>USA</p>	<p>Sandy Storyline Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community-generated narrative of the storm and its aftermath that sought to build a more just and sustainable future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amplify the voices of community members during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Examines the human impact into the national conversation about economic inequality, climate change, infrastructure development and the future of coastal cities in America. 	 <p>Sandy volunteers remember the storm and explain how they got involved</p> <p>The Teachable Moment: Rockaway, Hurricane Sandy, and Social Media</p> <p>Milan Taylor: A Window on Change</p> <p>Terri Bennett: Respond and Rebuild</p>	<p>https://www.sandystoryline.com/about/ http://sandystory.wpengine.com/stories/</p>
<p>Japan</p>	<p>Yappeshi Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged a creative network to spark new life amidst the loss and devastation in the city after the tsunami. Participants hang up their handwritten hopes and wishes, receive massages, play games, fly paper lanterns and visit the "listening booth" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring signs of hope into an everyday where daily necessities such as food, water and a warm place to sleep are no longer taken for granted. Means "lets do it!" (<i>yappeshi</i>), emphasises the local nature of the event. The loss of social memory, has serious detrimental effects to the wellbeing of communities. Arts and culture can be key tools in preserving, recovering and creating new social memory, with positive impacts on communities abilities to be resilient. 		<p>http://artasiapacific.com/Blog/YappeshiFestivalAtTohoku</p>

Christchurch
NZ

GAPFILLER

- Globally acclaimed creative social enterprise that works with communities – and the public and private sectors – to design and deliver placemaking strategies and programmes that are the foundation for long-term community outcomes.¹⁵
- Creates installations, events and processes to make places more memorable, fun, participatory, surprising, equitable and sociable

Dance-o-mat

- A coin operated dance floor that anyone can use. A coin-operated ex-laundromat washing machine powers four speakers which surround a custom-made, sprung dance floor.
- Thousands of people have used the Dance-O-Mat, even Prince Charles and Camilla in November 2012 on their Royal Jubilee tour. It had approximately 600 hours of use across the first 3 months.



Sound Sky

- A location-sensitive audio-visual artwork for Christchurch constructed from and inspired by spoken and recorded contributions from residents.
- Allows people to listen to and share memories of the past, create playfulness in the present, and plant visions for the future.
- By developing an infrastructure within which residents can create something together in public spaces, emphasises the creativity and knowledge of its people and places.¹⁶



<https://gapfiller.org.nz/project/dance-o-mat/>
<http://soundsky.org/>

¹⁵ Gapfiller - <https://gapfiller.org.nz/about/>

¹⁶ Ibid

Bringing residents and visitors back into cities and towns

The arts play an important role in attracting visitors, creating jobs and developing skills. Additionally, arts and culture activities can have spillover impacts into other sectors (such as tourism).¹⁷

There won't be a return to travel as it was in the past and the new normal will take some time to bed in. It is estimated that there will be a five year recovery for international travel. New Zealand will have much more focus on domestic travel and that's where the industry has turned to first.¹⁸

The fact that artists are proficient and experienced at trying new things, make them well positioned to think of new and innovative ways of enticing domestic consumers as well as residents to their towns and to reimagine their place anew.

Partnership between Arts and other industries:

Christchurch regeneration project, May 2017 to current

There is a need to embed arts-based strategies and frameworks into the broader ecosystem of the city. This is key to exploring arts as a community wellbeing methodology, rather than simply an output. One great example of this is the Placemaking At One Central project – which is a partnership between Gap Filler and Fletcher Living. It's the first time in New Zealand that a major developer is partnering with community and social innovators to run a programme of community-building activities at the pre-development stage.¹⁹

Gap Filler has been experimenting for a long time now with how temporary projects can have long-term community outcomes. Placemaking at One Central is a logical leap forward, growing community over the course of several years before, around and within a major residential development. A couple of Placemaking at One Central projects are shown below.



Giant Spray Cans



Detour Snake Run

¹⁷ 'Gauging the Impacts of Post-Disaster Arts and Culture Initiatives in Christchurch' -

<https://www.eqrecoverylearning.org/assets/downloads/2045-Gauging-the-Impacts-of-Post-Disaster-Arts-and-Culture-Initiatives-in-Christchurch-main-document.PDF>

¹⁸ RNZ 'Tourism eyes post lockdown rebound - <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/412966/tourism-eyes-post-lockdown-rebound>

¹⁹ Gapfiller - <https://gapfiller.org.nz/project/placemaking-at-one-central/>

Waikato Arts solutions to post-recovery efforts

As the environment around us continues to change in often unpredictable ways, maintaining community access to and involvement in arts and culture is vital.²⁰ The arts provide the ability to think critically and solve problems creatively. The table below show the challenges districts may be facing, some arts responses that will aid in addressing these challenges and how these align with the Navigator outcomes.

Challenges	Arts response	WAN outcomes
Empty buildings and shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary activations fostering long-term community outcomes 	Creative economies Attract and retain residents Tourism opportunities Positive national perceptions Community engagement and connection Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction Local pride Community art classes and projects Upskilling creative professionals Participatory art projects Local problem solving Inspired response to Covid-19
Potential loss or reinvention of identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts as a tool to preserve, recover or recreate a new identity 	Community engagement and connection Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction

²⁰ Creative New Zealand 'Supporting your arts community through Covid-19 – He waka eke noa' - A guide for territorial authorities, June 2020

Challenges	Arts response	WAN outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to increase the quality, livelihood and sustainability of the urban environment through playful experiences • Creatively moving into the future 	<p>Local pride Youth development Distinct local expression Positive collective and individual identities Strengthened connection to place Inform local government decision making Inspired response to Covid-19</p>
<p>Tourism downturn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making places more memorable, fun, participatory, surprising, equitable and social • Highlighting local businesses and telling their stories 	<p>Creative economies Business partnerships Attract and retain residents Tourism opportunities Positive national perceptions Community engagement and connection Upskilling creative professionals Local pride Participatory art projects Create, grow and strengthen communities Inspired response to Covid-19</p>
<p>Physical and mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging people in sharing their own experiences and visions • Telling peoples' stories from their perspective 	<p>Mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing Participatory art projects</p>

Challenges	Arts response	WAN outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping people to stay connected, express their identity and understand differences 	Positive collective and individual identities Community and cultural expression Community engagement and connection Create, grow and strengthen communities Recreation and interaction Distinct local expression Local problem solving Local pride Inspired response to Covid-19
Inequalities between rich and poor are intensified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring together diverse communities to create positive change Create awareness and redress issues that were already embedded Highlight the human impact into the national conversation about economic inequality, infrastructure development and the future of cities and towns 	Community engagement and connection Community and cultural expression Mental and physical health Collective and individual identity Create, grow and strengthen communities Informing local government decision-making Inspired response to Covid-19

Alignment with Council plans

Waitomo DC long-term plan 2018-28

The table below demonstrates how Waitomo DC's community outcomes align with the Waikato Arts Navigator outcomes.

Waitomo DC outcomes	Waikato Arts Navigator outcomes
<u>Vibrant Communities</u>	Mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing Positive collective and individual identities Create, grow and strengthen communities Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction Community engagement and connection Local pride People experience local, national and international arts Participatory art experiences Audience development Distinct local expression
<u>Thriving Business</u>	Creative economies Attract and retain residents Tourism opportunities Positive national perceptions Increased investment from regional and national funders Business partnerships Distinct local expression Creative export opportunities
<u>Effective Leadership</u>	Inspired responses to challenges such as Covid-19 Business partnerships Informing local government decision-making Local problem solving Community engagement and connection Youth development Distinct local expression
<u>Sustainable Infrastructure</u>	Strengthened connection to place Creative economies Attract and retain residents Positive national perceptions Increased investment from regional and national funders Community engagement and connection Local problem solving Local pride Distinct local expression

Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy 2019-24

Creative Waikato supports the *Vibrant Safe Waitomo Strategy 2019-24* and its vision 'To create safe and vibrant communities where people want to live and do business' and the themes –

Theme 1 – Whānau/Families

Theme 2 – Mahi/Workplaces

Theme 3 – Hākinakina/Recreation

Theme 4 – Kotahitanga/Connected Leadership

Creative Waikato acknowledges that the immediate focus for this strategy is on supporting the district's recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.²¹ The recovery process is about supporting people to rebuild their lives and restore their emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.²² Creative Waikato would be happy to offer its support in enabling these outcomes.

A framework – using a creative lens

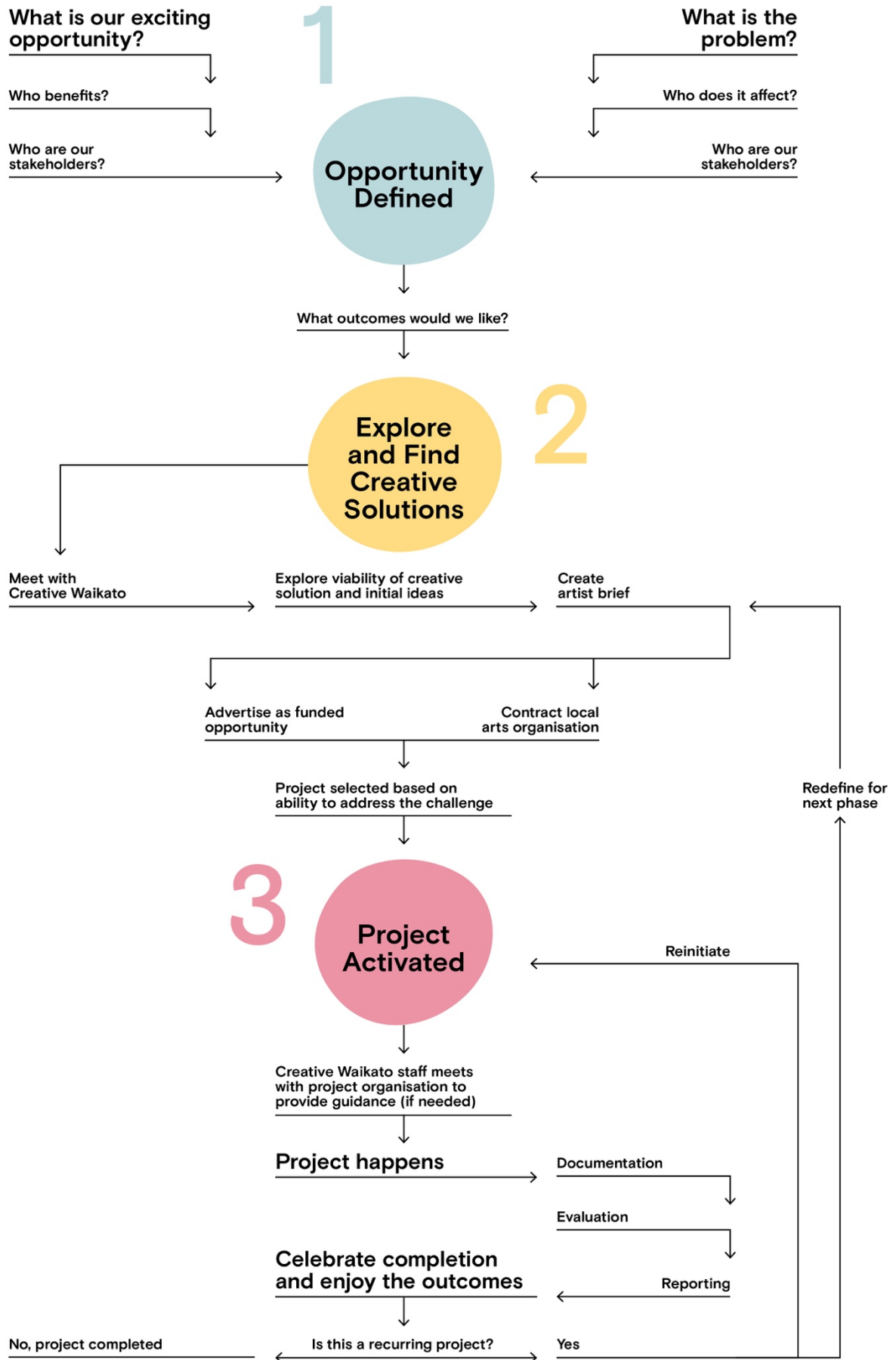
The following page shows a proposed framework for moving forward. It is a framework that utilises creative thinking when considering a potential opportunity or problem. Once this is defined and outcomes are agreed, the second step is to explore and find creative solutions. Creative Waikato can assist in exploring the idea further and providing initial ideas. Depending on the solution, advertisements for funded opportunities for artists or arts organisations would commence, or a local arts organisation would be contracted to deliver a solution. The project would be selected based on its ability to deliver on the challenges which have been identified.

The project is then activated. Reporting, evaluation and documentation would be undertaken for the project with Creative Waikato providing assistance and guidance if needed.

This framework has the potential to be utilised across other areas of Council i.e., Infrastructure; Economic Development; Environmental Sustainability; Culture and Heritage; Political engagement; Liveability and Community cohesion. It puts a creative lens on any opportunities and problems that may arise, thereby introducing creative thinking at the outset of the process.

²¹ Vibrant Safe Waitomo Action Plan 2020-2022, p 2

²² Waikato Regional Recovery post Covid-19 – *Frameworks and Priorities for Waikato Mayoral Forum and Partners*



Project examples

Below are some examples of potential projects, how they align with the Navigator outcomes and indicative costs.

Creative project	Project examples	WAN outcome	Cost (est per town)
Telling peoples stories	A storytelling project about a community project focused on mental health	Mental and physical health Community engagement Collective and individual identity Create, grow and strengthen communities	< \$5,000
Expression of identity	Series of community murals expressing the identity of different areas	Creative economies Attract new residents Retain youth National perceptions Community participation Local pride Create, grow and strengthen communities	Approx \$2,500 for a small/medium wall. Or \$5000 for a medium/large wall Flexible depending on demands.
Activation of empty spaces	Pop-up shop activation and exhibitions	Creative economies Attract new residents Retain youth National perceptions Community participation Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction Local pride Community engagement	\$15,000 to \$30,000 May depend on size of shops, scope of work, and the potential to commission installations which would change scope.
Community celebration and connectedness	Festival in town centre focused on connecting people from different groups i.e., ethnic groups, older people or youth	Creative economies Attract new residents Retain youth National perceptions Community participation Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction Local pride Community engagement	\$20,000 to \$50,000
Town centre regeneration	Project focused on town centre regeneration i.e., road/path treatments, shop activation, public art, murals, events/festivals etc.	Creative economies Attract new residents Retain youth National perceptions Community participation Community and cultural expression Recreation and interaction Local pride Community engagement	> \$40,000

Long term

The Waikato Arts Navigator is an aspirational vision to see our region become a place with a vibrant arts and cultural sector that thrives with diverse and transformative creative activity. This means that there is the ongoing sustainable development of a wide range of artistic and cultural activities. The arts are valued and celebrated in our communities with robust and flourishing pathways from participation and audience engagement, to training and capability development through a range of practical activities and culminating in having a sector of creative professionals whose careers are able to live and thrive.

It is important to encourage local government, industry and sector leaders to see artists as a more embedded component within the rest of society. This encourages a collaborative space where the value of artists in society can be better recognised and utilised. As part of this, it would include a diverse but interconnected ecosystem²³ of arts infrastructure (both hard and soft) that would provide clear pathways for artists and community members at any stage of the journey.

Moving forward

The Waikato region is well-placed to provide a meaningful arts response in that most districts have already agreed that the Waikato Arts Navigator is a framework they wish to implement. What is now required is a realisation of how this strategy can activate an arts response which is unique to each individual district. Local and international examples show what can be achieved if artists can engage with communities to create a response that not only embeds their sense of belonging, but also helps to shape what their towns and cities will look like.

While the impact of a major shift on skills, wages and the nature of our jobs is hard to estimate, creative skills are essential to evolving and adapting local provision in this new environment. The creative economy will likely become one of the leading sectors for job creation in the future, as a vehicle to facilitate economic transition. Culture can be the engine for recovery.²⁴

Recovery also runs on social capital; the networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively. There is no doubt that the recovery has to begin by helping those affected to restore their faith in the continuity of their lives. Social scientists use the concept of 'ontological security' to describe this sense of continuity, but it is similar to the Māori notion of Tūrangawaewae (having a physical home and the sense of belonging and continuity that being anchored in a place provides).

Successful recovery is about defining clearly, focusing locally, spending social capital and creative compelling narratives. It is first and foremost about people and places, not

²³ See attached appendix 'Waikato Arts Ecosystem Map'

²⁴ Unesco ResiliArt Debate - <http://svarcstream3a.unesco.org/ksastream/video/ResiliArt-Debate.mp4>

processes and policies.²⁵ The arts can serve as an antidote to times of chaos. It can be a route to clarity, and it can be a force of resistance and repair, providing new registers, new languages in which to think.²⁶ The arts can be the catalyst to effect such change.

²⁵ Lessons for the Covid-19 recovery - <https://www.researchfirst.co.nz/blog/lessons-for-the-covid-19-recovery>

²⁶ Laing, O 'Feeling overwhelmed? How art can help in an emergency'
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/mar/21/feeling-overwhelmed-how-art-can-help-in-an-emergency-by-olivia-laing>

APPENDIX

Waikato Arts Ecosystem Map

ARTS AND CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM IN THE WAIKATO

Examining the
role of the arts
and culture within
community and
society.



THE WAIKATO ARTS NAVIGATOR FRAMEWORK

Drawing from our ongoing research, strategic development, and sector knowledge, we have developed a vision framework for Arts Navigation in our communities.

This brings together the outcomes of Creative Prosperity, Creative Experiences, Creative Wellbeing and Creative Excellence as key overarching components of a thriving Arts and Cultural Sector.

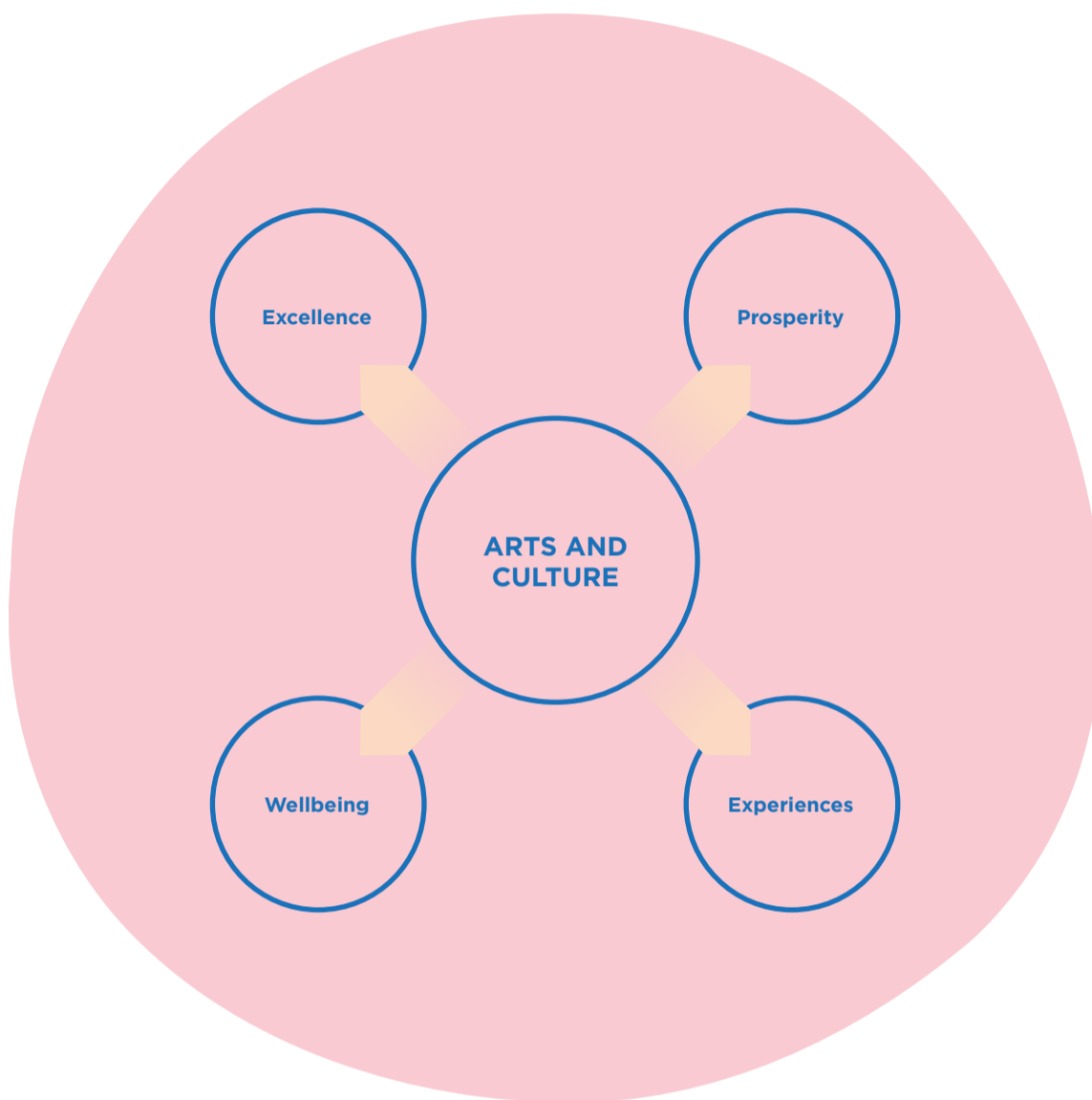
We understand the interconnected nature of the arts community. The ecosystem is vibrant and interconnected. A ripple in the water of development and activity in one area can connect and flow with other parts of the sector in unexpected ways. In Arts and Culture boundaries are fluid, genres and mediums can be re-imagined within other contexts, and while there are clear and established pathways for development and engagement, there are also new and innovative pathways for creative activity emerging all the time.

PROSPERITY: A strong creative economy that is vibrant, attracts people and strengthens the perception of the Waikato.

EXPERIENCES: An engaged community who values and participates in artistic and cultural expression.

WELLBEING: Create and strengthen communities, enhance mental and physical health, and develop a sense of identity through arts and culture.

EXCELLENCE: Celebrate our arts and culture through a culture of achievement with national and international recognition.



ARTS AND CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM MAP

Spaces/Venues/Environments

Geographical contexts of interaction between people and arts activity:

Theatres, community halls, rehearsal spaces, galleries, studios, libraries, museums, marae, cultural hubs, empty private and public spaces, streets, gardens, parks, waterways, gullies etc.

Cultural Practices

Activities that relate people to each other, to the world around them, and allow them to enhance wellbeing:

Performances, shows, rehearsals, classes, workshops, discussions
Playing, exercising, creating, expressing, producing, caring, gathering and consuming

Cultural Ecosystem Benefits

There are a range of well-being impacts associated with cultural spaces and practices

IDENTITY: Belonging, Sense of Place, Spirituality

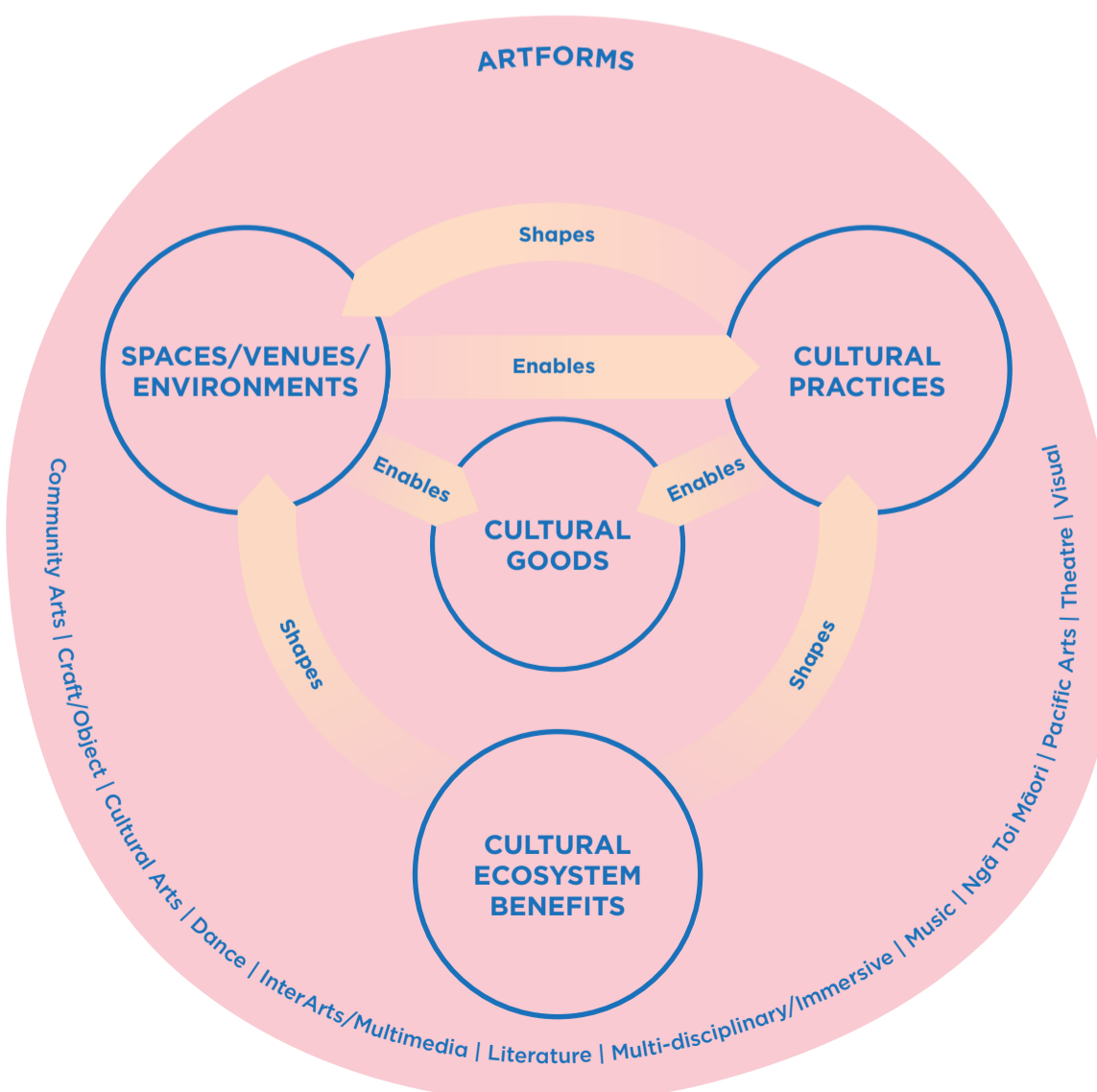
EXPERIENCES: Tranquility, Inspiration, Escape, Discovery, Curiosity

CAPABILITIES: Knowledge, Health, Dexterity, Judgement

PROSPERITY: Development, resilience, livability, sustainability

Cultural Goods

Service-benefit products: opportunities for recreation and tourism, personal growth, well-being, local performances and festivals



ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES EXIST WITHIN, AND ACROSS, ALL FACETS OF SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY.

Utilising the creative potential within the arts and cultural sector can enable capacity building, transformation, and change in order to create healthier communities over time. Investing in arts activity and development in a sustainable and aspirational manner, can support the ecosystem in a future focussed manner, nurturing strengths and skills, spearheading community visions, investment beyond grant making, and a robust communication of the understanding of value.

The Arts have a vital role to play throughout a thriving society. Arts funding is one of the most important functions and duties of our society. It is through the arts where we grow, where we reach understanding, and where we find common ground in a rapidly changing complex world. Artistic imagination and creativity are an essential part of what makes us human.

Art thinks about the world in its current state, and it can reimagine the world as it could be.

ARTS AND CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM WITHIN THE BROADER SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY

Health and Wellness

Wellbeing for individuals
Better care for each other
Increased quality of life

Aging

Physical and mental stimulation
Entertainment
Social interaction

Rehabilitation

Purpose
Self-care
Social interaction
Capability Development

Public Welfare

Community Pride
Mutual trust
Safer and healthier communities

Livability

Arts create vibrant cities
Environmental impact
Quality of Life

Environmental Sustainability

Education and Innovation
Advocating and driving awareness
Communication

Economic Development

Economic Wellbeing
Support services and impact
Sustainable Funding
Workforce Development

Arts in the workforce

Well-rounded workers who drive innovation
Creative thinkers
Solid communicators

Infrastructure

Advocacy, communication, design, breaking down barriers
Agriculture, Food, Transport, Housing,
Planning and Community Development

Technology and Innovation

Symbiotic relationship for creation and development
Technology can be used to create and disseminate art

Education

Arts are part of a well-rounded education
Curiosity and exploration
Important at all levels of education

Political Engagement

Can encourage political engagement, voting, and activation

Social Justice

Civic dialogue to discuss issues and policies
Arts facilitate dialogue

Community Cohesion and Identity

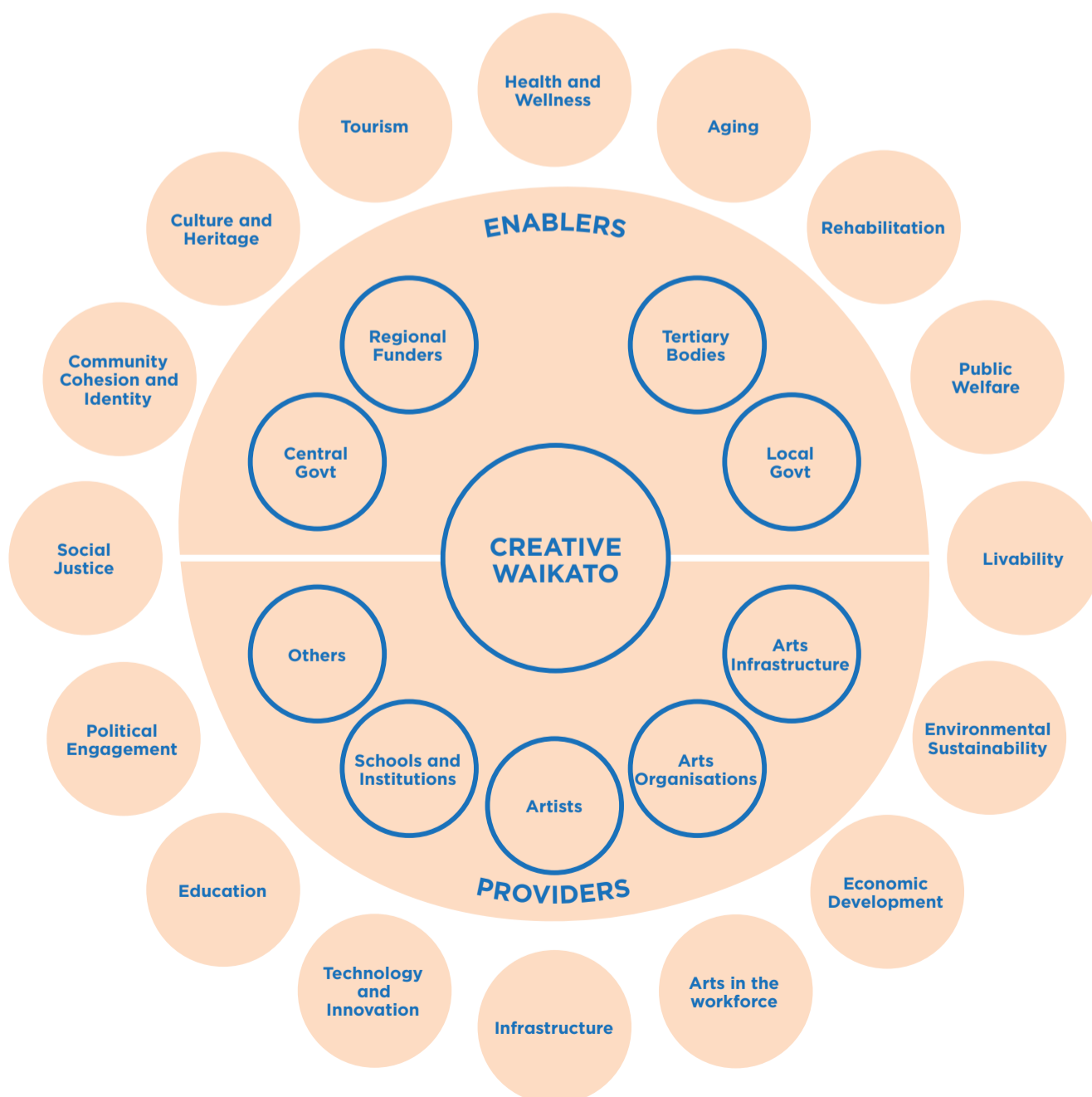
Binds people together through shared experience
Creates common vision for the future
Arts bring people together

Culture and Heritage

Art activity
Diversity/Access/ Identity
History and Tradition

Tourism

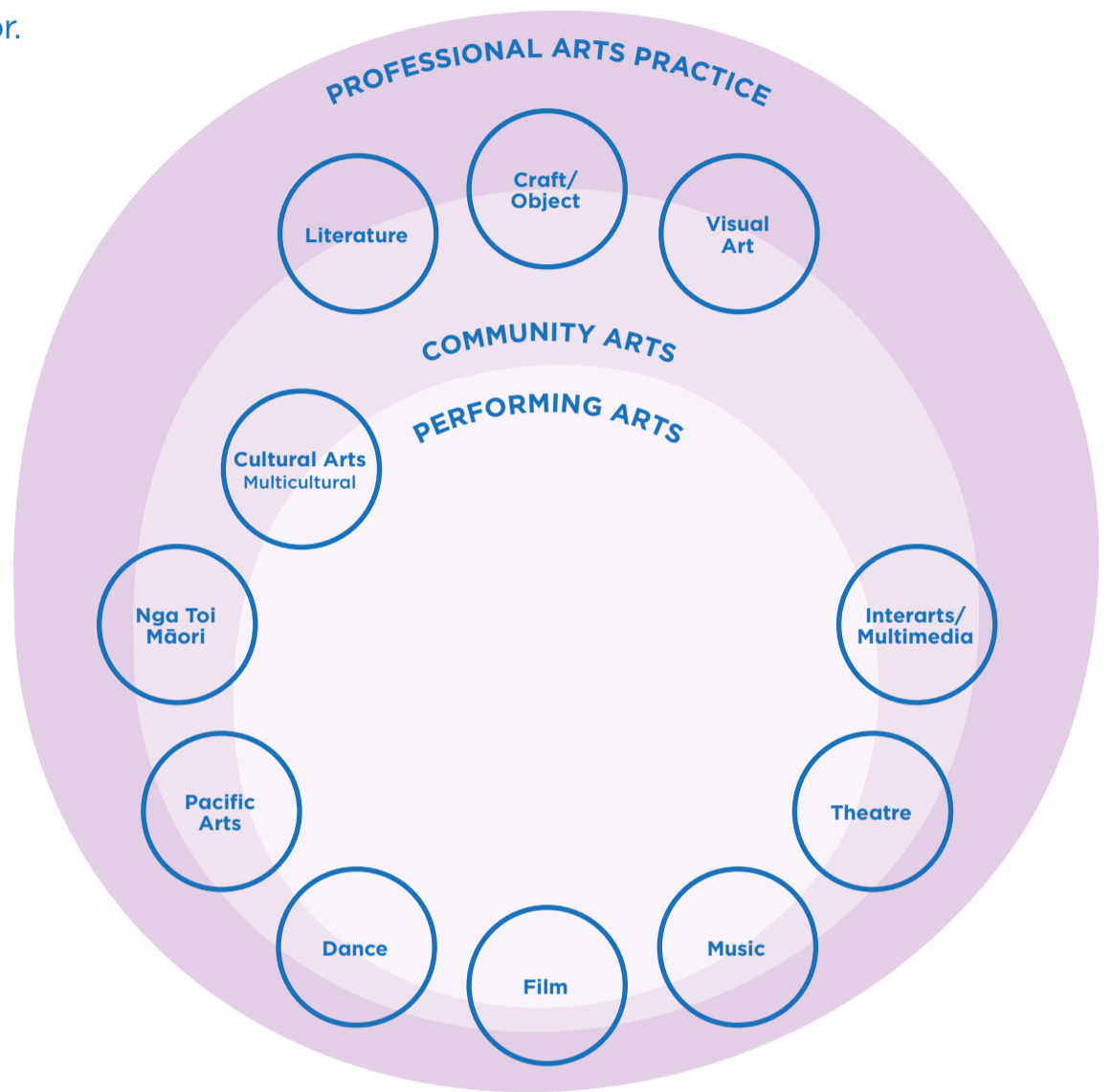
Economic impact
Empathy between communities
Arts for travel



ARTS AND CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM GENERAL DETAILS BY ARTFORM

Infrastructure elements for the Arts and Cultural Sector.
General outline for the entire Waikato Region.

Literature Prose Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Classes/ Formal education Commissions Workshops Events Spoken Word Lyrics	Cultural Arts Multicultural Dance Music Theatre Venues Rehearsal space Technical support Classes Nga Toi Māori Kapahaka Taonga puoro Ta moko Whakairo Raranga Marae Rehearsal space Studio space Classes/ Formal education Commissions Pacific Arts Dance Music Theatre Venues Rehearsal space Technical support Classes/ Formal education Dance Shows Classes/ Formal education Fitness Venues Rehearsal spaces Costuming Technical support	Film Art projects Commercial productions Storytelling Education Classes Formal education Music Bands Orchestras Choirs Venues Rehearsal spaces Recording studios Technical support Classes/ Formal education Commissions Theatre Musical Theatre Theatre Improv Venues Rehearsal Spaces Costuming Technical support Classes/ Formal education Interarts/ Multimedia Immersive exhibitions Interactive work Light Festivals Projection mapping Corporate elements Tourism opportunities
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ARTS AND CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM INTERCONNECTIVITY FRAMEWORK

Indicative grid for collaboration and interconnection between artforms for the Arts and Cultural Sector.

	Craft/ Object	Cultural Arts	Dance	Film	Inter-Arts	Literature	Music	Nga Toi Māori	Pacific Arts	Theatre	Visual Art
Craft/Object	■	●		●	●	●		●●	●		●●●
Cultural Arts	●	■	●●●	●		●	●●●			●●	●
Dance		●●●	■	●	●	●	●●●	●●	●●	●●●	
Film	●	●	●●	■	●●●	●●	●●●	●	●	●●	●●
Inter-Arts	●		●	●●●	■	●	●●●	●		●	●●●
Literature	●	●	●	●●	●	■	●●	●●	●	●●	●
Music		●●●	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●	■	●●●	●●	●●●	●
Nga Toi Maori	●●	●	●●	●	●	●●	●●●	■	●●	●●	●●●
Pacific Arts	●	●	●●	●		●	●●	●●	■	●●	●●●
Theatre	●	●●	●●●	●●	●	●●	●●●	●●	●●	■	●
Visual Art	●●●	●		●●	●●●	●	●	●●●	●●●	●	■
Community Arts	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Performing Arts		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Professional Arts	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Festivals/ Large Events	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Information on this table based on knowledge of interconnected events and collaborations within the wider Waikato Arts and Cultural Sector. Weighting indicated more of a prevalence within a specific artform.
*number of dots indicates the prevalence of collaboration between artforms.
**intensity of colour indicates the prevalence of artform within the specified context