

WAITUHI Matariki Public Art Project

Call for proposals

April 2021

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

INTRODUCTION

Wellington City Council's Arts and Events team is calling for proposals from Tangata Whenua artists to design a series of flags to mark Matariki this year.

Matariki is a time of renewal and an acknowledgement of the natural cycles of the universe. It is also a time for Whānau and Rēhia (Fun), Ako (Learning) and Kai (Food).

Artists should submit their designs along with a written statement about their concept, current CV or artist's biography and images (or online links to images) of recent work by **5.00pm on Monday 3 May 2021**.

WAITUHI SITE

The WAITUHI site is the eight (8) flag poles along the South-side of Frank Kitts Park near Whairepo Lagoon at Wellington's Waterfront. There are seven standard size poles and one large pole, the Oriel at the South East corner of the site.



WAITUHI 2019, Maioha Kara



WAITUHI 2017, Reweti Arapere

BACKGROUND

This year will mark the seventh series of WAITUHI flags for Matariki, following on from the first in 2015 by [Stevei Houkamau](#) followed by [Keri Mei Zagrobelna](#) and [Reweti Arapere](#) in 2017, and by [Sian Montgomery-Neutze](#), 2018, [Maioha Kara](#), 2019 and [David Hakaria](#) last year.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of WAITUHI is to take the festivities and theme of Matariki to a wider audience beyond the traditional arts spaces of the galleries, museums and theatres. Waituhi will enliven public space with new artworks that acknowledge the importance of Māori heritage and sites of significance in the city. These artworks will reclaim this site, tell stories about and draw attention to Te Whanganui-a-Tara's cultural heritage.

ARTISTS' BRIEF

Artist's designs will reflect Waituhi's objectives outlined above and they will be site specific, that is responding to the geography and heritage of the flag poles on the waterfront at Frank Kitts Park, near Whairepo Lagoon and the City to Sea Bridge.

SITE DETAILS

There are seven standard size flag poles that flank the edge of the Park and one larger flagpole on the oriel that extends out from the Park. When developing a design for the flag's artists should consider the following flag-design principles:

- The design should be simple and bold.
- It should be designed to be flown and viewed from either side.
- The top left-hand corner of the flag is typically the place of honour in a flag. This reflects the fact that the opposite end of the flag wears out first and is the section that is least visible when the flag is not fully unfurled.
- Flags can be rectangular or triangular.
- The measurements for the seven standard size flags are 1350 x 1820mm, and triangular ones 1350 x 1528mm. The measurements for the larger flag are approximately 1500mm x 2400mm. Specific measurements will be confirmed with the selected artist and depend on the flag design and shape.

LAGOON – history and significance:

Whai Repo is the Māori name given to the Eagle Ray. The word Whai Repo is said to derive from two words: Whai – stingray, and Repo – mudflat. Common habitats of the eagle ray are estuaries and shallow harbours. It is not uncommon for there to be up to 12 whai repo in the lagoon at one time over the summer months. It is believed that the shallow water and the abundant food attract the whai repo. The whai repo are considered kaitiaki or guardians of the lagoon, Te Raukura and the waka associated with the Wharewaka. As kaitiaki they ensure that the waka return after every journey and that people are safe in their activities in and around the lagoon.

The lagoon has strong cultural significance and has been identified as the best place for a landing site with shelter for the waka of the local mana whenua. Its direct proximity to the former Te Aro Pā site (approximately 400m to the excavation site on Taranaki Street) and its ceremonial links with the Civic Centre (across the road), add to its cultural status. It is surrounded by iconic Wellington points of interest: Te Raukura Wharewaka Function Centre, City-to-Sea Bridge and Frank Kitts Park.

TE NGĀKAU, CIVIC SQUARE – history and significance:

Te Ngākau Civic Square is on reclaimed land which was originally part of Lambton Harbour surrounded by a shallow beach. A recent archaeological assessment carried out on the near-by Lombard Street but referencing the wider area, noted that:

“When the first European settlers arrived in Wellington harbour, it was settled by Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tupaia and Ngāti Haumia. The kainga at the Te Aro stream mouth had been established by Ngāti Mutunga in the 1820s. Following their departure to the Chatham Islands in 1835, it had been ceded to Ngāti Tupaia and Ngāti Haumia. Te Ātiawa occupied the remainder of the western side of the harbour between Pito-one and Te Aro (Ballara 1990:29). Before the arrival of Ngāti Mutunga and their allies Ngāti Tama, the area around Wellington harbour had been occupied by Ngāti Ira, Ngāti Rangi, and Ngāi Tara” (Lombard Street Upgrade: Archaeological Assessment prepared for Wellington City Council by Subsurface Ltd.).

The harbour, streams and inland cultivations provided sustenance for the people. The Waitangi Tribunal report of 2003 acknowledges the well-established ahi kā rights of Te Ātiawa and allies at Te Whanganui a Tara.

The Lombard assessment is available on request.

SUBMISSION + TIMEFRAME

If you are interested in this opportunity please email, as a PDF, the following information to Wellington City Council’s City Arts and Events team by **5.00pm Monday 3 May** (contact details below):

- scale design(s) for all 8 eight flag poles at Frank Kitts Park
- written statement (no more than 500 words, up to one-page) about the design concept – what inspired or influenced the design, what story they tell, who they speak to and how they address project objectives.
- current CV or Artist’s Biography
- up to five images of previous artworks or online links to images of artworks.

The selected artist will need to provide print ready designs to Wellington City Council’s Arts and Events team who will liaise directly with Flagmakers NZ to reproduce the flags.

The flag designs will be printed on fabric ready for installation on Thursday 1 July. Flags will remain in place for up to three months.

Council will notify the successful artist mid-May, allowing two weeks for any adjustments to be made to the design and an additional 3-4 weeks for Flagmakers NZ to scale-up and print the designs.

BUDGET

Wellington City Council will cover all costs relating to the production, printing and installation of the flags including a separate artist's fee of \$3,000 for the development and design of the flags.

CONTACT

For more information please contact Senior Arts Advisor – Projects, Katie Taylor-Duke on email: Katie.Taylor-Duke@wcc.govt.nz or phone: 021 227 8021.