



Toi Manu Tautoko

Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange

Call for Expressions of Interest

April 2025

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

He Karanga – Te Kaupapa Noho Toi ki Canberra 2025, Te Kaunihera o Pōneke

Nau mai, Haere mai

Tēnei te karanga ki a koutou, e ngā ringatoi, e ngā toi whakairo, e ngā toi whakaari, e ngā toi rangi, e ngā toi kanikani, e ngā toi kōrero, e ngā toi katoa e whai nei i ngā tai o te auahatanga.

" Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei"

E karanga ana a Pōneke, e karanga ana a Canberra – he kaupapa whakawhiti whakaaro, he ara mō te mātauranga, mō te whakawhanake, mō te paihere i ngā ringatoi nō ngā ao e rua.

Whakarauika mai, whakatata mai! He ara hou tēnei mā ngā ringatoi e hiahia ana ki te hora i te kupu, ki te tuitui hononga, ki te torotoro i ngā mahinga toi o ngā motu e rua. Mā koutou e hiki te mauri, e whakapuāwai te toi Māori ki tāwāhi.

Nō reira, e te iwi toi, tukuna mai ā koutou tono! Haere mai, whakawhiti kōrero, waihanga, whakairo, waiata, kanikani, kia rangona te reo o te toi ki ngā moutere o Te Whenua o te Moemoeā.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā rā tātou katoa.

Welcome come forth

This is a call to you, artists of all kinds, sculptors, performers, composers, dancers, storytellers, those who follow the waves of creativity.

"Aim high or for what is truly valuable, but be persistent and do not let obstacles stop you from reaching your goal"

Wellington calls, Canberra calls—this is an opportunity for exchange, for learning, for growth, and for creating connections between artists from both worlds.

Come near, come closer! This is a new journey for artists who wish to spread their ideas, connect, and explore the artistic practices of both nations. It is you who will carry the spirit, bringing Māori art to distant lands.

So, to all artists, send in your applications! Come, raise the creative spirit, and let the voice of the arts be heard across the dream lands (Australia).

Introduction

Wellington City Council's Arts team are calling for proposals from mana whenua artists to participate in Toi Manu Tautoko, Supporting the arts to fly – the reinvigorated Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange programme.

The programme supports a Canberra-based Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artist to come to Wellington for four (4) weeks during November this year; and for a mana whenua artist from the Wellington Region to spend four weeks in Canberra during November and December.

The Wellington artist will be hosted by a centrally located arts organisation in Canberra. The Canberra artist will be accommodated at Te Whare Hēra in the Clyde Quay Apartment building on Wellington's waterfront.

Strategic Context

Tā kai Here, the Mana Whenua and Wellington City Council Agreement to partner and work together, and Aho Tini, Wellington's Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy provide strong direction and guidance for this exchange. Council values the unique contribution of Māori to the cultural landscape and identity of both Wellington and Aotearoa, seeks to enable career development opportunities for mana whenua artists, and to increase the visibility of ngā toi Māori both here and internationally.

International engagement is vital for Wellington as the creative capital to have a connected, diverse and dynamic arts sector that is valued locally and internationally. International residencies provide unique opportunities for artists to immerse themselves in new art contexts, markets, communities and cultures. The experience enables them to articulate their practice within a global context and build knowledge, networks and partnerships that support future art activities. Residencies are also important periods for artistic development and reflection which may result in new and vibrant bodies of work.

Outcomes

The reinvigoration and continuation of Toi Manu Tautoko, the Canberra Pōneke Indigenous Artist Exchange programme will:

- strengthen and extend cultural connections and networks between each city, presenting the opportunity for mana whenua artists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island artists to build relationships via indigenous knowledge and arts practice.
- champion ngā toi Māori artists and mātauranga Māori in an international setting.
- contribute to Wellington being recognised locally and globally as a culturally rich and creative city of Mana Whenua and Māori identities and histories.

The Exchange also meets the following objectives of the [*Canberra- Wellington Sister City Agreement*](#):

- Programmes that support opportunities for indigenous people from both countries.
- Re-establish direct connections for arts communities, events development and national institutions.
- Mutual exchange of delegations that connect Wellington City Council and the ACT Government.

Who is eligible, and how to apply

Mana whenua – Taranaki Whānui, Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira – artists are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants across all art forms from emerging to more established/mid-career will be considered.

Applicants are required to complete an application form and submit a short Expression of Interest (EOI), no more than 500 words, with the following information:

- A description of how the Exchange would support your practice, that is consider how being in Canberra would benefit your artistic and cultural practice and why is it important that it happens in 2025.
- A current CV or Artist Biography including weblinks to previous, relevant projects.

Artists must email their application as a PDF to the City Arts team at arts@wcc.govt.nz by **midday on Friday 9 May, 2025**.

The application form and details are available from wellington.govt.nz.

Council's Mana Whenua and Māori Arts Advisory Panel in partnership with artsACT in Canberra and their affiliated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group will determine the selection of artists based on the criteria below.

Criteria:

- Eligibility: Is the applicant a mana whenua artist?
- Benefit: Will the Exchange support the applicant's artistic and cultural practice?
- Timeliness: Does the Exchange make sense for this point in the applicant's career?

Financial and collegial support to artists

Wellington City Council and artsACT will provide:

- One return economy airfare between Wellington and Canberra
- Per diem to cover living expenses for the duration of the residency
- A stipend to cover costs back home and for any research and/or project development costs.
- Self-contained accommodation at a centrally located arts organisation in Canberra for the Wellington artist, and at Te Whare Hēra on the waterfront for the Canberra artist.
- Sector support both in Canberra and Wellington to ensure visiting artists are well supported and can access what they need to succeed.

Project Leads

For more information, please contact:

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