

## Introduction

The Wellington Asia Residency Exchange (WARE) is an artist residency programme managed by Wellington City Council in partnership with the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

The programme supports one residency and one exchange each year; that is one artist from Asia will visit Wellington, and one Wellington artist will go to either Xiamen or Beijing in China.

*Residency* artists must be from Asia and will be invited by an arts organisation or institution. They will stay at the historic Bolton Street Sexton's Cottage.

*Exchange* artists will be Wellington-based. They will be accommodated by either Red Gate Gallery in Beijing or the Chinese European Arts Centre (CEAC) in Xiamen.

## Vision

WARE will connect Wellington's creative sector with artists and arts organisations in Asian countries, increasing cross-cultural collaboration and building Wellington's international reputation as a creative city.

## Objectives

The objectives for WARE are to:

- facilitate an exchange of art practices and ideas between Wellington and Asia
- establish ongoing relationships with Asian cities – developing Wellington's international profile and creative identity in Asia
- raise the profile of Asian arts in Wellington Increase Asian content shown or exhibited in Wellington
- Develop networks between Wellington and Asian arts practitioners
- contribute to creating an Asia-ready society in Wellington.

## RESIDENCY Programme

The residency aspect of WARE is aimed at professional, contemporary arts practitioners of all disciplines (visual, performance, dance, literature, etc.) from Asian countries. Participating artists should be committed to extending their practice and networking with their New Zealand contemporaries. Each residency will be project based depending on the artist's discipline.

Visiting artists must be hosted by an arts organisation/institution to enable project development. As host, organisations/institutions will welcome artists and provide pastoral care and wrap around support to them including introducing them to their Wellington contemporaries.

Projects could range from an exhibition, installation or performance and/or a series of workshops or seminars. They are envisaged as a way for the public to engage with the artist and their work. The more opportunities there are for artists to engage with arts communities the richer the residency experiences, and the greater the likelihood of cross cultural exchange and collaboration.

Residencies will be no longer than three months and no less than six weeks in duration.

## **Residency allocation**

- Flights

The Asia New Zealand Foundation will fund one single economy return airfare between New Zealand and Asia (from Asia) up the value of \$2,000.

- Accommodation

Wellington City Council will accommodate residency artists at the historic Bolton Street Sexton's Cottage located on the fringe of Wellington's central business district. The cottage backs on to the Bolton Street Memorial Park and Cemetery and is just beside a small deconsecrated church. It's close to the Wellington Botanic Gardens, New Zealand's Parliament and Victoria University of Wellington. Built in 1857, it is one of Wellington's oldest homes, protected by the Historic Places Trust. The cottage is wired for internet use, and artists are given a mobile phone sim card for use in New Zealand. The cottage comprises a bedroom, living room, dining room/study/second bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, separate toilet, laundry and a small outdoor courtyard. The cottage is fully furnished.

- Allowance

Wellington City Council will pay the artist a 60NZD daily allowance for living costs during their stay in Wellington.

- Project costs

Wellington City Council and Asia New Zealand Foundation will pay the artist \$1000 for project development costs, including materials and equipment.

- Visa

Travel documentation including visas and passports are the responsibility of the visiting artist, not the hosting organisation/institution, Wellington City Council or the Asia New Zealand Foundation. Visiting artists must apply for Temporary Working Visas. For more information, visit [Immigration NZ](#).

- Insurance

Insurance is the responsibility of the participating artists. Artists must secure full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of their trip and must provide Wellington City Council and Asia New Zealand Foundation with copies of their insurance policy before travel commences.

## **Role of arts organisations/institutions**

Proposals to participate in the residency facet of the WARE programme must come from arts organisations/institutions. That is, they will identify an artist from Asia they want to work with, for example a visual artist, theatre practitioner, musician, dancer/choreographer, etc., and submit the application on their behalf.

Organisations or institutions will provide professional, collegial support to artists and space for project development, for example studio/workshop and exhibition/ installation space and/or rehearsal and performance space.

Organisations or institutions will also provide pastoral care to artists. This involves welcoming them to Wellington, introducing them to their specific arts community and ensuring they have opportunities to engage more widely with Wellington's arts sector. One or two people from an organisation/institution should be designated as 'artist host' to ensure the artist has a reliable contact to help them navigate the city and sector.

A letter of agreement, that will act as a contract between the organisation/institution, Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Wellington City Council, outlining residency conditions, role of host and project outcomes, will be signed after artist selection and upon agreement of the terms.

## **Criteria for selection**

Proposals from arts organisations or institutions will be assessed by an advisory group made of arts professionals from Wellington City Council, Asia New Zealand Foundation and partnering arts organisations and institutions. The advisory group will identify and select an artist that best demonstrates an understanding of the objectives of the residency and meets the following criteria:

- Citizens of Asian countries
- Professional, contemporary artist with a record of achievement in their arts genre
- Fit with arts organisation or institution
- Willingness to carry out research and/or create a body of work during the residency i.e. an exhibition, performance, workshop or seminar
- Willingness to engage with Wellington's arts sector and general public
- Artist must be able to demonstrate a degree of autonomy and self-reliance
- Artist must be able to converse with relative ease in English.

## **EXCHANGE programme**

The exchange facet of WARE is specifically for visual artists from the Wellington region – including the Hutt Valley, Porirua City and the Kapiti Coast District.

Wellington City Council sends out an open call for proposals during March every year.

Hosting organisations are Red Gate Gallery in Beijing and the Chinese European Arts Centre (CEAC) in Xiamen. Wellington has long standing sister city agreements with both

these cities. Artists visit Red Gate and CEAC every second year, that is Red Gate during even years and CEAC odd years.

Red Gate and CEAC are international artist residency complexes. Wellington artists will be hosted and accommodated by them. Accommodation includes living, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and studio space. Artists may also have access to gallery space to exhibit.

Applying artists should be committed to extending their practice and networking with their Asian contemporaries. Each residency will be project based. Projects could range from an open studio, series of artist's talks, exhibition, installation or performance pieces. As with the residency facet of WARE, they are envisaged as a way for foreign arts communities to engage with Wellington artists and their work.

Exchange residencies are for three months.

### **Exchange allocation**

- Flights

The Asia New Zealand Foundation will fund one single economy return airfare between Wellington and Asia up to the value of \$2000.

- Accommodation

Red Gate Gallery and CEAC will accommodate artists in their studio complexes. Accommodation costs are covered by the Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Wellington City Council.

- Allowance

Wellington City Council will pay the artist a 40NZD daily allowance for living costs during their stay in China.

- Project costs

Wellington City Council and Asia New Zealand Foundation will pay the artist \$1000 for project development costs, including materials and equipment.

- Visa

Travel documentation including visas and passports are the responsibility of the travelling artist, not the hosting organisation/institution, Wellington City Council or the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

- Insurance

Insurance is the responsibility of the participating artists. Artists must secure full comprehensive travel insurance for the duration of their trip and must provide Wellington City Council and Asia New Zealand Foundation with copies of their insurance policy before travel commences.

## Criteria for selection

Proposals from artists will be assessed by an advisory group made of arts professionals from Wellington City Council, Asia New Zealand Foundation and partnering art organisations and institutions. The advisory group will shortlist two artists that best demonstrate an understanding of the objectives of the residency and meet the following criteria:

- Based in Wellington/Wellington region and planning to return and live in the region for at least a year after their residency
- Contemporary visual artist with a record of achievement, for example tertiary study, solo and/or group shows, record of public funding for projects, participation in seminars, workshops, etc.
- Willingness to carry out research and/or create a body of work during the residency i.e. an exhibition, performance, workshop or seminar
- Willingness to engage with Beijing/Xiamen arts sector and general public
- Artist must be able to demonstrate a degree of autonomy and self-reliance
- Willing to engage with the Wellington arts community on their return and present their residency experience in a public forum.

## Conclusion

It is hoped that WARE artists will be introduced to diverse arts sectors, gain insights into how they operate, contribute to their dynamism, and share their experiences and practice with others.

For more information about the WARE programme, please contact:

Wellington City Council – City Arts and Events team

Email: [arts@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:arts@wcc.govt.nz)

Phone: +64 4 499 4444