

WELLINGTON REGIONAL AMENITIES FUND JOINT COMMITTEE

24 April 2013

REPORT NO 2

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of report

This paper seeks the Joint Committee's decisions on which of the expressions of interest in the Fund best fit the purposes of the Fund.

Those organisations supported in principle by the Joint Committee will be asked to submit a detailed application and budget before funding is offered.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree that the following projects should be funded in principle, with the funding released on receipt of an acceptable detailed application and budget.*
 - a. *The 'Winter of Art' Programme and Art Lovers Tours across the region's galleries - \$215,000*
 - b. *Visitor experience development working across the region's environmental attractions \$300,000*
 - c. *The 2014 New Zealand International Arts Festival opening large-scale outdoor event - \$300,000*
 - d. *2015 first steps - The 2014 ANZAC Eve concert in the first year of WW100 - New Zealand Symphony Orchestra - \$50,000*
3. *Agree the criteria and priorities will be reviewed once Annual Plans are finalised,*
OR
Agree the same criteria will apply for the 2013/14 fund.
4. *Agree to invite applications from 1 August, 2013 noting existing successful applicants may re-apply.*
5. *Agree to liaise with existing and potential military heritage projects around the region to develop a connected programme for 2015 that will maximise the Wellington region's capacity to attract visitors in that year and beyond.*

6. *Agree to liaise with theatre organisations in the region to explore potential joint approaches, including cooperation to secure Creative New Zealand funding.*

3. Background

3.1 Expressions of interest:

The Joint Committee, at its 8 February meeting, identified a number of regionally significant organisations that were likely to meet the aims of the Fund. The following organisations have been approached and asked to submit an expression of interest in the Fund; detailing their organisation's current contribution to the aims of the Fund and outlining any projects or activities that could proceed with, or benefit from, additional regional funding.

Organisation	Amount Requested
Te Papa	\$300,000
Orchestra Wellington	\$100,000
World of Wearable Art*	n/a
Wellington Zoo**	\$380,000
Zealandia**	
NZ International Arts Festival	\$400,000
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra	\$50,000
Pukaha Mount Bruce	\$595,000
Royal New Zealand Ballet	\$286,000
Total requested	\$1,331,000.00

Notes:

* The World of Wearable Art is currently focussing on international development opportunities and has not submitted an expression of interest at this time but has been kept informed of the Fund.

**Wellington Zoo and Zealandia were already looking at possible joint projects and have submitted a joint application.

In addition to this, two other organisations have contacted the Fund Manager about applying, and have submitted expressions of interest for the Joint Committee to consider.

These organisations are:

Downstage Theatre	Amount not specified
Wellington Museums Trust	\$250,000

The Wellington Free Ambulance has also asked about inclusion in the Fund. While they provide an important and worthy service to the region, they do not fit within the criteria of being an arts, cultural or environmental attraction or event. Therefore they have been advised not to submit an expression of interest. It is noted that the criteria and priorities for the Fund may be reviewed at the end of this round.

3.2 Allocation of funds:

With the Fund having \$865,000 to allocate in the 2012/2013 financial year, the Joint Committee will not be able to fully support the aspirations of the organisations currently under consideration and should only fund in principle those organisations that can best deliver to the priorities and aims of the Fund.

The proposals have been assessed against the priorities and proposed criteria of the Fund. It is noted that the recommended proposals: have a strong focus on developing regional partnerships; add to the calendar of events in the region; contribute to the region's economy; demonstrate a clear need for additional funding; and contribute to the region's status as a centre for cultural and environmental activity.

In addition, the recommended proposals have reach and impact across the region in the following ways:

- The Winter of Art proposal from Te Papa includes a proposed 'Art Lovers Tour' to public galleries across the region.
- The visitor experience development initiative from The Zoo and Zealandia is proposed to include environmental attractions from across the region. The Chair has suggested that to exemplify a regional approach, the first year specifically includes working with Mt Bruce Pukaha.
- The March 2014 opening event for the New Zealand International Arts Festival is proposed to involve young people from across the region as performers and will make it more attractive for people to attend further festival events
- The 2014 ANZAC Eve concert from the NZSO is connected to WW100 New Zealand programme.

With regards to this latter project, the New Zealand Government has developed WW100 New Zealand as an official programme of activities to mark the First World War Centenary from 2014 to 2018. The events of 1914–18 touched nearly every New Zealand family, every community, every school, every workplace and every club or group.

Consequently, communities across the region will be commemorating the centenary in a range of ways that connect with their local people and history. It is proposed that more information is sought on proposed activities across the region and that the Fund plays a role in supporting the region's, and the Capital City's, role in these commemorations.

3.3 Attachments:

Details of the Expressions of Interest and their fit with the priorities of the Fund are attached as Appendix A.

The Expressions of Interest have been attached as Appendix B.

4. Conclusion

The Joint Committee will have \$865,000 to allocate in this first year of the Fund and the four recommended projects fully allocate the available funding.

Officers recommend that you approve funding to the recommended organisations in principle. Officers also ask that you identify any questions or issues that you would like addressed in a detailed application. If these conditions are addressed to the satisfaction of the Fund Manager and Chair, then funding will be offered as recommended.

It is also recommended that comments are given on the unsuccessful proposals so that this can be fed back to the organisations to inform any future approaches to the Fund.

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