

WELLINGTON REGIONAL AMENITIES FUND JOINT COMMITTEE

27 September 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 for the 2013/2014 round of 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) *Bats Theatre –\$150,000 - for new lighting infrastructure for three performance spaces at 1 Kent Terrace*
 - b) *Circa Theatre – \$35,500 - towards developing staff capability*
 - c) *NZ Festival of the Arts - \$45,500 – towards a study on future developments of the Festival*
 - d) *NZ Opera Limited - \$50,000 – towards educational programmes in 2014*
 - e) *Orchestra Wellington – \$100,000 - for operational support for outreach and community development programmes*
 - f) *Pukaha Mount Bruce - \$50,000 – towards the development of a walk through aviary*
 - g) *Te Papa – \$250,000 - towards the promotion of activities for the Matariki Festival in 2014 from regional galleries and organisations*
 - h) *Wellington Museums Trust - \$100,000 – towards the Capital E Arts Festival for Children*
 - i) *Wellington Zoo and Zealandia - \$100,000 – for bridging funding for phase two of the Nature Connections Project*

3. Background

The Wellington Regional Amenities Fund provides support for arts, cultural and environmental attractions and events. The Joint Committee have set five priorities for funding which are:

- 1. Demonstrate a need for financial assistance to maintain its current operations or extend the reach of its operations across the Wellington region.*
- 2. Increase the entity's long-term contribution to the economy of the Wellington region.*
- 3. Address gaps in, extend or develop the arts, culture or environmental ecosystems, calendar of activities and events in the Wellington Region.*
- 4. Display regional partnerships with Councils and other organisations in order to leverage mutual benefits*
- 5. Build, maintain and retain organisations that contribute to Wellington's status as an internationally competitive region.*

3.1 Expressions of interest:

At the closing date, there were 30 expressions of interest in the 2013/2014 Wellington Regional Amenities Fund requesting a total of \$4,074,384.

One organisation formally withdrew its expression of interest after the closing date so there are 29 expressions of interest to consider requesting \$3,724,384. There is \$881,000 available to allocate in this financial year.

There are several expressions of interest that include multiple projects and the recommendations in appendix 1 indicate if all or some of the projects are being recommended.

There are three expressions of interest (from the Loomio Co-operative, the Nikau Foundation and PledgeMe Limited) seeking support to increase their capacity to offer funding and support to other organisations. While these are not a good fit with the criteria of the Fund, the growth of capability in this sector could be beneficial to the region, and may be an appropriate subject of future regional discussion.

A meeting was held with the theatre sector on Friday June 28th to discuss the priorities of the Fund and encourage the submission of joint projects to strengthen the sector in the region. While no joint projects have been submitted to the Fund in this round, the participating councils would be interested to see these types of initiatives in the future.

4. Application Assessment

As per the Terms of Reference for the Fund the cross-council Officers Group has assessed the applications and made recommendations to the Joint Committee.

Officer's recommendations (Appendix 1) are based on alignment with the Fund's priorities, ability to meet the grants criteria and the likely effectiveness of funding the project. Officers may also take into account the management of previous funding (through accountability reports).

5. Conclusion

The Joint Committee has \$881,000 to allocate in this second round of the Fund and the 9 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 Officers Group, then funding will be offered as recommended.

Contact Officer: Felicity Birch, Wellington Regional Amenities Fund Manager

Appendix One

	Organisation	Project/event/activity	Amount requested	Amount recommended	Comments
1	BATS Theatre	towards new lighting infrastructure for three performance spaces at 1 Kent Terrace	\$175,000	\$150,000	Good time to support BATS with investment in new capital equipment as the re-development of their theatre is nearing completion. Ability to deliver on the priorities of extending activities in the region, displaying partnerships and contribution to the status of the region.
2	Circa Theatre	towards new seating, development of public amenities and a new staff position	\$557,500	\$35,500	Supporting the development of staff capability as the theatre begins a capital development phase. Ability to deliver on the priorities of demonstrating a need for assistance to extend the reach of operations, increase their contribution to the economy of the region, and contribution to the status of the region.
3	Creative Capital Arts Trust	towards growing the Fringe Festival	\$50,000	0	A bolder concept for development required to fit the aims of the Fund
5	Equity Foundation	towards establishing a workshop/event space for professional development opportunities	\$79,512	0	Not a good fit with the criteria
6	Expressions Arts & Entertainment Centre	towards the Kotuku Concert Series in Upper Hutt	\$55,000	0	A bolder concept for musical events required to fit with the aims of the Fund
7	Loomio Co-operative Ltd	towards the development of new features for Loomio and provide subsidised access in the region	\$156,000	0	Not a good fit with the criteria – see note in paragraph 3.1
8	Mahara Gallery	towards the capital development of the research institution, collection store and dedicated Field Gallery	\$150,000	0	A strong proposal and other elements of this multi-year development may be a priority for support in the future. Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund.
9	Museum of Wellington City & Sea	towards research and development for new exhibition spaces	\$75,000	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund

10	New Zealand International Festival of the Arts Trust	towards a study on future developments of the Festival	\$45,500	\$45,500	Strong regional support for this iconic event and important to support future developments to sustain and grow the festival. Ability to deliver to the priorities of increasing their long-term contribution to the economy of the region, displaying regional partnerships and maintaining the region's status.
11	New Zealand Opera Limited	towards education work in the Wellington Region across two years	\$129,793	\$50,000	Supporting one years programming for education work in the region. Ability to deliver on the priorities of demonstrating need for financial assistance to extend their reach across the region, addressing gaps in activities in the region and contribution to the status of the region.
12	New Zealand Portrait Gallery	towards the mounting and installation of two exhibitions	\$22,090	0	A bolder concept for developing and promoting the Gallery required to fit the aims of the Fund
13	New Zealand Symphony Orchestra	towards a special event commemorating the centenary of Gallipoli	\$78,539	0	A strong proposal but not a priority for this round, however if timing permits, this can be considered in the next round of the Fund
14	Nikau Foundation	towards operational funding (for two years) to develop their endowment fund	\$50,000	0	Not a good fit with the criteria – see note in paragraph 3.1
15	Orchestra Wellington	towards operational support for the outreach and community development programmes	\$120,000	\$100,000	The Orchestra has strong regional links and this is an opportunity to support them through the changes resulting from the orchestral review. Ability to deliver on the priorities of demonstrating need for financial assistance to extend their reach across the region, addressing gaps in activities in the region, displaying regional partnerships and contributing to the regions status.
16	PledgeMe Limited	towards a Wellington Manager and creation and testing of hyper-local pledging technology	\$45,000	0	Not a good fit with the criteria – see note in paragraph 3.1
17	Pukaha Mount Bruce	towards a feasibility study and design drawings for a 'Walk through Aviary'	\$50,000	\$50,000	The development of the walk through aviary will enhance this attraction and add to the 'Nature Connections' project which has been supported by the Fund. Ability to deliver on the priorities of increasing their contribution to the economy of the region, displaying regional partnerships and contributing to the regions status.

18	Royal New Zealand Ballet	towards the upgrade of space at the St James Theatre and the upgrade of facility in Upper Hutt	\$186,000	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund
19	Te Papa	towards a regional promotion of activities for a Matariki Festival in 2014 and partnering with regional galleries and organisations	\$400,000	\$250,000	A large number of regional galleries, iwi and organisations will benefit from this collaborative programme. Ability to deliver on the priorities of demonstrating need for finance to extend reach across the region, contribution to the economy of the region, extending the calendar of events in the region, displaying regional partnerships and contributing to the regions status.
20	Te Putahitanga a te Rehia	towards the co-ordination and promotion of professional maori theatre and dance	\$78,180	0	A strong proposal and there is the potential to support this initiative in future rounds, however not a priority for this round
21	The City Gallery, Adam Art Gallery and the Dowse Art Museum	towards seed funding for a quadrennial art event	\$45,000	0	Potential for this event to be a high profile and high quality event with the potential to attract visitors to the region however not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund. When initial concepts and ideas have been further developed, the project may be a higher priority for funding.
22	The Dive Guys	towards the 'Blue Belt' project	\$253,520	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund
23	The Dowse Art Museum	towards the Big Day Dowse music festival	\$25,750	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund
24	The New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts	towards the establishment of an annual Winter Visual Arts Festival	\$200,000	0	An opportunity to bring visual arts organisations and events together and promote the regions collective offerings under one banner, however not a high priority given the pressure on the round. When initial concepts and ideas have been further developed, the project may be a higher priority for funding.
25	The Orpheus Choir	towards the 'Dreams Lie Deeper' concert in 2014	\$10,000	0	A bolder concept for expanding the reach of the Choir required to fit the aims of the Fund

26	Theatre Artists Charitable Trust (TACT)	towards developing a united Live Arts Industry group in the region	\$100,000	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund
27	Wellington Lux Festival Trust	to develop a regional outreach programme	\$75,000	0	Not a high priority given the pressure on the Fund.
28	Wellington Marine Conservation Trust	towards phase two of the Ocean Exploration Centre Project focusing on design development and obtaining resource consents	\$200,000	0	This new initiative is dependent on a high level of support from a number of partners in local and central government. Given the limited amount of funding in this round this is not a high priority for funding at this stage but there may be other stages in the project that can be supported through the Fund.
29	Wellington Museums Trust	towards the Capital E Arts Festival for Children	\$205,000	\$100,000	An opportunity to support the growth of this festival and develop new works for children and young people. Ability to deliver on the priorities of demonstrating need for assistance to extend its reach across the region, increase their contribution to the economy of the region, displaying regional partnerships and contributing to the status of the region.
30	Wellington Zoo and Zealandia	towards bridging funding for phase two of the Nature Connections Project	\$107,000	\$100,000	Funding will enable this existing programme to continue through to the 2014/2015 round of the Fund. Ability to deliver on the priorities of increasing the environmental attraction sectors contribution to the economy of the region, displaying regional partnerships and contributing to the regions status.
		Total \$ Requested	3,724,384	881,000	