

## WELLINGTON SCULPTURE TRUST

23 May 2012

To: Wellington City Council

### **Submission on the Draft Public Art Policy**

The Wellington Sculpture Trust submits on the relationship between the Council and the Trust in the City's public art policy.

The current Council's relationship with the Trust is set out in the existing Public Arts Policy, the contract the Council and the Trust use when commissioning a sculpture on Council land, and related conventions. The main points are:

- The Trust and its processes will be used to commission major sculptures in Wellington
- If the Council wishes to commission a sculpture itself it will consult with the Trust
- The Trust will receive an annual grant from the public art fund, for which it must account each financial year, the amount originally proposed being 20% (\$50,000 of \$250,000) which then became one-sixth (\$50,000 of \$300,000).
- The Trust must obtain the prior approval of the Council before selecting a sculpture for a Council-owned site. This involves consultation with the Council before a sculpture is finally selected, particularly in respect of health and safety, and durability and maintenance issues; formal Council approval through the Resource and Building Consent process; and Council signature of the commissioning contract.
- The commissioning contract is a three-way contract between the artist, the Trust and the Council, approved and signed by the Council
- The Council facilitates the Building, and if required the Resource Consent process, normally funding a Resource Consent application, and also facilitates and supervises the installation of each sculpture on its site, meeting certain costs such as the connection of a sculpture's lighting system to the city grid.
- The Council takes ownership of the sculpture when it is completed.
- The Trust uses the annual grant for a variety of projects, which it discusses with the Public Arts Panel, on the broad understanding that (except for the Four Plinths Temporary Sculpture Project) the grant will not be used for more than 25% of the cost of any one project – i.e. the Council's contribution will be leveraged by at least 4:1 by Trust fundraising.
- The Trust and the artist will be consulted in the Council proposes to remove or decommission a sculpture commissioned by the Trust.

At the heart of this relationship is the support that all Mayors and Councils have given over the 30 years of the Trust's existence to the Trust's independence in respect of its artistic selection processes. They have supported the Trust's object to provide for the purchase and location of high quality sculpture, and its object to place sculptures in public places as determined by the Board after consultation with the Mayor and Councillors. The approvals process specified in the draft seems not

permissive of this and we seek them to be amended to permit existing practice to continue.

The funding arrangement that has been in place for some eight years is also particularly important. Prior to this the Trust was required to apply and negotiate separately for a Council contribution to each sculpture, without any advanced knowledge of the outcome. The current arrangement gave the Trust its first ever secure funding, and has greatly improved the Trust's capabilities to plan, expand its range (e.g. to temporary artworks) and commission public sculpture. We propose that the existing funding arrangement continues, in the sense that the Trust is allocated an annual grant - for which it is fully accountable - of one-sixth of whatever amount is approved for the Public Art Fund. (We note in the Long-term Plan to 2020 this is identified as \$200,000.)

It is the Trust's position that these arrangements have served the city and the Council particularly well, and it sees every advantage to the Council to retain them. The sculptures that have resulted have provided the city with the best public art possible at a much lower cost than is paid by other cities that try to emulate it but without a specialised Trust to select and fund-raise; have provided Wellington with a very substantial reputational gain through its national and international reputation as a city of contemporary sculpture and creative art; and have afforded Wellingtonians a source of stimulus and pride.

The Trust strongly supports the section in the draft committing the Council to maintaining public artworks "to a safe standard and ensuring artistic integrity is retained."

There is a welcome reference to the Wellington Sculpture Trust under the heading of partnerships, but no other suggestion in the draft policy that the existing arrangements might be retained, either "as is" or in a re-negotiated form. We do not say they should be spelt out in detail in the policy, but a commitment to the framework of them should be stated, as it is in the current policy. If the Council wishes it, the Trust would be agreeable to a negotiation on an exchange of letters or other form of agreement on what the relationship is, noting the respective roles and commitments of both partners.

Attendance: If the Committee is hearing oral submissions, the Trust wishes to do so.

W N Plimmer  
Chairman  
For the Wellington Sculpture Trust

**{file, not used in submission}**

## **2 Public Art to be supported**

The Trust has a view that the thrust of the draft policy is at risk of being too prescriptive about the public art the Council will support. While there are a few references to having high quality and innovative public art (presumably made by who-ever and located wherever suitable sites exist), the overall thrust of “Wanting to Achieve” and “Assessment of Proposals” seems to layer other Council agendas (suburban development, engagement with mana whena organisations, representation of diverse communities etc) onto public art, which will not necessarily produce the optimum outcomes. Perhaps the issue can be expressed by examples: the Trust has commissioned sculptures by New Zealand’s most eminent Maori sculptors Brett Graham and Professor Robert Jahnke, but would these qualify under the mana whenua provisions? Pacific Grass, the reed artwork near the airport, was commissioned from a prominent member of the Greek community, and elders of that community participated in the opening ceremony, but does Pacific Grass qualify under “diverse communities”? Probably not, but we hope they would have qualified anyway under “fresh and innovative...” All three were the result of a robust selection process aimed at producing high quality accessible public art for Wellington. The Trust suggests the targeted aims should be less heavily asserted, and rather be identified as second tier objectives



Submission : 2

# DRAFT PUBLIC ART POLICY SUBMISSION FORM



We are keen to get your thoughts on the draft Public Art Policy.

You can have your say by making a submission on this form, or in writing, and sending it to us by:

- + Email – public.art@wcc.govt.nz
- + Post – Freepost 2199, Draft Public Art Policy, Wellington City Council, PO Box, Wellington 6140
- + Online at Wellington.govt.nz

For more information, please phone Katie Taylor-Duke on 803 8021.

Submissions close 5pm, Wednesday 30 May 2012

ENTER YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS	
Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)	
First name*	Bernard
Last name*	O'Shaughnessy
Street address*	139a Daniell St, Newtown
Phone	-
Email	BernardCat011@yahoo.co.nz

\*Mandatory fields

I am making this submission as an	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> individual	<input type="checkbox"/> organisation
Name of organisation	-	

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
If yes, please provide a phone number so a submission time can be arranged	021.1888-289	

Privacy statement: All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members of the Council and the public. Personal information supplied will be used for the administration and reporting back to elected members of the Council and the public as part of the consultation process. All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, Wellington. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

Q. DO YOU THINK THE PUBLIC ART DEFINITION COVERS THE RANGE OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITIES?		
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no
<input type="checkbox"/> unsure		
Your comments:		
TBA		

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE POSSIBLE SCOPE OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITY? FOR EXAMPLE, DOES THE POLICY ADDRESS ALL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITY IN THE POLICY?		
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no
<input type="checkbox"/> unsure		
Your comments:		
Remember the \$1 million you idiots spent on the big bone stuck in Midland Park - then you shifted it.		

DRAFT FORM FOR PUBLIC ART POLICY SUBMISSION

2



**Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE DESIRED OUTCOMES?**

yes  no  unsure

Your comments:

Do you remember the \$1 million spend on the crap art work to celebrate the inner city by pass?

**Q. DO YOU THINK WE HAVE MISSED ANY IMPORTANT OUTCOMES IN THE DRAFT POLICY?**

yes  no  unsure

Your comments:

Do you remember how you spent \$11 million to destroy the ART HISTORICAL PLACE of Manners Mall?

**Q. WHICH OF THE EIGHT GOALS (OR OUTCOMES) DO YOU SUPPORT THE MOST?**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8

Your comments:

I refuse to comply with the Council officers "prompts" to answer CONSULTATIONS in boxes.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE WE MAKE DECISIONS?**

Yes - heaps, I will attend Council & have my 5 minutes of enlightened thoughts.

PDWCC89913

FOLD HERE

Free Post Authority Number 2199

**Absolutely**

**POSITIVELY**

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

PO Box 2199, Wellington, New Zealand



Freepost 2199  
Draft Public Art Policy  
Wellington City Council  
PO Box 2199  
Wellington 6140

Katie Taylor Duke  
CAR4





Submission: 3

# DRAFT PUBLIC ART POLICY SUBMISSION FORM



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You can have your say by making a submission on this form, or in writing, and sending it to us by:

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Submissions close 5pm, Wednesday 30 May 2012

## ENTER YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)

First name\* BERNARD

Last name\* O'SHAUGHNESSY

Street address\* 139a Daniell St NEWTOWN CITY CENTRE

Phone 021-1888-289

Email Bernardcaton@yahoo.co.nz

\*Mandatory fields

I am making this submission as an  individual  organisation

Name of organisation CAT - Coalition and Transition  
~~to Contest 2013 LB Elections~~

I would like to make an oral submission to the City Councillors  yes  no

If yes, please provide a phone number so a submission time can be arranged 021-1888-289

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## Q. DO YOU THINK THE PUBLIC ART DEFINITION COVERS THE RANGE OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITIES?

yes  no  unsure

Your comments: Sort of. Cuba St Festival should also be seen as ART.

## Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE POSSIBLE SCOPE OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITY? FOR EXAMPLE, DOES THE POLICY ADDRESS ALL ASPECTS OF PUBLIC ART ACTIVITY IN THE POLICY?

yes  no  unsure

Your comments: TBA. I will give a Pull submission at Council, if anyone listens.

DATE OFF FORM FOR R AIR FACETAL AIR CFAN MANU/TN 110 AMN CFANAN NIFFRN



**Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE DESIRED OUTCOMES?**

yes  no  unsure

Your comments:   
 TBA

**Q. DO YOU THINK WE HAVE MISSED ANY IMPORTANT OUTCOMES IN THE DRAFT POLICY?**

yes  no  unsure

Your comments:   
 Any art work over \$100,000   
 should be put out to public consultation.

**Q. WHICH OF THE EIGHT GOALS (OR OUTCOMES) DO YOU SUPPORT THE MOST?**

1 3rd  2 1st  3 3rd  4 4th  5 1st  6 2nd  7 5th  8 6th

Your comments:   
 TBA.

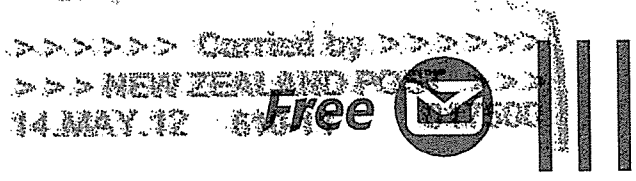
**Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE WE MAKE DECISIONS?**

YES. Manners Mall was an "ART FORM"   
 but the present Mayor (At the time as   
 a councillor) showed COMPLETE disregard   
 to the Historical issue!

PDWCC89913

FOLD HERE

Free Post Authority Number 2199   
 Absolutely   
 POSITIVELY   
 HE HENE KI PŌHĒKE   
 WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL Wellington   
 PO Box 2199, Wellington, New Zealand



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