



Te Pūrongo Ā-Tau

Annual Report

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Wellington City Youth Council

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

Image Credit: Elliot Blyth via Unsplash

Introduction from the Chair

Over the past year, the Youth Council has opened an ongoing kōrero, rethinking its operational methods and redefining its core values and mission, marking a pivotal moment in our journey.



Tēnā koutou,

2022 has been a year of reassessing how the Youth Council functions as an advisory group, how we operate and how we can be of the best use to Wellington City Council. We are only at the beginning of this journey and believe this should be a forever ongoing conversation to maintain adaptability. Our aim is to create a versatile foundation that can be adjusted as needed by future members.

Over the course of the year, we farewelled 10 of our members. We would like to highlight the outstanding contribution that Ella Flavell and Jackson Lacy have made to the Youth Council over the years. Ella Flavell was on the Youth Council from 2018 to 2023 and has also been a Chair and Deputy Chair. Jackson Lacy was a member of the Youth Council from 2016 to 2022. We also farewelled our Deputy Chair, Joshua Taefu, at the end of 2022. We wish him all the best with his studies up in Tāmaki Makaurau. Following this, Nīkau Edmond-Smaill was elected as Deputy Chair.



However, even with 10 departures, our collective efforts persevered, resulting in substantial contributions to our mahi at Wellington City Council and our respective communities through various submissions, workshops and endeavours.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR'.

Anastasia Reid

Chair of the Wellington City Youth Council

Membership

Leadership:

Anastasia Reid (Chair, 2022 -)

Joshua Taefu (Deputy Chair, June 2022 - December 2022)

Nīkau Edmond-Smaill (Deputy Chair, 2023 -)



Membership:

- Andrew Ackerley
- Ben Bridle
- Finley Duncan
- Nīkau Edmond-Smaill (Deputy Chair)
- Kalani Fransen
- Caspar Levack
- August Metherell
- Teresa Ng
- Ashleigh Putt-Fallows
- Anastasia Reid (Chair)
- Kady Saxon
- Ella Flavell (resigned in 2023)
- Joshua Taefu (resigned in 2022)
- Jackson Lacy (resigned in 2022)
- Henry Lockhart (resigned in 2023)
- Leandra Broughton (resigned in 2023)
- Ali Haidari (resigned in 2022)
- Artemis Crawford (resigned in 2023)
- Akira Huriwai (resigned in 2022)
- Keelan Heesterman (resigned in 2023)
- Pulupaki Liuola Pouvalu (resigned in 2022)



Purpose:

The purpose of Youth Council is to:

- Assist and advise the City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities.
- Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a changing world.
- Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth)

Engagements and Submissions:

Community Facilities Plan Consultation

Throughout 2023, the Youth Council worked with the City Council to provide feedback on their proposed Community Facilities Plan. It is a plan that we hope will ensure youth have a network of fit-for-purpose community resources and facilities — like the council's libraries, pools, and community centres. We engaged on topics like inclusivity, resilience, and increased communications, in a plan that encompasses 270 council-leased facilities. Youth use community facilities the most of any age demographic, and the Youth Council enjoyed feeding back our thoughts on proposed solutions to issues our communities currently see in these facilities.

Independent Electoral Review, To the Independent Electoral Review Panel

In November 2022, the Youth Council submitted to the Independent Electoral Review Panel regarding potential reforms to New Zealand's democracy. This submission was centred on promoting youth perspectives in national, regional, and local government. We advocated, through the submission, for inclusive policies that were tailored to the specific challenges faced by young residents and engaging them in the democratic process. The submission also extended to youth perspectives on other societal issues generally, such as voter eligibility, political donations, and electoral administration. Several key areas of focus for the Youth Council in their submission were the possibility of lowering the voting age to 16, young people's education in local government, and possible ways to improve voter turnout for young people. In conducting this submission, the Youth Council's primary aim was to contribute to a more youth-friendly democracy at all levels of government and ensure the perspectives of Wellington's young people are represented in any potential reforms to New Zealand's democracy.

Kilbirnie Park Masterplan

The Kilbirnie Park Masterplan is a project that will see significant redevelopment of Kilbirnie Park, making it a more accessible and usable space for the wider community. Youth Council gave feedback on the youth engagement strategy for consultation, aiming to make the consultation process easily accessible to youth to allow them to provide their voices on the issue. We also attended a workshop to provide feedback on the specific facilities that will be included, as well as the layout of the park. This was done with the Youth Council's priorities at the centre of our decision-making as we wanted to ensure that the plans for the park would benefit the young people who use it. Being able to consult on this plan was extremely beneficial as this will have an impact on the final product, which we hope will cater for youth effectively.

Submission to District Plan Hearing Panel

Following our submission to the City Council on the Proposed District Plan, the Youth Council presented to the District Plan Hearing Committee on how the policy could be further improved. The role of the panel and its commissioners was to provide recommendations to the City Council on the District Plan, a process that is overseen by the Minister for the Environment. Our presentation took place in February 2023 and highlighted some key areas of the policy that impact young Wellingtonians. In particular, the Youth Council supported increasing the size of high-density walkable catchments to allow for greater development in the city, alongside relaxing some of the housing character protections that are currently in place. Youth Council's submission reflected our belief that more action must be taken to ensure that young people in Wellington have access to affordable, warm, dry housing. Additionally, Youth Council raised the issue of urban sprawl and its links to climate change. In doing this, we strongly encouraged the development of a city that is less reliant on driving as a mode of transport.



Re-imagining Toi Pōneke

In June 2023, members Anastasia Reid and Finley Duncan participated in the Wellington City Council's Wānanga for Re-imagining Toi Pōneke. These sessions surrounded the future of Wellington's Art Centre, how art is perceived in Wellington, and what the city council can do to support art in Wellington moving forward. The sessions, run over the course of two days, were a chance for members of the Youth Council to provide a youth perspective on perceived pathways in the arts, barriers preventing young people from entering art as an industry, and what can be done to ameliorate these issues. Through collaborating with other members of the community from other representative groups across multiple types of art (including dance, painting, singing, graphic design, and more), the Youth Council were able to ensure that the perspectives of young people are included in Wellington City Council's art projects going forward, particularly in relation to Toi Pōneke.

Youth Hub

Throughout 2023, Youth Council has been closely engaged with the design team for the new Wellington City Youth Hub. Since its conception, this is a project that we have been heavily involved in, so it was fantastic to see such tangible progress being made. In March, a number of youth councillors visited the construction site to speak with architects about what we thought the space should look like. Study and gaming areas, music rooms, and a movie nook were all ideas raised, while we also had conversations about how the hub should feel from the outside. This was an incredibly productive meeting, and we have since been presented with a number of designs based on the feedback that we gave. Additionally, we have been working with The Y, a local youth service, who will be running the Youth Hub once it is completed. With them, we have spoken about the provision of kai, adult supervision, and the signage that will be used. Our ultimate goal is to help create a space in the city where young people feel comfortable spending time. The Y are currently working on raising awareness about the Youth Hub, which will open on Willis Street in early 2024.

Member Development:

Festival for the Future

A number of members of the Youth Council attended the Inspiring Stories Festival for the Future in June 2023. This event served as a great opportunity for members of the Youth Council to hear from other inspiring young people about their experiences, meet members of other youth councils across the country for the purpose of future engagement and collaboration, and learn about innovations occurring in a number of spaces relevant to young people, including climate change and social protection. The event provided a fantastic platform for the Youth Council to heighten their understanding of national initiatives and relevant skills. Through immersive workshops and engaging discussions, members of the Youth Council refined their leadership skills and gained fresh insights into youth-driven initiatives. Interacting with a diverse range of attendees facilitated valuable idea exchange and the potential for collaborative projects to drive positive change in our community.



Creation of our “How We Work Together” Document

Over the past year, Youth Council has been developing a working document to provide members with a clear outline of our advisory group’s values and expectations. This process has involved multiple workshops with youth councillors to hear what members would like to see included in the document, as well collaboration with a number of Council Officers. Another reason for the document was to provide Youth Councillors with greater clarity surrounding the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within both our submissions and our day-to-day operations. To achieve this, we worked with Māori Strategy Advisor Silas Manuera, and will shortly be meeting with the Mataaho Aronui team. Currently, the document remains in the draft phase. Once the “How We Work Together” Document is adopted, Youth Council will ensure that it remains at the forefront of our operations and that members have the opportunity to reevaluate the document at the start of each term, to ensure that it remains in line with our core principles.

Events:

Youth Council's 25th Anniversary

In June 2023 Youth Council celebrated its 25th year anniversary. We were hosted by the Mayor at the Mayor's office and invited many previous members, councillors and WCC staff to celebrate with us. Mayor Tory Whanau and Anastasia Reid (Chair) both presented speeches and then cut a delicious cake. The rest of the event was very relaxed and gave the opportunity for members both new and old to reminisce over their favourite Youth Council experiences.



Wellington City Council Inauguration Ceremony

2022 was a very exciting year as a new council was inaugurated. Youth Council had the privilege of attending and getting the opportunity to meet all of the new councillors and the Mayor. It was a lovely ceremony that was held at the Pipitea Marae and Function Centre.



Youth Council Trips

In order to foster a culture of team unity and build camaraderie, every couple of months, Youth Council meets outside of the WCC building and explores different council-owned organisations and local venues. Over the course of the year, we have held our meetings at Zealandia, The National Library and the Wellington Zoo.



Community Events

We have been very privileged to have been invited to many different community events around Wellington. Most recently some of our members attended the Make it 16 campaign launch. We have also had representatives at the World Refugee Day Festival hosted by Voice of Aroha and collaborated with Generation Vote to provide workshops at high schools around Wellington.

National Events

In 2022 two of our members, Anastasia Reid and Ella Flavell, attended the State Memorial Service for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In April 2023 four of our members, Finley Duncan, Ben Bridle, Andrew Ackerly and Nīkau Edmond-Smail, attended the National ANZAC Day Service and our chair, Anastasia Reid, sang at the event with the New Zealand Youth Choir.



Other Engagements:

Presentations	Internal/ External	Submissions	Internal/ External	Events	Internal/ External
District Plan (August 2022)	Internal	Proposed District Plan Written Submission to WCC	Internal	Festival for the Future (June 2023)	External
Engagement Review (August 2022)	Internal	Oral Submission to District Plan Hearing Panel	Internal	25th Anniversary of Youth Council (June 2023)	Internal
Tūpiki Ora Action Plan (September 2022)	Internal	Independent Electoral Review, To the Independent Electoral Review Panel	External	Make it 16 Campaign Launch (August 2023)	External
Pōneke Promise and City Safety (September 2022)	Internal			World Refugee Day by Voice of Aroha (July 2023)	External
Zero Waste Strategy (November 2022)	Internal			State Memorial Service for Her Majesty (September 2022)	External
LGWM Joint Advisory Group Workshop (December 2022)	Internal			Wellington City Council Inauguration Ceremony (October 2022)	Internal

Cultural Heritage Strategy (February 2023)	Internal			National ANZAC Service (April 2023)	External
Te Whai Oranga Pōneke - Open Space and Recreation Strategy (March 2023) Frank Kitts Park Updates (October 2022, March 2023)	Internal				
Long Term Plan Priorities Joint Advisory Group Workshop (March 2023)	Internal				
Te Matapihi Update (April 2023)	Internal				
Tiakina Te Taiao (April 2023)	Internal				
Climate Action Campaign (May 2023)	Internal				
Community Facilities Plan (August 2022, February 2023, May 2023)	Internal				
Kilbirnie Park Master Plan & Destination Skatepark (June 2023)	Internal				
Re-Imagining Toi Pōneke (June 2023)	Internal				