

# WAIKATO DISTRICT

## Candidates' stance on arts and creativity

Name	Surname	Q1 What is your favourite recent arts experience?	Q2 What do you think should be at the core of the council's arts strategy?	Q3 How do you think the council should invest in the arts and arts infrastructure?
<b>Mayoral Candidates</b>				
Jacqui	CHURCH	A very recent Pickles to Paint afternoon with our local artist and creative group is always inspiring and informational too. Where the grass-roots creative people in the community get together to share what they have been creating and also their newest direction or idea too, where to collaborate is a wonderful opportunity too. Also yesterday I was privileged to have a preview before the art and sculpture items were ever so carefully wrapped by Robin Ranga for her exhibiting at the Art in the Park - Eden Park, which says it presents 100 of the country's greatest artists. Truly superb paintings and sculptures that tell an intimate story with feeling so well.	People always is the core, with a focus on our youth & culture being encouraged as well as the preservation and expansion of our heritage of art too. We want to preserve the enriched and full repertoire of our arts past and future. I strongly believe art is a reflection and also key thread of the fabric of our evolving society. That to support the arts is to support community and a healthy & vital society as the threads of our creatively are caught, nurtured, evolved, and shared, to be revered by us all.	I feel that investment by council can be effective in many ways and particularly 3 ways, in supporting both community, grass-roots groups activities and festivals; as well as supporting district, sub regional and regional initiatives for the wider perspectives of ensuring art is seen, preserved and nurtured long term, also importantly to be a catalyst to policy change at government level with firm and focused lobbying and sharing of information with government, and ministerial portfolios, where we know art & creativity and it's expressions have many well-being outcomes as one example of many , that we know and need to expand upon, as its smart use of our resources for healthy and wellbeing.
Aksel	BECH	In the month of July with NZ's borders reopening, I took the opportunity to return to my country of birth -Denmark- to connect with family I hadn't seen since Covid hit. Whilst there I visited a the large installation of the American Light & Space movement at CopehagenContemporary, housed in	People. I am a big supporter of art in public spaces (and with my wife Susan, a regular supporter of MESH) or at least art available to the public so people and the way they interact with the art or arts experience must be at the core of the strategy.	If there is any element of public funding then there must also, in my view, be a relevance or engagement with the place and people here. In the purest sense, art and arts experiences should of course not be constrained or limited but when drawing on Council's rate payer funds then consideration has to be given to

		large dilapidated wharf sheds with around 5,000m2 of exhibition space. The experience is everything you might hope for -surprising, thought provoking and with it's scale, at times staggering. Many of the works are static yet with the interplay of light, somehow suggesting movement.		that -a difficult and complex challenge. The public-private partnership approach seems to work well, with Councils providing land and other infrastructure along with ongoing guardianship and private donations the art itself.
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**Tai Raro Takiwaa Maaori Ward Candidates**

No Response				
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**Awaroa-Maramarua General Ward Candidates**

Greg	COWIE	My most recent cultural event was attending the premier of Welby Ings film festival "Punch".	The Creative Communities Funding is a sound basis for creative ventures within the district. The parameters or guidelines for qualifying for this funding need to stay very fluid and imaginative in a world of fast moving media.	Council could consider widening the Creative Communities project to include exhibitions an an interactive website that could be combined with something like regional tourism to help make some self funding.
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**Newcastle-Ngāruawāhia General Ward Candidates**

No Response				
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**Tamahere-Woodlands General Ward Candidates**

Crystal	BEAVIS	My favourite one this year so far was hearing the NZSO string section playing Vivaldi's Four Seasons at the Gallagher Performing Arts Theatre. It was fantastically "alive" and is still a great memory. This is a hard choice because the exhibition of Fred Graham's Waikato River works at Waikato Museum, "Katohia He Wai Moou, Katohia He Wai Mooku" is glorious on a different level.	A vision of what the community wants and aims for in the arts is the most obvious answer, but this may not be easily formulated in a widely-spread district of small towns of very different character and aspirations. Waikato District Council has a heritage strategy, and a strong programme in 'placemaking' led by the Council working with local groups, and recognises local community 'spatial' aspirations through a local blueprints strategy, but has not developed a formal arts strategy. It's really worth considering, but would need to be developed in consultation with the community	A strategy would need to come first and take into account current funding by the Creative Communities Scheme (which, of course, is project-based only.) As Waikato District residents are reliant on travelling to Hamilton or Auckland for much (but certainly not all) of their arts experiences, a cooperative, regional approach to the arts may also need to be considered, as well as local aspirations. Activating such a strategy is best done as part of the Council's Long Term Plan and in consultation with ratepayers as well as with the arts community.
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			with a view to local sustainable support.	
Huntly General Ward Candidates				
David	WHYTE	Have learned to weld this year so that I can make garden art. Have used this skill to create a chest high bird / duck that currently greets folk as they come to the door. And an approximately 1m tall pyramid outline that is currently hanging in a tree and surrounded by spheres of similar dimensions. It is my favourite as I personally have been doing art something I have missed in recent years, learned a new skill and how it brings smiles to those visiting.	Councils core of their arts strategy should be to invest into the assets and personal of a community to allow that community to be self sustaining with their arts interests. What this also means is that in time these personal are competent in attracting external funding to allow for a thriving arts community, ie that financial needs of the arts community are meet.	Investment should be both in physical assets and people / personal. An example in terms of physical assets Huntly has resources that are underutilized and could be reinvigorated by allowing arts to use them. In terms of personal, there are many folk who would like to do more in the arts space. But these folks don't have the skills or self confidence to create the arts experience they are seeking. Thus appropriate targeted investment to upskill our communities so they can engage in arts activities.
Western Districts General Ward Candidates				
No Response				
Tuakau-Pōkeno General Ward Candidates				
Jacqui	CHURCH	(see responses in Mayor section)		
Waerenga-Whitikahu General Ward Candidates				
Marlene	RAUMATI	My favourite recent arts experience was the Senior Students Dance and Drama Production at Te Kauwhata College. I have attended a number of productions at Te Kauwhata College and with no exception, the students always produce, as in this most recent experience, a spectacular show.	I think what should be at the core of Council's Art Strategy, should be what our communities determine are important, such as their uniqueness, traditions, diversities and aspirations of all.	I think the Council could benefit from having an Arts Advisory Forum, comprised of Youth and Adults, aimed at informing community specific funding and development of the arts space in the wider District.
Whāingaroa General Ward Candidates				
No Response				
Raglan Community Board Candidates				
No Response				
Ngāruawāhia Community Board Candidates				

No Response				
Huntly Community Board Candidates				
Kim	BREDENBECK	My experiences have been many, having attend a range of art opportunities via Friendship House in Raahui Pookeka. However my most recent experience has been with Wearable Arts and our competition last year as I entered a design.	I assume you are referring to WDC and its community lead initiative linking and connecting to the Huntly Arts Strategy that is being lead and developed by members in my community under the umbrella of Friendship House and their Arts Co-ordinator. Really looking forward to seeing what is developed in this space as a fan of the sector.	This will fall out of the strategy that is currently being developed. My hope is that Creative Waikato actively supports this kaupapa once it is developed.
David	WHYTE	(see responses in Huntly General Ward section)		
Rural-Port Waikato Community Board (South Subdivision) Candidates				
No Response				
Tuakau Community Board Candidates				
No Response				
Taupiri Community Board Candidates				
No Response				