

# WAIPĀ 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>				
Chris	WOODHAMS	<p>Last week, I attended the Cambridge High School Years 12 and 13 Dance Class pre-test. It was a semi-formal event, provided for the students to present their work before the final exams at the end of the year. The class put on 12 dances, many of the dances were interpretations of a theme that is impacting youth and their society at the moment. I was really impressed with their dedication to their art.</p>	<p>I think the council's arts and culture strategy should focus on access and inclusion, higher visibility of Waipa artists, and success of Waipa's artists and art and culture organisations. I would like to see three key - and related - themes emerge. The first theme is the activation of Waipa's places and spaces (both in urban and rural areas) with the goal of helping Waipa continue to find it's own unique character and be more attractive. The second theme is the championing of creators and innovators within the Waipa local business community, with the goal of unique businesses emerging within the Waipa and activating additional tourism. The third theme is encouraging members of the community to explore their own creativity in the area of arts, culture and innovation as this helps build a more balanced community.</p>	<p>Personally, I would love to see a community Rec Centre which also has an area for arts education and cultural activities. But practically speaking a community Rec Centre is a 10+ year plan and one which will need to be championed into fruition. In the meantime, the ideal would be to keep moulding the notion of arts and culture, intertwined with our past and our future, with our people and our land. People and their community lie at the heart of this, and we should be encouraging more creativity and innovation by increased creativity and innovation grants, funding art that helps beautify our spaces and places, providing "free" classes in existing community centres for our people focusing on developing their skills in art, drama and music (and allowing the young to learn from the old, and the old to learn from the young), and, a little out of the box, providing a grant allocation for setting up a youth community radio.</p>
Bernard	WESTERBAAN	<p>My last experience was a performance of the Pink Floyd Experience concert in Hamilton</p>	<p>A place for artists to perform/display</p>	<p>Have a space for display in the new proposed museum</p>

**Pironga-Kakepuku Ward Candidates**

Clare	ST PIERRE	I attended the Melbourne Botanical Gardens Lightscape night show. It was spectacular and had a big impact on my mental wellbeing.	At the core there needs to be the foundational principle that the arts and creativity are massively beneficial to participants, audiences and the wider community. It is closely linked to our identity.	I have advocated for 1% of capital projects for community infrastructure be devoted to arts or creative expression to be part of the project as placemaking. This has been adopted by Waipa District Council for their 2021-31 LTP. Arts infrastructure also needs to be invested in, using a community process to identify need, formulate a long-term vision of what impact such infrastructure could have and explore co-funding opportunities. I think it is important for local communities to have suitable arts infrastructure and not be dependent on regional facilities some distance away which would increase cost and effort to enjoy.
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**Cambridge Ward Candidates**

Phillip	COLES	I attended a Fundraiser In July hosted by the Maungatautari Ecological Mountain where they held a Auction Dinner evening at a Waipa District Council venue in the Don Rowland Centre at Lake Karapiro. The wide selection of Art was magnificent and the displays attractive good interest and sold well. I admire what was on offer. Well done to all	Art is made up of many aspects and varied, this includes Museums too. It should be made widely available to the Public at a subsidized entry fee and the contents providing a varied selection for all generations not only to admire but used as a Education tool. Waipa and Cambridge have been awarded the new home of the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame which is currently held in Dunedin as the home. Sport too can demonstrate art but in a different aspect and we are very fortunate to have this opportunity to have it located in our Community at the Velodrome.	Councils investment should be up to date varied and relevant along it been available across the whole district not just large investments in particular areas.
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Roger	GORDON	Inside Dali in Auckland and prior to that the Van Gogh exhibition at the same venue – both fabulous	I didn't realise that we had an Arts Policy until you mentioned it and it prompted me to search for it and I see we have one that was registered in 2018. An interesting read	Now that I have seen that we have a policy I can give some thought to it. I know, through being on the Cambridge Museum Committee (Cambridge Historical Society) that we do have a Community Arts Collection but much of it is in storage, and some of it is in the library, and some in Council offices. If there were more space at the Cambridge Museum so a designated display area could be made available it would be good to see the community art be on display – so our residents (in the first instance) knew that we had it!!
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**Maungatautari Ward Candidates**

Mike	MONTGOMERIE	Len Lye Centre, New Plymouth. I loved some of it, certainly didn't 'get' some of it, but have been reflecting on all of it since.	I genuinely believe the arts are an important contributor to the vibrancy of our lives. The best thing I ever studied at school was Art History. What should be at the core of Waipa's art strategy? To be honest, I simply cannot answer that. I just don't know. I would welcome the guidance of the arts community.	Another tough question. We have diverse communities with a wide range of priorities. Councils levy ratepayers and use the funds to provide a range of community services; some prescribed, some discretionary. I guess I adopt a utilitarian philosophy and seek to provide the greatest good to the greatest number. The arts and arts infrastructure clearly have a claim on the discretionary pool. It is a matter of balance. The arts sector (like the conservation and sports sectors) seems to present opportunities to form partnerships which can achieve things that individuals and smaller groups cannot by themselves.
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**Te Awamutu-Kihikihi General Ward Candidates**

Norris	HALL	My most recent enjoyable art experience was the Barry Hopkins Art	It is important for any district council and community boards to encourage	The Council has bought the old Bunnings building in Arawata Street
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		<p>Collection exhibition at the Waikato Art Museum. I knew Barry and he loved his art as he did classical music. His art collection is legendary and so it was a great opportunity to see some of the works for myself. I always go to the Art Post as well to take in what is on offer for viewing.</p>	<p>and support the Arts in all its disciplines, since that as well as sports and leisure pastimes help residents to enjoy a full life. Creative Arts grants administered by the community board on the council's behalf is an excellent means to support those local organisations which seek to promote the Arts in various ways, providing certain criteria are met. I was involved in the Waipa Community Arts Council many years ago doing a similar task on behalf of Creative New Zealand, and also my two terms on the Te Awamutu Community Board 20 years or so ago doing much the same thing. It's good work.</p>	<p>to house the new Museum. It would be great if a small area of it could be given over to an art gallery, displaying local talent and hosting travelling exhibitions, and other activities etc.</p>
Sally	WHITAKER	<p>It is my endeavor, albeit on a small scale, to support local artisans as much as possible. A limiting factor, living to a needs before wants philosophy mind you. However this said I recently had the pleasure of visiting for the second time this year Tukairangi Gallery in Taupo. An extremely special time sharing, brought together through creative art and the appreciation of such skill and talent. My daily coffee each morning has additional flavour, as I know the aroha and ringa ringa that created it from clay to express cup. This is my most recent, favorite arts experience.</p>	<p>As a fresh person standing for local office there is no better time than now to promote and encourage creativity in all it's diversity to unite and heal. The core strategy needs to build on from the past, responding with enthusiasm to locals new initiatives.</p>	<p>The investment into the arts and the arts infrastructure without previous knowledge of such is difficult to answer at this stage. Rest assured, I understand the significance in creativity within a healthy community.</p>
Marcus	GOWER	<p>Seeing the amazing artists and the works they create at Enrich+, art is for everyone no matter who you are!</p>	<p>Proactive about creating spaces for our local arts communities to thrive, enabling artists to have spaces to express their works across the</p>	<p>There should be rules around making it easy so that if there is a wall in a new area that could be a mural, artists are given help to take it on,</p>

			district so that our areas look stunning and beings community pride.	this could be by working with developers etc. Setting aside discretionary funds so that new public works of art could be funded and maintained.
Bernard	WESTERBAAN	(see responses in Mayor section)		
<b>Waipā Māori Ward Candidates</b>				
No Response				
<b>Cambridge Subdivision Candidates</b>				
Alana	MACKAY	The Tauranga Jazz Festival Downtown Carnival, I love how this event brings together people of all ages to enjoy music from professional and emerging performers. It's a free event and being held in cafes and bars makes it very accessible. It also inspires other art forms to hold ancillary events, such as art exhibitions.	Participation and inclusion in the arts. I think that the arts play a significant part in our community's well-being and that providing opportunities for people to take part in and experience arts related activities are very important. Giving things a go through a workshop or being inspired by a performance can be powerful moments and lead to a lifelong passion. For me the arts are something that everyone can get involved in, either through creation or observation, and breaking down barriers to participation and including all levels of skill are key.	We have some great community organisations working in the arts space and supporting them financially is a key way for council to be involved, Waipa currently has several funding rounds that groups can apply to including Creative Communities and the Event funds, I would like to see priorities for these include participation and inclusion in the arts. An important piece of infrastructure coming up for Cambridge will be the development of a new library, I would like to see this as part of a community hub including spaces that can be used for art creation, exhibition, and performance.
David	SLONE	I visited the Christchurch Art Gallery, Te Puna o Waiwhetu in June. Adrian Stokes's painting Among the Sandhills really spoke to me, I'm not even sure why but it was just one of those special pieces. More poignant however was the painting of Nona Hildyard, a nurse who lost her life aboard a ship torpedoed off Greece in the first world war. I had just that day finished reading an account of the NZ Mounted Rifles in Gallipoli	The obvious answer is supporting local artists – or art about our communities.	This is an interesting question because there is always a balance, not just financial but also how we fit in within the wider Waikato regional arts scene. I don't pretend to have a detailed understanding of how the whole picture can fit together. My personal view is to place a priority on community events and infrastructure, however, there is a very good argument for investing in regional activities that promote a

		and the story within that painting brought all of that tragedy to life.		career pathway for local artists and/or gives the community access to larger art experiences. For example, I really enjoy the Gaslight Theatre in Cambridge. The small-scale local feel makes it special, and I would love to see it supported. For many though, the Regional Theatre will allow access to a much bigger range of 'more professional' shows.
Sue	MILNER	My most recent arts event was organised by Cambridge Museum. Over 3 weeks members paid to attend a soirée in the homes of 3 art collections in the Town. The art works were wonderful and each collection was different, the owners spoke during the evening about their collection. Well attended, a great fundraiser and a real treat.	I would love sponsorship of arts events by Councils, and not just by passing on grants from Creative NZ. Our Council inherited a number of important artworks when two councils were amalgamated. The Cambridge collection is rarely seen apart from 4 very valuable works hanging in the library. Cambridge applied for funding from the WW1 commemoration fund of 2015 and received a grant for the Commissioning of a sculpture from Arts Icon Fred Graham commemorating the liberation of Le Quesnoy in France by the NZ Regiment at the end of WW1 (this was my personal initiative, and I worked with other Council and Community Board members to see the project through).	I would like a small gallery space in our to be renovated Town Hall where the Cambridge collection could be hung, as well as having small exhibitions on a regular basis for both local and guest artists of all artistic disciplines
<b>Maungatautari Subdivision Candidates</b>				
Ruth	NICHOLLS	Looking at all the winners from Resene mural competitions	Youth engagement	Perhaps exhibits that tie in with the rejuvenation of the Town Halls
<b>Te Awamutu-Kihikihi Subdivision Candidates</b>				
Bernard	WESTERBAAN	(see responses in Mayor section)		