

# WAITOMO 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>				
Andy	CONNORS	I'm not that much into the arts. The most enjoyable event was an exhibition that Violence Free Waitomo put on at the Les Munro Centre a few years ago. The talent was on display for everyone across the board of the arts. Some very talented people sold products, whilst others performed. Very enjoyable event and should be an annual event.	Council should be providing the vehicle to allow artists to display their art or perform. We have the facilities to do this with the Les Munro Centre. Concerts should be an annual event for school age children at the Les Munro Centre.	There is funding available to apply for events which was applied for and utilised as per answer to Q1. Someone just has to have the motivation to do it. Positively Piopio, has done an amazing with the art on display around Piopio focusing on local art works.
John	ROBERTSON	Visit to Gibbs farm, involvement as a Director of Regional Facilities Auckland in the creative sector, visit to Te Awamutu Museum to see Te Kanawa weaving exhibition, visits to Auckland Art Gallery.	Long term recognition of the arts and the value this adds to the community, its history and vibrancy.	On any public works initiated or funded by Council, embellishment art work on the infrastructure. We have done so in my first term – on Te Ara Tika and now the King Country Indoor Sports and Recreation Centre. Also through the community grants programme, grants for local organisations involved in the creative sector.
<b>Waitomo Rural Ward Candidates</b>				
Janette	OSBORNE	Unfortunately, there hasn't been a lot recently with Covid. However, these are the most recent highlights: Two local carvings commissioned as leaving presents; A local piece of visual art commissioned as a leaving present;	I am loving the five threads of Waikato Arts Navigator.  This strategy is new to me and I am unclear whether the Waitomo District Council is already involved. This is something that I would whole heartedly support as a councillor.	Using the council resources/skills to get feedback on what the community would like the Council to be doing in the Arts space. By providing low or no cost venues for exhibitions and classes. By providing leadership and encouragement.

		<p>A friend's sister who is a professional actress' TikTok Skit;          Seeing Clint's Alpaca art for the first time and falling in love with it  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/clintc.artists">https://www.facebook.com/clintc.artists</a>;          Taranaki light festival (last year);          Zoom theatre production by Circa Theatre during the first lock down;          Our regular local knitting group;          Two Creative Fibre Wool Festival Events;</p>	<p>I think the Regional Strategy 2021 is a very well laid out and thoughtful document that provides a great blueprint to go forward with.</p>	<p>Grant funding for specific events and ongoing activities.          Supporting local artists and business wherever possible – e.g., official gifts etc          By including a budget in the Long-Term Plan for Arts, Crafts and Culture.</p>
Marilyn	PARK	<p>Last week I had the privilege to attend the Aria Area School's theatre production: "Pirates of the Curry Bean". Not only was it well produced and well rehearsed, with simple but effective props and great costumes, but the children's enthusiasm, their singing and obvious talent for comical theatrical performances made this an enjoyable experience for everybody watching. The older children also did the introductions and the sound, with minimal help from a teacher for changing props between scenes. There is nothing like a children's performance to remind one that appreciation for the arts begins at a young age.</p>	<p>I believe that art expression enhances wellbeing and helps create healthy minds. It is a no brainer that by promoting all forms of art expression through financial support, grants, and expertise, local communities are enhanced and vibrant. I would like to see more emphasis on artistic opportunities for the local community. Hence the core of the council's art's strategy should be promoting and supporting local artists and local art expression in as many ways as possible and practical.</p>	<p>As an art's historian (I have a M.A. in Art History), I am a strong advocate for promoting all forms of creative art. I myself would like to see a more vibrant art culture in the area and would like to promote an annual arts competition supported by council and a triannual arts fair held in various districts. I.e. This could be held alternatively in Mokau, Piopio and Waitomo or other smaller districts. I also support investing more into museums and galleries around the region and working towards a separate and vibrant regional art gallery.</p>
Ronald	TAKEREI	<p>Visiting the Red Shed at Waitomo and viewing the art pieces inside by the Artist Daniel Ormsby and his daughter.</p>	<p>I am unaware if our Waitomo District Council has an art strategy and therefore cannot provide a sufficient answer.</p>	<p>At this point of time, I cannot give a view because I do not have sufficient information or knowledge to make an informed decision.</p>
Phil	BRODIE	<p>I haven't had what I would call an 'arts' experience recently.</p>	<p>An ability to respond to assistance requests relative to the proportion of the community involved, focussing on</p>	<p>Our Council has a substantial investment in infrastructure that is available for use by the 'arts' groups,</p>

			assistance/support and partnership, rather than providing facilities/services that may receive only periodic utilisation.	from our Les Munro Centre, to the Little Theatre, and numerous rural community halls. There is also funding available via our Community and Partnership Fund Policy, for groups to apply for funding assistance.
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**Te Kuiti Ward Candidates**

Dan	TASKER	I'm not a hugely arty person, so I don't seek arts experiences out too much. However, I did go to the Maniapoto Arts Festival in Te Kuiti near the end of 2020 and I particularly enjoyed the collection of korowai pulled together especially the ones from famous local weavers like Diggeress Te Kanawa and Rangimarie Hetet. I have also had a couple of visits to local art exhibitions at the Mokau Art Gallery – the paintings from the local school kids were the best!	At the heart of the local art scene, council's strategy should establish an arts hub to provoke creations with a local flavour. Artists need to have a place to be around other like-minded people and to pass on their craft to the young ones coming through. My wife was recently voted on as the president of a local art society, and she sees a real need for an arts hub where those created juices can flow and be passed on. I believe council can offer some leadership and help in this space.	There needs to be investment in an arts hub. Art is so diverse, so creating a central arts hub could then assist the growth of the arts community by funding rental space, for example. Another option is for council to help fund local art events or exhibitions which inspire locals and showcase their variety of works. A third option could be to help fund some big ticket items art groups need to function. For example, the local pottery group recently repaired their kiln to the tune of \$4000. This kiln is not only used by members but also by school children. The group didn't ask for funding because it thought it wouldn't get it. Council can't pay for everything, but there seems to be a case for it to assist in these ways.
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