

Draft

Creative Communities Scheme funding for the Waikato District

- the Waikato District CCS committee needs to urgently seek additional funding from Creative New Zealand so that it can continue to support arts and creative projects across the entire district at the right level.

Raglan Community Arts Council (RCAC) is the arts creative organisation for Raglan Whaingaroa and was given this designation in the NZ Government Gazette in 1984. It is also a registered NZ Charity.

It receives no permanent funding from central or local Government. RCAC covers a large part of costs from its own fund raising activities. For the shortfall on arts projects it looks to funders for support.

RCAC has a strategic plan and activities follow that plan. Two centres of excellence are part of the plan. These are clay art and filmmaking. Three major events are also part of the strategic plan. These are Raglan Art to Wear, Raglan Film Festival and Raglan Arts Weekend.

Although these three events have now run for a number of years, they have changed considerably over the years. For example the Film Festival started off as just a screening of several art house movies. It has now become an inspiration and celebration of youth and community filmmaking.

Each of these ongoing major events involves new participants and audiences and covers a wider area within the surrounding district – not just within Raglan ie Te Mata, Te Uku, Waitetuna, Ruapuke. Growth based on the success of an event will always incur costs that requires further funding support e.g. film festival demand for further space/move to town hall.

Administration and co-ordination of these events is not an ongoing operating cost. These are additional hours specific for each event. The CCS has always made provision for these costs. As Government does not fund our organisation, we must include these costs in all projects.

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The general principle of CCS funding has always been that funding is for a few years and then projects become self-supporting. While it would be nice if arts and creative activities covered costs or ran at a surplus, in practice this does not happen.

There needs to be a funding pool or category available to continue to support events that have proven to be successful and that there is an ongoing continued community demand for them.

The Creative Communities Scheme allocates funding from the Lotteries Grants Board received via Creative NZ. The allocation for all districts is based on the population. In

2017/18 Creative NZ allocated \$3.4 million to cities and districts for Creative Communities Scheme distribution.

In 2013, Waikato District had a population of 63,381. By the 2018 census this had grown to 75,300. i.e. An 18% increase. Currently the CCS allocation is based on the population in 2013. This means that the Waikato District CCS is faced with funding arts events and projects for a rapidly expanding population from a funding level that is static.

Due to the large increase in population and the continuing growth, the Waikato District CCS committee needs to urgently seek additional funding from Creative New Zealand so that it can continue to support arts and creative projects across the entire district at the right level.

Rodger Gallagher
Chairperson
Raglan Community Arts Council