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**arts
access
aotearoa**
Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

Request for Expressions of Interest to be a Trustee of Arts Access Aotearoa



Current and Former Trustees celebrate Arts Access Aotearoa's 30th Anniversary
at Government House, July 2025

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Request for Expressions of Interest

Arts Access Aotearoa | Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa invites expressions of interest from individuals interested in joining our Board of Trustees. We are seeking two new Trustees, including one who will take on the role of Treasurer. At least one of the new trustees must be based in Auckland.

Organisation name: Arts Access Aotearoa | Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa

Organisation website: www.artsaccess.org.nz

Organisation type: Charitable Trust

Industry Sector: Community/Social assistance. Not for profit

Position type: Trustee

Our Kaupapa

Established as a charitable trust in 1995, Arts Access Aotearoa's vision is that people in Aotearoa can access and participate in the arts. We believe in the right of every individual to creative expression and fulfilment. Our purpose is to work in partnership to increase access to the arts for people facing barriers to participation.

We are committed to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and actively work to uphold its values of partnership, participation, and protection in everything we do.

Our work includes:

- Supporting and championing organisations and projects that enable people to access the arts, regardless of their circumstances.
- Advising arts organisations on enhancing accessibility for Deaf and disabled people, both as artists and as audiences.
- Creating employment opportunities in the arts sector for artists who face barriers to practicing their craft.
- Additionally, Arts Access Aotearoa:
 - Facilitates and strengthens networks, relationships, and collaboration among arts organisations across the country.
 - Works with a nationwide network of creative spaces to build their long-term capability and expertise.
 - Partners with arts and cultural organisations, artists, producers, festivals, and venues to help them improve accessibility for Deaf and disabled people, and for those with lived experience of mental distress.

Our core funder is Creative New Zealand, and we receive significant support from Foundation North, Auckland Council, and Wellington City Council. We also hold a contract with the Department of Corrections.

The Board of Trustees

Our Board is made up of 5–8 trustees, each serving a three-year term, with the possibility of renewal for another three years. Trustees volunteer their time, and travel and related expenses are reimbursed.

We meet five times a year on Saturdays, either in Wellington or virtually. Our Annual General Meeting is held in May.

The Function of the Board of Trustees

We govern the activities and responsibilities of Arts Access Aotearoa. We work directly with the Executive Director to ensure that we are a cohesive unit.

As a Board, we provide effective leadership and governance by:

- Championing the organisation's values, vision, mission, and purpose
- Defining and confirming strategic direction and priorities.
- Upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016–2026, and ensuring their influence on our operations.
- Fostering partnerships and maintaining open, transparent communication with external stakeholders.
- Supporting the Executive Director, ensuring they are positioned for success through clear performance indicators.
- Approving annual business plans and monitoring their implementation, alongside the organisation's financial performance.
- Ensuring all legal and compliance obligations are met.
- Implementing efficient systems and procedures that support the organisation's smooth and compliant operation.
- Overseeing risk management, including the evaluation and mitigation of potential risks.
- Adopting best practice governance methods, ensuring agility in responding to change.
- Assisting with fundraising activities where appropriate.

As individuals, we are all expected to:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to the goals of Arts Access Aotearoa.
- Uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the New Zealand Disability Strategy.
- Always act in the best interests of the organisation and share accountability for Board decisions.
- Be informed on key issues, exercising sound judgment in decision-making.
- Respect different viewpoints and actively engage in open and constructive discussions.

- Commit the necessary time to attend and participate fully in meetings.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our Board reflects the voices of the communities we serve, including young people (rangatahi) of Aotearoa.

We cultivate an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative environment within our Board. We approach meetings well-prepared, having reviewed all materials, and engage in constructive, open kōrero. We value diverse perspectives and actively listen to one another's viewpoints. While we strive for consensus in our decision-making, we recognize that unanimity isn't always possible. In such cases, we remain unified in supporting the collective decisions of the Board.

Current Vacancies

We are seeking two new Board members:

- One Trustee with experience in Accounting, Financial Management, or Strategic Finance who will take on the role of Treasurer.
- A second Trustee who brings complementary skills, networks, and perspectives to strengthen the governance of Arts Access Aotearoa.

Governance experience is helpful but not required. Applicants must live in New Zealand, with at least one of the new trustees based in Auckland.

Time Commitment: 5 meetings annually (approx. 3–4 hours on Saturday mornings). Trustees may also join sub-committees and attend Arts Access Aotearoa events when possible.

Remuneration: This is a voluntary role. Travel and accommodation costs for meetings are covered, and any other related expenses will be reimbursed.

To apply

To express interest, please send a cover letter and your CV to info@artsaccess.org.nz (Attention: Chair of Arts Access Aotearoa) by 5pm, Monday 29 September 2025. In your cover letter, please highlight how your skills and values align with our mission and kaupapa.

Victoria Crockford
Board Chair
Arts Access Aotearoa | Putanga Toi ki Aotearoa
Wellington / September 2025

Arts Access Aotearoa Annual Report 2024

For more information about our work, view our latest, here:
<https://artsaccess.org.nz/Arts-Access-Aotearoa-in-2024>