

# **Canterbury**

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District Health Board

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Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## **Submission on Developing an Arts Strategy**

**To:** Christchurch City Council

**Submitter:** Canterbury District Health Board

Attn: Kirsty Peel  
Community and Public Health  
C/- Canterbury District Health Board  
PO Box 1475  
Christchurch 8140

## SUBMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS STRATEGY

### Details of submitter

1. Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB).
2. The submitter is responsible for promoting the reduction of adverse environmental effects on the health of people and communities and to improve, promote and protect their health pursuant to the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956. These statutory obligations are the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and, in the Canterbury District, are carried out under contract by Community and Public Health under Crown funding agreements on behalf of the Canterbury District Health Board. Details of submission
3. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of an Arts Strategy for Christchurch. The future health of our populations is not just reliant on hospitals or health services, but on a responsive environment where all sectors work collaboratively.
4. While health care services are an important determinant of health, health is also influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the health sector. These influences can be described as the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and are impacted by environmental, social and behavioural factors. They are often referred to as the 'social determinants of health'<sup>1</sup>.

### General Comments

5. The CDHB supports the development of an Arts Strategy for Christchurch.
6. There is a growing body of evidence, both international and local, to show how creativity and the arts can make a significant difference to people's health and wellbeing.<sup>2</sup> Access to arts, both as a spectator and a creator, is a determinant of health and local government plays a significant role in fostering equitable access to the arts, particularly through its provision of libraries, galleries and museums and

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health Advisory Committee. 2004. The Health of People and Communities. A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health. Public Health Advisory Committee: Wellington.

<sup>2</sup> Community and Public Health. 2016. Arts, Culture and Heritage Issues Paper.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing Inquiry Report, 2017, Creative Health: The arts for Health and wellbeing [http://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry/Publications/Creative\\_Health\\_Inquiry\\_Report\\_2017\\_-\\_Second\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry/Publications/Creative_Health_Inquiry_Report_2017_-_Second_Edition.pdf)  
Ihi Research, 2017, Evaluation for Ōtautahi Creative Spaces Trust, <https://www.ihiresearch.co.nz/assets/Uploads/IHI-Otautahi-Creative-Spaces-Download.pdf>

through producing and supporting events where all people can experience and participate in artistic endeavours.

7. This consultation poses the question I tea o toi / ka ahatia a Ōtautahi / ā hei a te tekau tau? Describe what a truly creative Christchurch would look like 10 years from now and how we could make this happen. The Canterbury DHB would like to emphasise the following in its response to this:

- I. The importance of equitable access: There is a risk that arts can be elitist and inaccessible – we encourage the Christchurch City Council to examine its arts funding and strategy through an equity lens that ensures that those who might be excluded for cultural, financial, disability or age reasons have equitable access.
- II. The importance of children and young people experiencing the arts: Given the health promotion benefits of making and experiencing art, we would like the CCC strategy to ensure priority is given to ensuring young people are supported to have access to arts programmes and events hosted by the Council. Given the variation in socioeconomic status across the Council wards, it is important that the strategy prioritises access across suburbs, not just in the Central City. The Arts covers a diverse range of activities and practises. The Strategy should ensure that emerging arts and those valued by young people are given equal priority, be this graffiti, slam poetry or kapa haka.
- III. The importance of honouring te Tiriti o Waitangi and Mana Whenua’s perspective within the strategy: The work of the Matapopore Charitable Trust in embedding Māori arts and culture in the Christchurch rebuild has provided many valuable examples of vibrant indigenous art. The strategy should build on this to ensure that our population can experience and engage with Māori culture and arts as part of our evolving history. Given the well documented inequity in current Māori health statistics, it is particularly important to ensure that Māori arts are prioritised as a means to helping redress the current situation. There is significant evidence that accessing cultural and artistic heritage is good for health.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Culture and Heritage, 2014, Ngā Hua A Tāne : the benefits of Kapa Haka  
[https://mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Nga%20Hua%20A%20Tane%20Rore%20The%20benefits%20of%20kapa%20haka%20\(0570327\).PD](https://mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/Nga%20Hua%20A%20Tane%20Rore%20The%20benefits%20of%20kapa%20haka%20(0570327).PD)  
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IV. The importance of funding: The Christchurch City Council has over the decades provided considerable funding to support the arts, both through major capital grants and through ongoing funding to medium and small organisations which enable communities to create and experience arts in many forms. For Christchurch to continue to be a thriving artistic centre it is crucial that diverse funding streams continue to be available, especially to resource the smaller initiatives where new arts and artists can be incubated. Whilst acknowledging the fiscal challenges the City Council faces, the Canterbury DHB acknowledges and celebrates the important role the Council plays in nurturing community health and wellbeing through promoting access to the arts.

#### **Person making the submission**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lucy Daeth', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

**Dr Lucy Daeth**

Public Health Specialist

Community and Public Health, Canterbury DHB

24/8/18

#### **Contact details**

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For and on behalf of

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New Zealand Psychological Society, 2015, Culture as cure? The protective function of Māori cultural efficacy on psychological distress; EM Muriwai, CA Houkamau, CG Sibley,

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