

Creative Communities Scheme

The Creative Communities Scheme funds local projects that give people the opportunity to engage and participate in the arts.

Funded by Creative NZ, the Creative Communities Scheme encourages local communities to make arts and culture part of the everyday life. The scheme is open to community groups, and individuals, for all arts forms.

Creative Communities Scheme funding is for arts-centred projects, events, festivals, exhibitions, installations, and performances. This scheme also supports materials/equipment for arts-centred projects and activities, workshops and seminars for local artists and groups, events showcasing young local artists, and community art projects in general.

Guidelines

Applications must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- **Access and participation** – the project will create opportunities for local communities to engage with and participate in arts activities
- **Diversity** – the project will support the diverse arts and cultural traditions of local communities, enriching and promoting their uniqueness and cultural diversity
- **Young people** – the project will enable and encourage young people (under 18 years) to engage and actively participate in the arts.

We recommend the amount of funding you apply for is up to \$5,000. Applications for amounts higher than that may be considered, on a case-by-case basis.

The Creative Communities Scheme cannot be used to fund operational or administrative costs for organisations, the purchasing of art, fundraising costs, or projects that have already received funding from Creative NZ.

How to make an application

Application forms are completed online through our partner, Smarty Grants. If you need help with your application, or you are unable to complete an application online, please contact the Community Funding Advisor at grants@whakatane.govt.nz for help.

You will find the link to the application form on our website. To complete your application form, you will need evidence of the costs of your project/activity (quotes or invoices). You will also need an annual report or financial statement if you are applying for an organisation.

What we do fund

Whakatāne District Council funds projects, programmes, and activities that that benefit the Whakatāne District, its residents, and its communities. Applicants must be active in the Whakatāne District to be eligible.

In addition, we prefer to fund applicants that:

- Have a clear plan in their application, identify exactly how funding will be used, and provide a budget for the project/activity
- Demonstrate that there is a community need and/or community support for the project/activity
- Support vulnerable and marginalised people and groups in our community.

What we don't fund

- Salaries and wages
- Projects and activities that do not directly benefit the Whakatāne District's residents and communities
- Applications more suited to funding by other funding organisations
- Funding for projects and activities that have already taken place.

Whakatāne District Council does not usually fund commercial or private organisations, activities that promote religious or political purposes, and programmes that duplicate existing initiatives. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Council also does not fund legal expenses, medical expenses, debt repayment, statutory functions and public services (e.g. education and health care), purchase or promotion of alcohol and tobacco, and physical works (e.g. improvements to community buildings) that do not have permits prior to application.

How are decisions made

Applications are assessed based on how they would benefit the Whakatāne District's residents and communities. This includes factors like how many people your project/activity would reach, and how it would improve the lives of those people.

Applications are also assessed based on how well they meet the guidelines and criteria, and how much information is provided in the application.

Application review and assessment

We'll carry out an initial check of your application to make sure you're eligible. If there is any more information we need, we'll be in contact.

The Community Funding Committee then will meet to discuss applications and allocate funding to applicants. After this meeting, you will be notified of the outcome of your application via email.

The Committee may require some conditions to be met for funding they allocate to be released. For example, providing information or clarification, paying outstanding bills, or filing outstanding reports. If this happens, you will be notified when you are told your application has been successful.

The total amount of funding requested often exceeds the amount of funding we have to distribute. Successful applicants may receive less funding than they request.

Advice and support

If you have any questions, or you need advice and support, contact the Community Funding Advisor at grants@whakatane.govt.nz.