Public Art Policy
Decision Story - 2024

We recently asked for your views on proposed changes to our Public Art Policy.

The policy sets the direction the Council will follow and the ways in which it will support others to maximise the benefits public art can bring to our District. It recognises the potential community and economic benefit of public art in our community.

The policy has been reviewed to ensure it provides a good framework to guide why public art is important and how public art is delivered in our community.

It's important that we have clear direction on what we want to achieve from having public art in our community and how we go about making this happen, as most of the public art initiatives are delivered by community groups.

Key policy changes provide clarity on roles and responsibilities, including mana whenua engagement, funding, and the different ways that public art proposals are initiated. The objectives and outcomes have been refined, including improved recognition of cultural values associated with public art projects.

Engagement with the community

Targeted engagement with Tangata Whenua and art groups informed development of the draft policy, along with elected member workshops.

Consultation on the draft Public Art Policy was undertaken from 2 to 30 April 2024. Community boards and those who participated in the targeted engagement were advised that the draft policy was open for consultation and feedback.

We asked for feedback via Council's 'Have Your Say' engagement hub and promoted through the usual Council media channels.

11 pieces of feedback were received with 8 via online survey and 3 via email (Creative BOP, Public Art Ōmokoroa and Katikati Community Board).

Key Decisions

There was mixed support for the changes proposed in the Draft Public Art Policy. Six key issues were identified by those who provided feedback. Council's response to these issues are outlined below.

Key issue 1

Providing more detail on Council's role and responsibilities
Council agreed to make amendments to the policy. This included amendments to actively consider public art in Council's projects, recognise a range of organisations can be involved in public art, consider local community art group input recognise the role of local community boards, support partnership opportunities, and facilitate funding connections.

Key issue 2

Providing recognition of the role of private artwork in the policy
Council agreed to continue with the draft policy direction and make no further changes. This recognises that Council has limited control in the provision of private artworks but is keen to work with private property owners who develop artworks that front onto public spaces.

Key issue 3

Definition of public art and Council's role in this
Council agreed to make amendments to the policy. This will outline Council's expectations for early involvement in public art initiatives and how oversight of private artworks fronting public areas will be achieved.

Key issue 4

Adding to the policy objectives
Council agreed to make amendments to the policy. An additional objective has been added to reflect wider culture and diversity in communities.

Key issue 5

Key components of a public art policy and the need to expand the draft policy direction
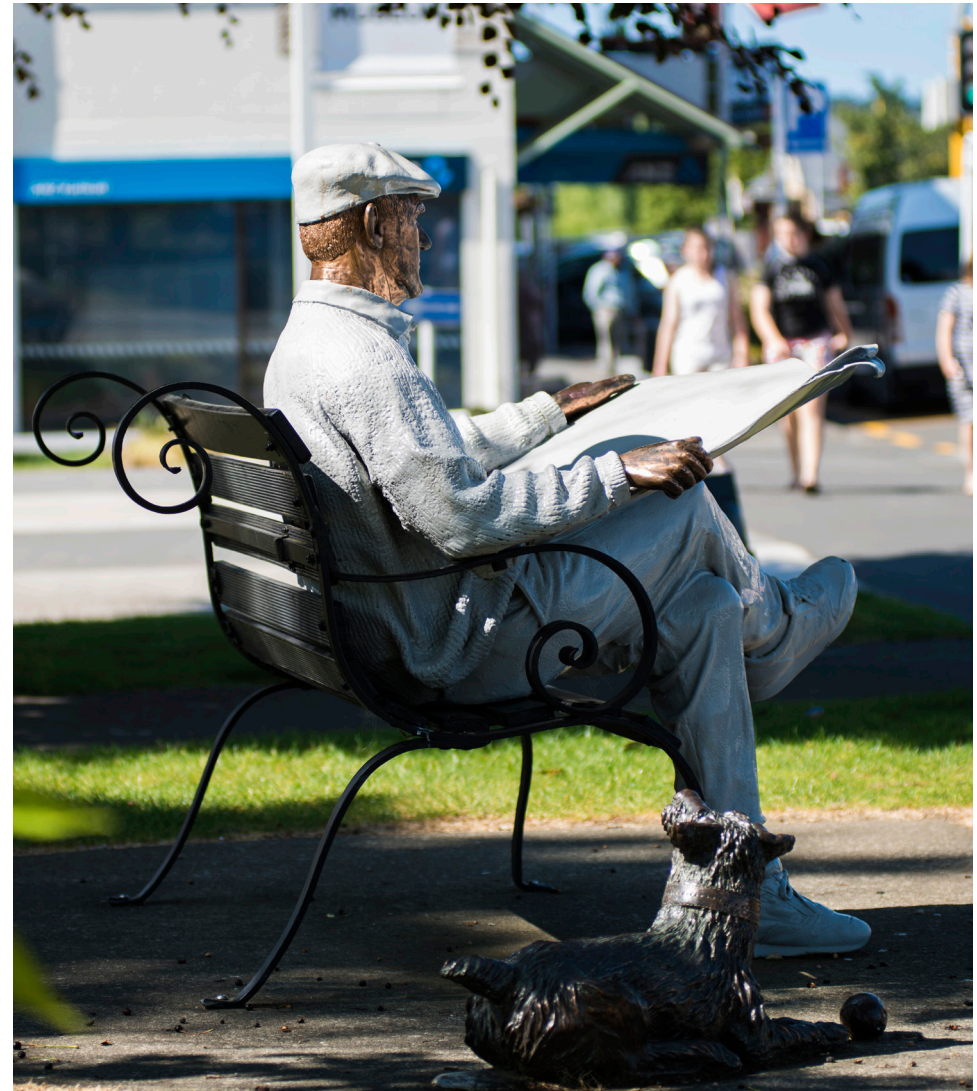Council agreed to continue with the draft policy direction and make no further changes. The submission had sought to develop a more comprehensive policy approach, and to consider much broader and more proactive role for Council in public art initiatives. Council is comfortable that the draft policy direction reflects the current role of Council to primarily support community based public art initiatives and incorporate public art into Council led projects where appropriate.

Key issue 6

General feedback (see agenda report for details)
Council agreed to continue with the draft policy direction and make no further changes.

Where to find more information

The final Public Art Policy was adopted on 20 June 2024.

The Public Art Policy is available here.

A copy of the agenda for adoption of the policy and consideration of community feedback is available here.