

CULTURAL WELL-BEING

OUR APPROACH

Cultural well-being is about people's personal and community identities – and about expressing those identities through language, rituals, art, music, dance, stories (including history) and other experiences.

Wellington is recognised as a city that welcomes diversity, and as a city that offers many opportunities for individual and group expression.

The city's cultural well-being depends on its residents and groups – on their desire to express themselves.

We set out to provide a supportive environment for artistic and cultural expression – and to ensure that the city reflects its residents' identities, for example through facilities (such as museums), events and festivals, public art and urban design.

CASE STUDY: WELLINGTON'S PUBLIC ART

A new waterfront sculpture marks the links between Pacific and European settlers...

The 7m tall Ra Vincent sculpture Te Waka Pou was unveiled in October 2007 at the corner of Herd Street and Oriental Bay – near a historic waka landing site.

Its two carved totara beams symbolise Pacific and European migration, with ornate bronze work linking the cultures.

Wellington Waterfront Limited commissioned the sculpture. Vincent is responsible for several public art works around the city, including Anchor Stone in Civic Square and Pou Whenua at the Molesworth Street entrance to Parliament.

... while another celebrates Wellington's waterfront.

British-born sculptor Max Patte migrated to Wellington in 2006 to work at Weta Workshop.

'Solace to the Wind', installed on the waterfront near Te Papa in February 2008, represents the significance of the waterfront to Patte during a time of separation from home and family.

'There is a particular spot on Wellington's harbour front where I have come to sit and lose myself in thought and find solace,' he says on Weta's website.

'It is here, alone, in 'my place' in what has become my city, with my face in the wind and back to the world that I have felt a sense of relief, comfort and homeliness.'

Quote: '[The Waka Pou] will symbolically act as a beacon for those who arrive to Wellington harbour.' – Sculptor Ra Vincent.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR OUTCOMES

STRONGER SENSE OF PLACE – WELLINGTON WILL HAVE A STRONG LOCAL IDENTITY THAT CELEBRATES AND PROTECTS ITS SENSE OF PLACE, CAPITAL CITY STATUS, DISTINCTIVE LANDFORMS AND LANDMARKS, DEFINING FEATURES, HISTORY, HERITAGE BUILDINGS, PLACES AND SPACES.

Most residents (77%) continue to think that Wellington's local identity (sense of place) is appropriately valued and protected. We contribute to this outcome through our urban

development work, support for public art, and promotion of heritage landmarks such as Te Ara O Nga Tupuna – the Maori Heritage Trail.

MORE EVENTFUL – WELLINGTON WILL BE RECOGNISED AS THE ARTS AND CULTURE CAPITAL, AND KNOWN FOR ITS EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT SCENE AND FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS, FESTIVALS, EXHIBITIONS AND CONCERTS.

Most Wellingtonians (77%) and New Zealanders (63%) see Wellington as the country's arts capital. Most Wellingtonians (65%) and a significant number of New Zealanders (40%) see the city as the country's events capital. Both results have remained broadly constant over the last three years.

MORE INCLUSIVE – WELLINGTON WILL CELEBRATE ITS BICULTURAL HERITAGE AND GROWING ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY, AND BE TOLERANT, WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE OF PEOPLE'S DIFFERENCES TO CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING, SHARED UNDERSTANDING AND IDENTITY.

The vast majority of Wellingtonians (94%) and New Zealanders (82%) agree that the city has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene.

MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED – WELLINGTON WILL ENCOURAGE GREATER ENCOURAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION BY OFFERING AN EXCEPTIONAL RANGE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL AMENITIES THAT CATER TO ALL TASTES AS WELL AS A HIGH QUALITY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT THAT FOSTERS A VIBRANT CITY LIFE.

The vast majority of residents participate in some form of arts or cultural activity from going to the cinema (79%), to going to an arts display (48%) to watching a play (41%). Results are have remained broadly constant over the last three years.

We contribute to these outcomes through:

Galleries and museums	pxx
Heritage	pxx
Community arts and cultural support	pxx
Arts partnerships	pxx

GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

We want high-quality **galleries and museums** that contribute to Wellington's status as New Zealand's arts and cultural capital.

That's why we fund the Wellington Museums Trust. It operates the Museum of Wellington City and Sea, the City Gallery, Capital E, the Wellington Cable Car Museum, the Colonial Cottage, and the Plimmer's Ark conservation project.

We also part-fund Te Papa (see city promotions and attractions).

WHAT WE DID

The City Gallery held a programme of memorable exhibitions.

Among the highlights were *Aniwaniwa*, a large-scale collaborative work by sculptor Brett Graham and audiovisual artist Rachael Rakena, and *Last Riot*, a video installation depicting a virtual world that celebrates the end of ideology, history and ethics. Both came direct from triumphant showings at the Venice Biennale 2007.

Other exhibitions included *Reboot: the Jim and Mary Barr collection*, *Bill Hammond: Jingle Jangle Morning*, and *Te Huringa/Turning Points: Pakeha Colonisation and Maori Empowerment*.

Capital E continued to entertain and educate.

Capital E – which includes the National Theatre for Children, OnTV and Soundhouse production studios – provides a huge range of live theatre shows, holiday workshops, term-time courses and other events for up to 20,000 children a year.

Highlights included a touring programme featuring award-winning New Zealand author and illustrator Gavin Bishop, and the world première of the stage adaptation of his work *Kiwi Moon*.

The Museum of Wellington Sea and City commemorated the sinking of the *Wahine*.

The 40th anniversary of the sinking was marked with a significant programme of remembrance events, including an unveiling of the updated list of those that lost their lives.

The museum also celebrated New Zealand's first female art dealer in the exhibition *The Gallery of Helen Hitchings - from fretful sleeper to art world giant*, as part of the New Zealand International Arts Festival 2008. Art works on display included paintings by Colin McCahon, Toss Woolaston and Rita Angus.

The City Gallery was identified as needing earthquake strengthening.

Detailed design work for a redevelopment of the gallery was completed during the year, but the redevelopment was put on hold until earthquake mitigation efforts have been decided upon. The most likely course of action will be to carry out strengthening work along with the redevelopment scheduled in October 2008.

The Shed 11 partnership between the New Zealand Centre for Photography and the New Zealand Portrait Gallery was dissolved during the year. However, the Portrait Gallery continued to exhibit works from its collection at Shed 11. Wellington Waterfront Limited is continuing to explore viable long term occupants and activities for the Shed 11 building.

The Plimmer's Ark Gallery, which houses the wreck of the *Inconstant*, was closed to the public to allow for a structural assessment of the display tanks to be completed. The future of the gallery space will be considered in the coming year. A display in the Old Bank Arcade relating to the ship is still open to the public.

During the year, four of our museums and galleries received Qualmark certification: Museum of Wellington – City and Sea; City Gallery Wellington; Wellington Cable Car Museum; and Colonial Cottage Museum.

HOW WE PERFORMED

See the Council Controlled Organisations section of this report.

WHAT IT COST

	2008	2008	2008	2007
Operating Expenditure (\$000)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Galleries and Museums (5.4.1)				
Cost	6,245	6,395	150	5,808
Revenue	-	-	-	-
Net Cost	6,245	6,395	150	5,808
Capital Expenditure (\$000)	2008	2008	2008	2007
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Galleries and Museums (5.4.1) ¹				
Cost	386	386	(0.2)	133
Unspent portion of budget to be carried forward	-	812	-	-

¹ Delays have occurred in the redevelopment of the City Art Gallery due to discovering seismic strengthening work will be required.

HERITAGE

Wellington's history is worth preserving for many reasons. The most obvious is that understanding the past contributes to people's sense of shared heritage and identity as residents of the city and as members of particular groups or families. History can contribute to our sense of pride in the city, and our sense that we all have a stake in its future.

Our activities under this area include:

- **City archives** – we provide the Wellington City Archives, which holds a vast amount of information about the city's history and development from the 1840s to the present.
- **Heritage landmarks** – we manage the Te Ara o Nga Tupuna – the Maori Heritage Trail.

WHAT WE DID

The City Archives added 65,000 items to its online database.

The database now provides easy access via our website www.Wellington.govt.nz to over 400,000 records concerning Wellington's history and development. These include maps and plans, files and correspondence, Council publications, and photographs of the Council and city life. In May 2008, detailed maps of Wellington produced by Thomas Ward, a surveyor working between 1889 and 1892, were added to the site.

We worked on conservation of Wellington Harbour Board glass plate negatives and volumes of Council minute books. We also started assessing and conserving some of our early rate books which have been water damaged.

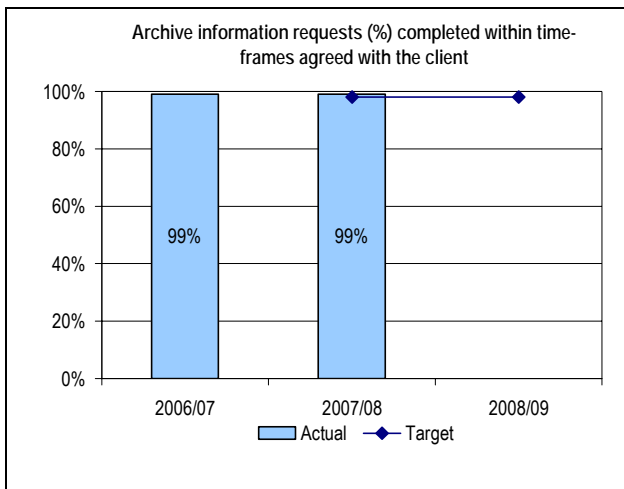
We worked with the Wellington Geography Teachers Association to produce a sample research pack for Year 12 NCEA Geography, and followed up with schools who are using Archive resources for their class work.

Te Ara o Nga Tupuna – the Maori heritage trail was extended.

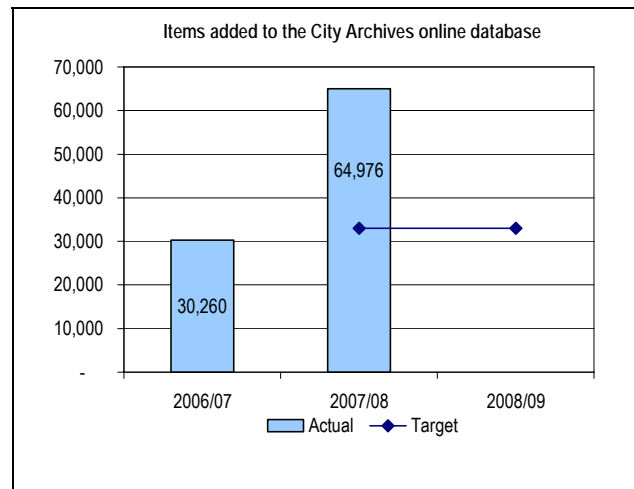
The trail begins at Pipitea Marae in Thorndon and ends at Owhiro Bay. Working closely with mana whenua representatives from the Wellington Tenth Trust, we installed new pou whenua along the trail at: Oruaiti Pa (Point Dorset); Kirikiri Tatangi (Hector St, Seatoun); Te Mapunga Kainga (The Esplanade, Island Bay); and Te Uruhau Pa (Melbourne Rd, Island Bay).

We have plans to install a final pou whenua in the Owhiro Bay area, which will be done after we have identified and agreed upon a suitable site. A sign post promoting the heritage trail will be erected in Midland Park following the final pou whenua installation at Owhiro Bay.

HOW WE PERFORMED



Source: WCC City Archives (Activity 5.1.1 City archives)



Source: WCC City Archives (Activity 5.1.1 City archive)

Cultural heritage sites added to the Maori Heritage Trail – Te Ara o Nga Tupuna

Our target was to add four cultural heritage sites to the Maori Heritage Trail – Te Ara o Nga Tupuna.

This was achieved with the installation of pou whenua at Oruaiti Pa (Point Dorset), Kirikiri Tatangi (Hector St, Seatoun), Te Mapunga Kainga (The Esplanade, Island Bay) and Te Uruhau Pa (Melbourne Rd, Island Bay).

Source: WCC Treaty Relations (Activity 5.1.2 Heritage landmarks)

COMMENTS:

City Archives - We added 64,976 items to City Archives online database, far surpassing our target for the year. The number of items added to the online database can fluctuate and is largely dependent on the type and complexity of the items that are processed prior to being added to the database.

WHAT IT COST

	2008	2008	2008	2007
Operating Expenditure (\$000)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
City Archives (5.1.1)				
Cost	1,569	1,483	(86)	1,530
Revenue	(197)	(185)	12	(209)
Net Cost	1,372	1,298	(74)	1,321
Heritage Landmarks (5.1.2)				
Cost	-	4	4	3
Revenue	-	-	-	-
Net Cost	-	4	4	3
	2008	2008	2008	2007
Capital Expenditure (\$000)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Heritage Landmarks (5.1.2)				
Cost	38	44	6	-
Unspent portion of budget to be carried forward	-	24	-	-

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURAL SUPPORT

We aim to foster an environment where Wellington's creative communities can thrive.

Our activities under this area include:

- **Cultural grants** – we provide grants to support community-based arts and cultural organisations and initiatives.
- **Access and support for community arts** – we run a popular community arts programme, provide exhibition space and subsidies for community-groups to access performance spaces.
- **Arts and Cultural Festivals** – we provide a wide range of cultural and arts events/festivals.

A buzzing local arts scene is important in many ways. It means there's always plenty to see and do and that the city's atmosphere is lively. It also provides other benefits such as the chance to celebrate Wellington's many cultures. By sharing our experiences through art and performance we'll build stronger, cohesive communities as they become even more diverse.

WHAT WE DID

The city was busy with an exciting range of festivals and events.

Many of these have had a cultural focus, such as the Diwali Festival of Lights, the Pasifika festival, Crossing (the Asian Fusion Festival), the Malaysian Festival, the African Festival, the Mexican Cultural Festival, Brazilian Independence Day and celebrations for Chinese New Year.

We also commemorated Waitangi Day, and produced a number of public entertainment events such as Summer City – Gardens Magic, the Teddy Bears Picnic, Gravity and Other Myths, the Santa Parade, and Carols in the Basin. Public sports events included the Dragon Boat Festival, Beach Football Festival, the Wellington Offshore Powerboat race and the Relay for Life.

We granted over \$600,000 to cultural activities.

Longer-term grants were provided to organisations that contribute to our strategic objectives for arts and culture: Arts Access Aotearoa; the Fringe Festival; Katherine Mansfield Birthplace; NBR Opera; Randell Cottage; Sinfonia; Wellington Professional Theatres; and the Wellington Jazz Festival.

We also made one-off grants for special projects, such as Newtown Festival, preservation of the "Carr Window" at Old St Pauls, the Young & Hungry Arts Trust Festival of New Works, rehearsal workshops for a public performance with intellectually disabled actors, Kaumatua Kapa Haka, the Pacific Island Festival of Carols, and an art exhibition highlighting creativity of older people run by Age Concern Wellington.

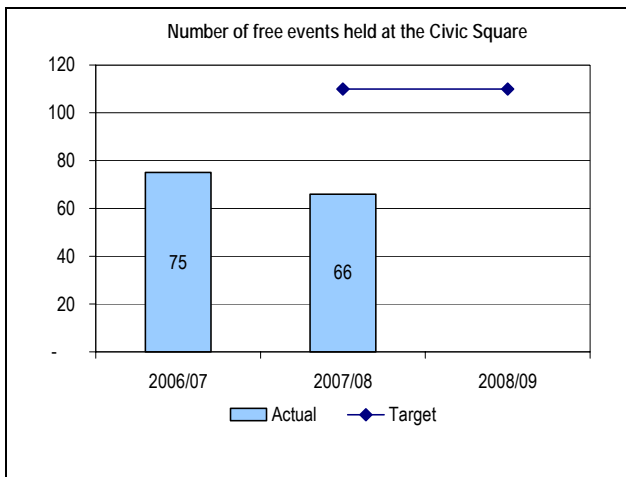
We provided community groups with subsidised access to the Wellington Convention Centre. Community groups included: Kotuku Choir, Downtown Community Ministry Bookfair, the NeoNatal Charity Ball and Malaysian Student Association presenting a cultural experience.

During the year, several new public artworks were installed to enhance the city.

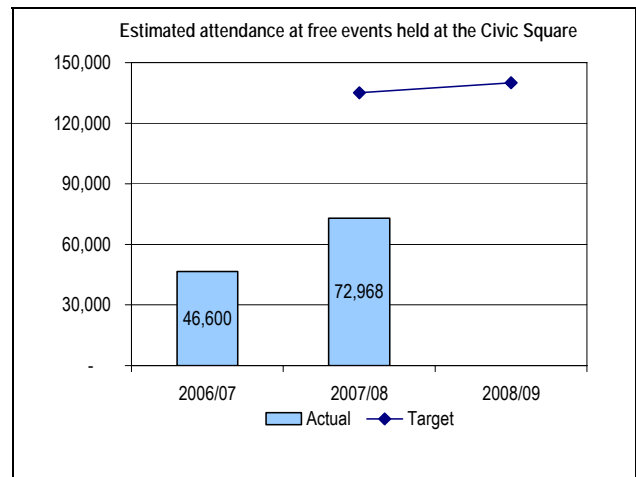
Commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust, Regan Gentry's Green Islands is the first in a series of sculptural projects to be installed on the four plinths on Te Papa's forecourt. The installation will be changed every two years. Each plinth displays a plant species made from number eight wire, from toetoe, pohutukawa, tussock, flax, cabbage tree and agapanthus.

Sound Circuits is a series of four sound / art installations located in public sites around Victoria University's Pipitea Campus, including Rutherford House and the Wellington Railway Station. Artists, Kaleb Bennett, Dugal McKinnon, Rachel Shearer and Dion Workman, have created a soundtrack for the city that encourages audiences to rethink the urban environment. Sounds will be based on the rumbles of the city's walkways, transit routes and public spaces.

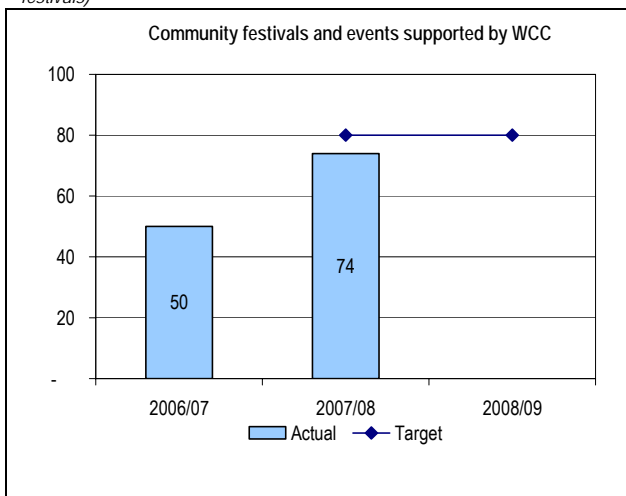
HOW WE PERFORMED



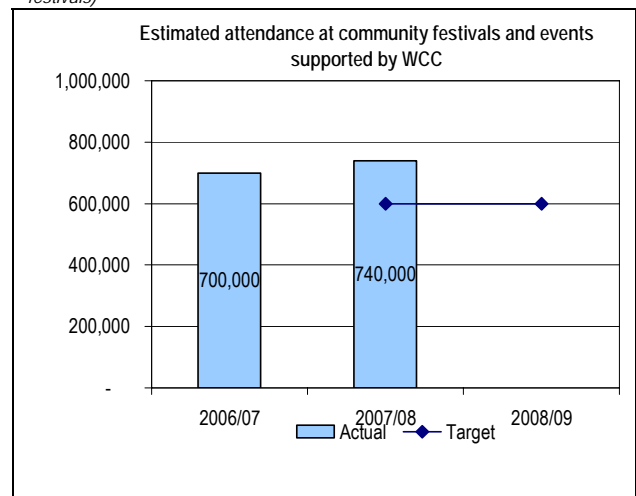
Source: Wellington Convention Centre (Activity 5.2.1 Arts and cultural festivals)



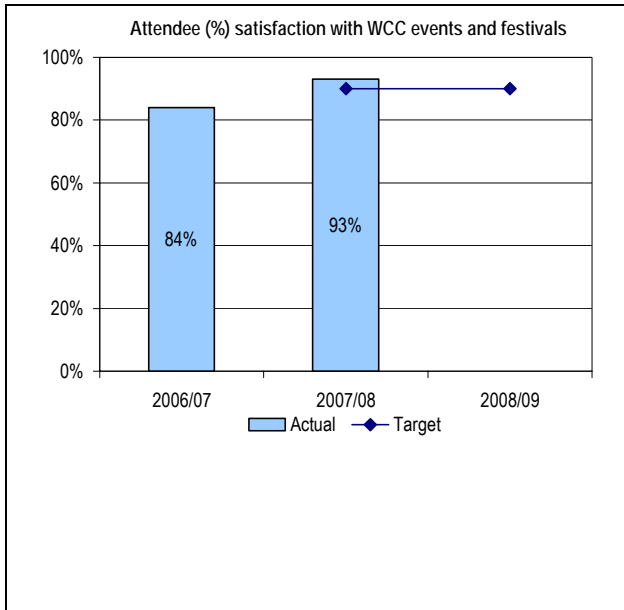
Source: Wellington Convention Centre (Activity 5.2.1 Arts and cultural festivals)



Source: WCC City Events (Activity 5.2.1 Arts and cultural festivals)



Source: WCC City Events (Activity 5.2.1 Arts and cultural festivals)



Source: WCC Resident Survey 2008 (Activity 5.2.1 Arts and cultural festivals)

COMMENTS;

Arts and cultural festivals – There has been a considerable increase in the number of people attending Civic Square events (+26,368), though the number of free events and the estimated attendance at those continues well below target. In light of achievement over the last two years we will review our targets for Civic Square events.

The number and type of community festivals and events we support and the estimated attendance at these events can fluctuate each year. We have had a busy year with an increased number of events and increased attendance.

The level of satisfaction with Council-supported events and festivals has increased (9%) beyond our target.

5.2.3 Cultural Grants

Note: information is for discretionary grants.

Community groups that access the Wellington Convention Centre with assistance from the venues subsidy, the number of events held and the proportion of WCC venues subsidy budget being spent

Our target was for 34 groups to access the Wellington Convention Centre, for 38 events to be held, and for the total WCC venues subsidy budget to be spent.

Our targets for venue access were not met, with only 12 community groups and 12 events subsidised. The total budget for providing subsidised access to the venue was spent, reflecting the high occupancy for these events.

The number of community groups that are assisted by the venues subsidy can vary from year to year, and we allocate our budget according to the needs of the groups. We seek to support as many groups as possible within our budget restrictions.

Source: WCC Grants (Activity 5.2.3 Cultural grants)

Source: Wellington Convention Centre (Activity 5.3.1 Access and support for community arts)

NEW COUNCIL SUPPORTED ARTWORKS INSTALLED IN PUBLIC SPACES

We supported the installation of a number of new public artworks in public spaces.

Major stand-alone public art: We supported two new sculptural pieces: the Ghandi statue, a gift from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and Te Waka Pou in Waitangi Park by Vincent Ra.

Temporary public artworks: We supported eight projects: the Four Plinths Temporary Sculpture Project – Green Islands, three Toi Pōneke Stack projects, the Light Box project in Courtenay Place, and Nō Naianei (From this Moment), One Day Sculpture, and Sound Circuit. See above for details.

Source: WCC City Arts (Activity 5.3.1 Access and support for community arts)

WHAT IT COST

	2008	2008	2008	2007
Operating Expenditure (\$000)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Cultural Grants (5.2.3)				
Cost	670	667	(3)	661
Revenue	(3)	-	3	(10)
Net Cost	667	667	-	651
Access and Support for Community Arts (5.3.1)				
Cost	455	409	(46)	362
Revenue	(20)	(6)	14	(15)
Net Cost	435	403	(32)	347
Arts and Cultural Festivals (5.2.1)				
Cost	2,543	1,792	(751)	1,525
Revenue	(608)	(371)	237	(376)
Net Cost	1,935	1,421	(514)	1,149
	2008	2008	2008	2007
Capital Expenditure (\$000)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Access and Support for Community Arts (5.3.1)				
Cost	41	45	4	26

ARTS PARTNERSHIPS

Our aim is for Wellington to be recognised as New Zealand's arts and culture capital – this depends on the quality and breadth of its professional arts scene.

Our support in this area includes:

- **New Zealand International Arts Festival** – we provide funding to the country's premier arts and cultural festival.
- **Arts partnerships** – we provide and operate Toi Pōneke – Wellington Arts Centre; we also support the Public Arts Panel and a number of arts organisations.

These organisations entertain residents and visitors, contribute to the city's economy, foster the development of emerging artists and entertainers and provide opportunities for artistic expression.

WHAT WE DID

We took steps to strengthen partnerships with arts sector.

City Arts is a stand-alone Council business unit established in September 2007 to manage Toi Pōneke - Wellington Arts Centre and the Public Art Panel and Fund, as well as to strengthen the Council's relationship with the arts sector. It has met over 80 individual practitioners and arts organisations to develop a strategic overview of arts activity in the city.

Toi Pōneke – Wellington Arts Centre exceeded its targets of occupancy of artists' studios and tenancies, and worked on increasing occupancy even more through marketing and off-peak pricing policies.

With our support, the Wellington Sculpture Trust enhanced the city with high quality art.

Temporary projects supported by the trust included: *Nō Naianeī (From this Moment)*, a cross-cultural Maori, Japanese and Chicano dance collaboration; and the launch of *One Day Sculpture (ODS)*, a series of 24-hour sculpture projects that will appear throughout 2008 and 2009; *Sound Circuits*, a series of sound/art installations in public sites around Victoria University's Pipitea Campus; and the Toi Pōneke Stack Project featuring artworks on the lift shaft stack of Toi Pōneke.

A major Wellington-Asia arts exchange programme got under way.

The Wellington Asia Residency Exchange programme, developed in partnership with the Asia New Zealand Foundation, will see arts practitioners from across Asia residing in Wellington for up to three months at a time and working with a Wellington arts institution.

The artists will stay in the historic Bolton Street Cottage and develop a project while interacting with artists in the city.

The first artist, Lee Kit worked with Enjoy Gallery during December 2007 and January 2008. Wellington artists will also get to take up residency opportunities in Asia.

The NZ International Arts Festival lit up the city.

Held during February and March 2008, the festival brought over 800 artists from 35 countries performing in 365 shows. The Festival met its box office and audience targets with over 125,000 ticket sales and \$5 million in takings.

The next festival is scheduled for 2010.

HOW WE PERFORMED

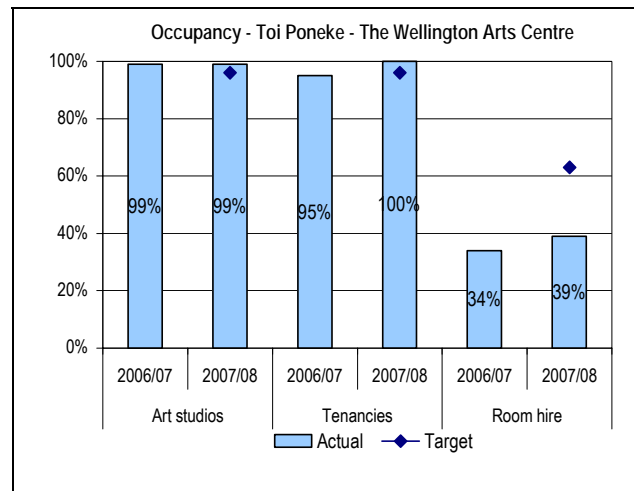
The New Zealand International Festival of the Arts

- Total number of tickets sold
- Total number of tickets sold to people from outside the region
- Estimated economic impact of the Festival

The Festival had total ticket sales of 130,000 with approximately 24% (31,200) of sales to people from outside the region.

The economic impact that the festival brings to Wellington is \$22.7 million (new spend).

Source: The New Zealand International Festival of the Arts
(Activity 5.2.2 The New Zealand International Festival of the Arts)



Source: Toi Poneke – Wellington Arts Centre (Activity 5.4.2 Arts partnerships)

COMMENT:

Wellington Arts Centre - Two out of the three occupancy targets for Toi Poneke have been exceeded. Room hire has increased during the year, though is still well below target. To encourage greater use of hire rooms we have developed a target marketing plan. We expect to see increased room hire in 2008/09.

WHAT IT COST

Operating Expenditure (\$000)	2008	2008	2008	2007
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual
Arts Partnerships (5.4.2)				
Cost	1,740	1,744	4	1,447
Revenue	(430)	(537)	(107)	(386)
Net Cost	1,310	1,207	(103)	1,061
New Zealand International Arts Festival (5.2.2)				
Cost	750	750	-	750
Revenue	-	-	-	-
Net Cost	750	750	-	750