

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

Interesting upcoming funding round

If you've got a creative project you want to get off the ground, there's a funding round open right now that could help make it happen. Here's the short version so you can decide if it's for you.

\$3k–\$5k typical grant in Tāmaki Makaurau	Sun 9 Aug this round closes	4 questions plus a budget and a timeline
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WHAT IT IS

The Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) is Auckland Council funding for grassroots art projects that bring local communities in. Think workshops, performances, exhibitions and events, the kind of mahi that gets people together and gives your creative work a stage.

WHO CAN APPLY

Apply as an **individual, a collective or a group**, and you don't need to be a charity. It's explicitly aimed at first-time and emerging artists, so a light track record is no barrier.

THE KEY DATES

Open now, closes Sunday 9 August.

It's for activities happening between 1 October 2026 and 1 October 2027, so you've got a good runway to plan and deliver. If this round doesn't suit, there's another coming around February 2027 for activities from April/May 2027. No rush, but the sooner you start the better.

WHAT IT FUNDS

Covered

Artistic, short-term costs

- ✓ Artist fees
- ✓ Production costs

Not covered

Capital & ongoing costs

- × Buying gear or costumes
- × Your ongoing running costs

✓ Venue or equipment hire

• The application guide has the full list

THE CRITERIA · DELIVER ON AT LEAST ONE

01 Access and participation. Creating opportunities for your local community to get involved and take part in the arts.

02 Diversity. Supporting and celebrating the different arts and cultural traditions in your community.

03 Young people. Enabling and encouraging people under 18 to engage with and take part in the arts.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO PULL TOGETHER

The application is light

It's four questions, a budget and a timeline. To fill it out, it helps to have a sense of the following before you start.

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| • What you want to achieve | • How the project meets the criteria you pick |
| • Why the funding is needed | • Your project costs, with quotes for the big ones (venue included) |
| • Your timeline and the key stages of the project | • Supporting material, like past work or a letter of support |
| • Who's involved | |
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ONE PRACTICAL NOTE · WHICH COMMITTEE

There are three funding committees across Tāmaki Makaurau. Apply to the committee where your event will happen. If you're running things in more than one area you can apply to more than one committee.

North / West

Central & Gulf Islands

South / East

THE LINKS

Creative Communities Scheme

Info, application guide and portal

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/.../creative-communities-scheme

Grants calendar

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/.../grants-calendar

Handy for future rounds and Local Board dates

Centre for Social Impact Funding Guide

centreforsocialimpact.org.nz/.../funding-guide

Great budgeting tips in section 4.3

WANT A HAND?

The Council's funding advisor, **Marion Prebble**, is happy to answer questions directly, so you don't have to go it alone. And of course, come talk to us at YANZ. If you want a second pair of eyes on your idea or your application, we're here for it.

Youth Arts New Zealand

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Youth Arts New Zealand · youth-led since 2018
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