

Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa New Zealand where the arts and arts practitioners are supported and valued, and society recognises the worthwhile contribution that they make to our personal, social, cultural and economic wellbeing. In particular, *toi o Māori* and *taonga Māori* flourish and continue to make a unique and highly respected contribution to the identity of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Creative, cultural and heritage work is integrated within our communities in myriad innovative ways that empower people, encourage intercultural appreciation and understanding, and help to develop additional skills, training, and confidence. The professional arts sector is vibrant and diverse and contributes to the international identity of Aotearoa New Zealand on the international stage.

Both community-level and professional arts and cultural heritage work is enabled by effective Government agencies and sufficient resourcing.

Key Principles

1. The arts and cultural heritage have both an inherent and economic value to society and both should be recognised; the arts foster community and have the ability to improve our daily sense of well-being, social equality and cultural diversity, as well as contributing economically through export and tourism.
2. Government should facilitate widespread and diverse participation in and affordable access to the arts and cultural heritage.
3. Government should help build resilience in the arts and cultural heritage in our communities and at professional levels. Our heritage is part of our national identity and must be protected.
4. Public funding of the arts and cultural heritage (including heritage resourcing and development) must be transparent and sustained.

5. Those involved in delivery and development of the arts and cultural heritage must be involved and have a say in development of guidelines for funding.
6. Local communities must be given the ability to protect places and buildings and heritage collections that are important to them historically and culturally.
7. The Crown has a responsibility to ensure the protection of taonga, including Māori arts and culture, and must support and contribute to the revitalisation of toi Māori, tikanga Māori and te reo Māori.
8. All art forms practised and recognised in Aotearoa New Zealand are included in this policy and their interconnectedness is acknowledged.

Specific Policy Points

1. Communication and Coordination

To adequately resource work in the arts and cultural heritage, effective communication and coordination between the Government and those undertaking that work is essential.

Policy Positions

- 1.1 Establish effective systems of communication and coordination between government ministries, funding agencies, local bodies, tangata whenua, community and other stakeholders involved in arts, culture and heritage. Collaborative design of these systems will involve:
 - a) All government ministries that currently have an interest in the delivery of programmes in or through the arts and cultural heritage.
 - b) Arts and cultural organisations, educational establishments, and arts festivals funded by local or central Government.
 - c) All established non-governmental and community organisations involved in arts, culture and heritage which currently have an interest in the delivery of programmes in or through the arts.
- 1.2 Review the arts and cultural heritage infrastructure and funding provisions and ensure they are sufficiently resourced, with a focus on increasing participation in community arts, arts and cultural heritage education and supporting the professional arts to reach the highest standard. In particular:
 - a) Improve funding of local arts amenities such as community galleries.
 - b) Support the establishment of local arts trusts comprised of a consortium of established professional or semi professional arts groups with a commitment to arts education and building resilience in the arts, especially where local arts are currently not well supported.

- c) Provide contestable funding for arts and cultural heritage organisations with a proven commitment to arts education to cover operational and management expenses.

2. Tangata Whenua and the Arts

Recognising the unique nature of tangata whenua and the Treaty obligations of the Crown, the Green Party strongly supports the continued promotion of Toi Māori, te reo and tikanga.

Policy Positions

- 2.1 Support and promote the right of Māori to protect both traditional and contemporary Māori art and art forms via customary rights and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This is especially important in a context where Māori images and other cultural practices, such as kapa haka, can currently be commodified by non-Māori without acknowledgement of them as Māori intellectual property.
- 2.2 Facilitate appropriate processes for Māori artists and arts practitioners when interfacing with government funding agencies, ministries and their agents.
- 2.3 Support Māori broadcasting and media services to be independent, secure and successful and to play a major role in revitalising language and culture that is the birthright of every Māori and the heritage of every New Zealander (see our [Broadcasting and Media](#) Policy)

3. Media and the Arts

The Green Party recognises the importance of providing opportunities and platforms to nurture and promote our own talent and creativity as a nation, reflecting the unique cultural environment of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Green Party is committed to ensuring the production of quality media content, including music, films and television series, by Aotearoa New Zealand artists, producers, and directors. See our [Broadcasting and Media](#) policy.

4. Education, Community and the Arts

Our future artists and practitioners receive their introduction to, and much training in the arts at a community level and in schools. We need to nurture and encourage the development of the arts at this level.

Policy Positions

- 4.1 Maintain funding for diverse community arts and community arts organisations.
- 4.2 Develop mechanisms to support, promote and protect the arts of Pacific and new migrant communities, in recognition of the importance of the arts to community expression and well-being.
- 4.3 Develop and resource the implementation of an ongoing arts education strategy from early childhood to tertiary level, in recognition of the value of arts in our educational institutions.
- 4.4 Provide secure funding for advisory services to schools in the performing arts, culture and screen arts.
- 4.5 Ensure young people have access to appropriate arts training, both within and external to school. Teachers, education providers and artists should have access to training to teach arts and cultural heritage to young people and encourage young artists.
- 4.6 Encourage participation in and consumption of the arts and crafts, culture, heritage, screen arts and broadcasting by increasing availability and access, with particular reference to children, young people and those on low incomes.
- 4.7 Support the purchase of artworks for public buildings, especially hospitals and schools and with an emphasis on locally produced art, and encourage the therapeutic use of the arts in hospitals and other appropriate facilities.
- 4.8 Develop a network of Art Spaces and heritage equivalents in every community, accessible to all cultures and levels of ability, including portable programmes for hospital, old people's and women's refuge communities.
- 4.9 Support public museums and art galleries to ensure public access to, and sound care and management of, heritage collections as research and design resources for education, artistic, creative and community history projects.
- 4.10 Support the purchase by public collecting institutions of nationally significant heritage objects and collections at risk of export.

5. Economic Development and the Arts

The arts have an important role to play in our economic development. We have had a significant number of international successes in arts sectors including film and television, music, visual arts, literature, video gaming and others. These activities have numerous spin-offs for local writers, artists, actors, technicians, and other local businesses. The Green Party is committed to supporting the arts industry to develop and secure the highest standards achievable in the arts and crafts. This means

improving the status of artists and craftspeople and fostering a climate that encourages innovation and artistic development.

Policy Positions

- 5.1 Reallocate resources within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to establish an arts and cultural promotion unit.
- 5.2 Support funding for research and development in the arts as a contributor to both the Aotearoa New Zealand economy and society.
- 5.3 Provide incentives for private sector investment in arts-based projects and initiatives, such as making donations to legitimate arts organisations tax deductible.
- 5.4 Support *Buy NZ Made*. Today's craft practitioners deserve support and promotion for using local ingredients, recycling, and distributing product in sustainable ways.
- 5.5 Ensure that copyright of a commissioned work is retained by the artist by default, not the commissioner, and that, when negotiated otherwise, copyright of a redistributable work reverts to the artist when the commissioner of a work ceases to distribute it.
- 5.6 Continue to support the Public Lending Right in recognition of the fact that it is one of the few sources of regular income for authors, and regularly review the Public Lending Right to ensure that it provides adequate compensation to authors for the free public access New Zealanders have to their works through public libraries.
- 5.7 Reinstate an income support scheme for arts and cultural employment (see also our [Income Support](#) policy).
- 5.8 Ensure the state sector pays a living wage to employed and contracted artists and encourage organisations employing artists to develop policies to pay them a 'living wage' (see our [Workforce](#) Policy).

6. Protecting and Preserving our Heritage

The preservation of heritage, which includes landscapes, historic buildings and sites (and their surroundings), cultural sites, historic areas, and heritage collections is intrinsic to the development of a sustainable and unique Aotearoa New Zealand culture. Heritage places and collections can provide a platform for an increased understanding of the development of our unique culture. Heritage and cultural tourism can play an important part in the economic and social development of local communities. The conservation and re-use of heritage buildings has resource

advantages as well; as it conserves the energy used in their construction, reduces the amount of waste to landfill and reduces the need for new materials.

Policy Positions

- 6.1 Support the creation of a National Policy Statement for heritage under the Resource Management Act, requiring local authorities to place more weight on recognising and supporting heritage places in district plans.
- 6.2 Support central and local government funding schemes for owners of heritage buildings, to recognise that these owners are in effect custodians of a resource that is valuable to the whole community, but are expected to fund their upkeep themselves.
- 6.3 Establish a well resourced national funding scheme for the earthquake strengthening of heritage buildings so that owners are not forced to pull down buildings because of the cost of compliance with the Building Act.
- 6.4 Investigate funding support for small tourism ventures, including Māori businesses, which wish to use the promotion of the heritage and culture of Aotearoa New Zealand as a basis.
- 6.5 Improve Te Papa's National Services ability to provide effective assistance, training and other services to local museums and art galleries in the care and management of heritage collections.
- 6.6 Ensure recognition, protection, and restoration of significant heritage and cultural landscapes, including within urban areas.