



MEETING MINUTES	
CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026	9.03 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Creative Communities Funding Panel held on Wednesday 22 April 2026, which commenced at 9.03 am at Manawatu District Council, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT: Ben Caldwell Chairperson
Kim Savage Deputy Chairperson
Karis Evans
Cr James McKelvie
Cr Raewyn Loader

APOLOGIES: Michelle Thompson, Sue James

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen King Grants Connector
Steph Skinner Governance & Strategy Officer

CCFP 25-28/001

MEETING OPENING

CCFP 25-28/002

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That apologies from Michelle Thompson and Sue James be approved.

Moved by: Cr Raewyn Loader

Seconded by: Kim Savage

CARRIED (5-0)

CCFP 25-28/003

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There were no previous minutes to approve.

CCFP 25-28/004

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ben Caldwell – Application 5 and Application 7

Karis Evans – Application 10

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PRESENTATIONS

1 - Eris Newson - **Affordable Art Classes Term 2 2026** - The Feilding and Districts Art Society

- Creative opportunities for students – art growth and independence, having a flexible workspace.
- Need to look for funding in the future that is more long term. Funding applications through MDC is term by term.

3 - Dominique Vao - **Blessed To Dance** - Blessed Studio

- Two studios in the South Island with around 100 attendees, and the same programmes are run across each class.
- Just started classes in Feilding. Money is a barrier for rangatahi in the Manawatū.

6 - Racheal Young - **Painting with light. A study of floral colour**

- Her art is photography turned into paintings. Racheal is passionate about floral art. She outsources her printing, everything else including framing is done by Racheal, all sustainable and recyclable. Most of her photos are taken outside in natural light.
- The exhibition will touch on Rachel's background (her journey through mental health and wellbeing) which has inspired her move to art.

8 - Connor Sinclair - **Ramblings of a busy mind**

- New into displaying his art and exhibitions and would like to turn this into his living. Finding himself through his art.
- Past artwork has been pen and ink, now broadening his style with water colour.

5 - Erin McLean - **The Taming of the Shrew 2026** -- FOPS Performing Arts

- Creative project – theatre piece. A less mainstream performance, however more showcasing to the rainbow, neurodivergence communities etc.
- Using Shakespeare to create something fun, different, and positive.

9 - Alistar Mawhinney - **Epic Equitable Music Program** - Epic Music Foundation

- The Epic Foundation is the charitable arm of the business. Epic is passionate about making a difference in young people's lives, helping them to develop significant life skills.
- Alistar is wanting to establish more opportunities in the Manawatū. His classes are during school time so convenient for families and supported by the school.

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10 - Ryan Knighton - **Jam Session and Show in Feilding** - Hotspot Improv

- Improv comedy is audience driven, a popular form of art. Wanting to get this out as wide as possible to the community. People test out in a safe environment, and perform a show to get people out, laughing.
- Trying to keep the barrier of entry fees as low as possible. Aiming for youth participation but open to any age.

4 - Rose Bourke - **Art Trail Manawatū 2026** - Square Edge Community Arts

- Art Trail 17/18 October 2026. Encouraging people to visit the regional studios, instead of going to Palmerston North.
- Art Showcase is a lead up to the Art Trail for those artists that don't have a studio.

The meeting adjourned at 10.48am and resumed at 11.12am

CCFP 25-28/006

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME – ROUND TWO 2025-26

Report of the General Manager – Community requesting the panel assess and determine ten applications which have been received for Round Two of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme. Ten applications were received. All applications have been put forward for consideration.

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel evaluates and considers the following ten applications using the assessment tools provided by Creative New Zealand:

- Application 1- Affordable Art Classes Term 2 2026
- Application 2 - Te Ahi Kōmau
- Application 3 - Blessed To Dance
- Application 4 - Art Trail Manawatū 2026
- Application 5 - The Taming of the Shrew 2026 - FOPS Performing Arts
- Application 6 - Painting with light. A study of floral colour
- Application 7 - Banding Boot Camp 2026
- Application 8 - Ramblings of a busy mind
- Application 9 - Epic Equitable Music Program
- Application 10 - Jam Session and Show in Feilding

RESOLVED

The Creative Communities Funding Panel declines Application 5 - The Taming of the Shrew 2026 - FOPS Performing Arts under the ineligible criteria, as there is no clear evidence this is being held within the Manawatū District.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

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Seconded by: Karis Evans

CARRIED (4-0)

Ben Caldwell did not participate due to a conflict of interest.

RESOLVED

The Creative Communities Funding Panel declines Application 2 - Te Ahi Kōmau under the ineligible criteria, as there is no clear evidence this is being held in or would benefit the Manawatu District.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr Jame McKelvie

CARRIED (4-0)

Kim Savage was absent during the voting.

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$3000 (excluding of GST) to Application 9 - Epic Equitable Music Program, to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme, pending receipt of a letter from North Street School principal confirming this is not a part of the schools teaching curriculum.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Karis Evans

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2962.00 (inclusive of GST) to Application 10 – Jam Session and show in Feilding, to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Kim Savage

CARRIED (4-0)

Karis Evans did not participate due to a conflict of interest.

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2000.00 (inclusive of GST) to Application 6 - Painting with light, A study of floral colour, to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

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Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$1500.00 (inclusive of GST) to Application 8 - Ramblings of a busy mind, to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2800.00 (exclusive of GST) to Application 3 - Blessed To Dance, for professional tutor fees, to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Karis Evans

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$998.00 (inclusive of GST) to Application 7 - Banding Boot Camp 2026 to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Kim Savage

Seconded by: Karis Evans

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$3165.19 (exclusive of GST) to Application 4 - Art Trail Manawātū 2026 to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

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Moved by: Kim Savage

Seconded by: Ben Caldwell

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$4000.00 (exclusive of GST) to Application 1 – Affordable Arts Classes to be funded by Round 2 of the 2025/26 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (5-0)

CCFP 25-28/007

VACANCY NOMINATIONS FOR THE CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL

Report of the General Manager – Community asking the panel to assess and determine three nominations for membership on the Creative Communities Scheme funding panel for 2026-2029.

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel appoints the following nominees to its membership.

- **Barbara Hyde**
- **Tyson Schmidt**
- **Waimarama Freeman**

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Kim Savage

CARRIED (5-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel appoints a Deputy Chairperson.

- **James McKelvie**

Moved by: Kim Savage

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader



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CARRIED (4-0)

Cr James McKelvie abstained from voting.

CCFP 25-28/008

GENERAL BUSINESS

Committee lwi representative will be discussed next meeting.

CCFP 25-28/009

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.34 pm