

MEETING MINUTES	
CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026	8.30 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Creative Communities Funding Panel held on Wednesday 30 September 2026, which commenced at 8.30 am at Manawatū District Council, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding.

PRESENT:	Ben Caldwell	Chairperson
	Cr James McKelvie	Deputy Chairperson
	Waimarama Freeman	
	Tyson Schmidt	
	Barbara Hyde	
	Karis Evans	
	Cr Raewyn Loader	
APOLOGIES:	Michelle Thompson	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Helen King	Grants Connector
	Steph Skinner	Governance & Strategy Officer

CCFP 25-28/010

MEETING OPENING

CCFP 25-28/011

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED

That the apology from Michelle Thompson be approved.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (7-0)

CCFP 25-28/012

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Creative Communities Funding Panel meeting held 22 April 2026 be adopted as a true and correct record.

Moved by: Karis Evans

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (7-0)

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CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026	8.30 AM

CCFP 25-28/013

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Karis Evans – Application 10, Jerry le Roux and Application 2, Kane Reid

CCFP 25-28/014

PRESENTATIONS

Application 1: Harakeke Education and Weaving – Kristi Whittaker

- Kristi was working with 30 Year 3 and 4 students at Mt Biggs School, with a few starting to shine as weavers. The children were learning a traditional weaving art form, including its heritage, as well as how to harvest and respect harakeke plants.
- A high school harakeke weaving programme was also just starting.
- Approximately 120 hours of work was required to weave a kākahu, which is a type of traditional Māori garment or cloak.

Application 3: Kimbolton Sculpture Festival – Mark Wooton

- The festival had been running for nine years and has become a biennial event due to the workload involved.
- It was originally set up to support the local community and farmers and grown to attract people from across New Zealand.
- There were significant costs associated with the event, but by using groups such as Lions, local clubrooms and St John, much of the funding went back into the community. Unfortunately, sponsorship was becoming harder to secure.
- The Committee had also developed a sustainability plan for the future of the festival.

Application 4: Te Whare Yarnanga – Aorangi Kora

- Aorangi was originally from Feilding, and Aorangi Marae is her marae, where she wanted to hold tutoring classes.
- She crocheted and knitted clothes, which she sold online. There had been a lot of interest from younger people wanting to learn these crafts, and she also wanted to provide space for weavers and sewers to attend.
- She wanted to offer the classes free to the community and make them open to all ages.
- Starting in October, there were to be three monthly sessions of three to four hours each.

Application 9: Summer Dance Intensives – Sydney Pelman

- Did not attend the meeting.

Application 8: Manawatū Pottery Society – Liz Swinbanks

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CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
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- This was a volunteer-run group in Feilding, and they hoped to create pottery totem poles to be erected behind the pavilion building in Kowhai Park, where the bird aviaries had previously been located.
- Workshops were to be held for potters to create their own pieces to be added to the totems. They hoped the pieces would reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of participants and bring all members together at one time.
- They hoped the totems would inspire and encourage the development of a sculpture garden.

Application 10: Manawātū Migrant Voices: A Portrait Series – Gerry le Roux

- Manawātū Migrant Voices was a photography project where people were asked to write their journey on their photograph, creating their own history board.
- There were around 130 different ethnicities represented across the Manawātū. Phase one of the work had been exhibited at Square Edge in Palmerston North earlier in the year.
- Phase two was to be exhibited at the Feilding Arts Centre in June to celebrate World Refugee Day.

Application 7: Creative Minds – Art Classes – Eris Newson

- Eris showed artwork produced by current art class students who were working towards the Art Awards in November.
- One of the key things students learnt was how to finish a canvas, including adding D-rings, hanging cable and labels.
- After the Art Awards, the students will work towards creating items for the Christmas Cave. The previous year, they had created a recycled Christmas tree.

Application 2: Risen, All Black 1112 – Kane Reid

- Kane's goal was to draw a life-size picture of Aaron Smith leading the haka. Kane's passion was creating art using ballpoint pens.
- He wanted to gift the artwork to the community to inspire young people in the Manawātū to dream big and aim high.
- The artwork was to be displayed at the Feilding Art Centre for a month.

Application 6: Mahi Whakairo Pou Whenua – Jared Fretwell

- Jared was the Principal of Manchester Street School, which was the first school established in the Manawātū.
- They were to work with a Ngāti Kauwhata carver to create a pou whenua (carved totem) on the school site. The pou was to tell the story of the school's journey and provide a marker for these stories to be learnt and shared with their tamariki and whānau.
- The Pou will also reflect the school's values. They had established a culture of care at Manchester Street School – care for others, themselves, the environment and the future.

The meeting adjourned at 10.13 am and resumed at 10.30 am.

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CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026	8.30 AM

CCFP 25-28/015

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME ROUND TWO 2025-26

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking review and determination of ten applications which have been received for Round One of the 2026/27 Creative Communities 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 – Harakeke education and weaving.
- Application 2 – Risen, All Black 1112.
- Application 3 – Kimbolton Sculpture Festival.
- Application 4 – Te Whare Yarnanga.
- Application 5 - Free nature photography workshops for young people in Manawatū.
- Application 6- Mahi Whakairo Pou Whenua.
- Application 7- Creative Minds - Art Classes.
- Application 8- Pottery Totem Poles.
- Application 9- Summer Dance Intensives.
- Application 10- Manawatū Migrant Voices: A portrait series.

RESOLVED

The Creative Communities Funding Panel declines Application 9 – Summer Dance Intensives – Anomaly Dance Group under the ineligible criteria, as there is no clear evidence this is being held within the Manawatū District.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr Jame McKelvie

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

The Creative Communities Funding Panel declines Application 5 – Art of Seeing Academy, nature photography workshops for young Manawatū people, as a project that is low priority for funding.

Moved by: Barbara Hyde

Seconded by: Tyson Schmidt

CARRIED (7-0)

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WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026	8.30 AM

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$788.00 (excluding GST) to Application 2 - Risen, All Black 1112 – Kane Reid to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

Moved by: Waimarama Freeman

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (6-0)

Karis Evans did not vote due to a conflict of interest

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$1500.00 (including GST) to Application 1 – Harakeke Education and Weaving - Kristi Whittaker to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Ben Caldwell

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2000.00 (including GST) to Application 4 – Te Whare Yarnanga - Aorangi Kora to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2000.00 (including GST) to Application 8 - Pottery Totem Poles - Manawatu Pottery Society to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

Moved by: Cr James McKelvie

Seconded by: Karis Evans

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CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2500.00 (excluding GST) to Application 6 – Mahi Whakairo Pou Whenua - Manchester St School to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Cr Raewyn Loader

Seconded by: Barbara Hyde

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2500.00 (including GST) to Application 10 – Manawatū Migrant Voices - A Portrait Series – Gerry le Roux - to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

Moved by: Waimarama Freeman

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (6-0)

Karis Evans did not vote due to a conflict of interest

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$3360.00 (excluding GST) to Application 3 – Kimbolton Sculpture Festival to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Funding Scheme.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Karis Evans

CARRIED (7-0)

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel grants \$2576.50 (excluding GST) to Application 7 – Creative Minds Art Classes to be funded by Round 1 of the 2026/27 Creative Communities Scheme.

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CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING PANEL	TIME
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2026	8.30 AM

Moved by: Tyson Schmidt

Seconded by: Cr James McKelvie

CARRIED (7-0)

CCFP 25-28/016

NAMING OF TANGATA WHENUA REPRESENTATIVE TO FUNDING PANEL

Report of the General Manager – Community seeking the appointment of a Tangata Whenua Representative as part of Manawatū District Council's Creative Communities Funding Panel.

RESOLVED

That the Creative Communities Funding Panel appoints Waimarama Freeman as the Tangata Whenua Representative as part of the panel as congruent with Council's Terms of Reference for the panel.

Moved by: Ben Caldwell

Seconded by: Cr Raewyn Loader

CARRIED (7-0)

CCFP 25-28/017

GENERAL BUSINESS

Future of Creative Communities Scheme

Creative New Zealand is currently going through a period of change with little indication on how their future funding will be processed. Staff have not received anything specific to date. Funding is set for the 2026/27 financial year, but funding for future years is unknown.

CCFP 25-28/018

MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 11.50 am.