

# Re- imagining \_toi pōneke

Toi Pōneke Arts Centre is being re-imagined to better support Wellington's arts and creative sector.

**Aho Tini**  
2030

**toi**  
**pōneke**  
arts centre

Absolutely Positively  
**Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

# Toi Pōneke Art Centre

- The Council has operated Toi Pōneke Arts Centre since 2005
- Home to local and national arts organisations (16)
- Houses individual artist studios (34)
- Spaces for hire by the hour including dance studio and multi-use spaces for theatre rehearsals and meeting rooms.
- Exhibition gallery
- Public programmes
- Arts related residencies (8)



[Image: Workspace Jewellery Studio - Toi Pōneke]

# 1. Background and context

- The Aho Tini 2030 Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy, committed to: “Further develop how Toi Pōneke Arts Centre can continue to support the arts and creative sector, including partnership and co-location opportunities, and support incubation opportunities and emerging artists.”
- The building in its current state is no longer fit-for-purpose. A decision is required next year on the existing building lease.
- While much has been achieved since 2005, change is required for Toi Pōneke to deliver to the Aho Tini strategy into the future.



[Image: Workspace Jewellery Studio - Toi Pōneke]

## 2. Project Objectives

- **DELIVER ON AHO TINI 2030 STRATEGY:** A reimagined Toi Pōneke will provide partnership and co-location opportunities, and support incubation opportunities and emerging artists. This will require a shift in the operating model.
- **FIT FOR PURPOSE FACILITIES:** Physical facilities that support and enable delivery of the above requirements under Aho Tini 2030.
- **BUDGET:** Deliver the project within the approved one-off capex budget and maintain operational costs within the current opex budget.
- **IMPLICATION:** Not all other building options are the same size as Toi Pōneke which has tenancy implications. Discussions are beginning with tenants about this.



[Image: Ua Tafa Mai Ata Exhibition opening 2024- Toi Pōneke]

# 3. Engagement and what we heard...

- Rich, collaborative and extensive engagement process over the past 3 years.
- Insights gathered from Aho Tini engagement; Toi Pōneke community, staff, mana whenua, tangata whenua and broader Wellington creative sector.
- Artists and creative organisations seek a fit-for-purpose facility that supports their work.
- Space that meets the needs of the creative community, fosters collaboration and nurtures artistic practice.
- Commitment to diverse perspectives ensuring inclusivity.

*sense of community*

kaupapa driven

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

accessible

multi-use spaces

flexibility

*embed mana whenua*

*careers for artists*

*foster connections*

ihi / wehi  
passion / spark

mentoring

**MANAAKITANGA**

*shared learning*

*collaboration*

From this came the baseline activities for the re-imagined Toi Pōneke.

## 4. Baseline Activities

- **Aho Tini 2030 Strategy** - contributes to outcomes of Aho Tini Strategy
- **Council facility** – WCC facility aligned with Te Awe Māpara Communities Facilities Plan 2023
- **Mana whenua relationships** – grounded in mana whenua kawa and tikanga, operates as Tiriti-led facility aligned with Tākai Here & Tūpiki Ora Strategy.
- **Inclusive and accessible** – inclusive and physically accessible for all communities
- **Communications and marketing** – to support the kaupapa of Toi Pōneke
- **Modern and low-maintenance space**



[Image: Bailey Lobb, Toi Pōneke, Artist Studio, Toi Pōneke (2021) sewing an inflatable work 'In Bathing, bask']

# 5. The Vision

**VISION: “A catalyst for the growth and development of Wellington artists.”**

- The re-imagined Toi Pōneke vision is defined as a transitional space to support artists to develop and grow.
- Toi Pōneke will be a hub of energy that provides a place for artists at all stages of their career to develop and grow and eventually transition to new opportunities.
- It will achieve this by offering fixed-term rental agreements and by using the tuakana-teina model to connect artists with support from more senior practitioners and arts organisations. The space will be flexible to facilitate different art forms.

*Tuakana-Teina is a Māori concept that emphasizes reciprocal relationships of learning and support between individuals of different experience levels. In this relationship, the tuakana (the older or more experienced) provides guidance, support, and mentorship to the teina (the younger or less experienced), while the teina also contributes to the growth of the tuakana through their own perspective and contributions. It is based on mutual respect, sharing knowledge, and helping each other grow.*

## 6. What's next?

- NOW: Engagement with and communications to Toi Pōneke staff, current tenants and key stakeholders to share the vision, plan and implications of these for future operations and tenancy.
- JANUARY TO MARCH 2025: Development of a plan to deliver the outcomes of the re-imagined Toi Pōneke. This includes developing the underpinning policies, systems and processes.
- Another update will be provided to you by the end of March 2025.
- Note, existing rental agreements will continue until they are up for renewal. We are only renewing or signing new licences or sub-leases until 30 Oct 2025.



[Image Te Matapihi Exhibition, Toi Pōneke 2023]



## 7. Pātai?



[Image 'Beacons 2022' -Shannon Novik's Make Visible work]

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