



Contemporary Art Foundation Half Year Report

1 July to 31 December 2020

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1. Foreword

The Contemporary Art Foundation (CAF) is pleased to report on the successful first six months of the 2020-21 financial year. CAF delivers high quality contemporary art to the Auckland region through the Te Tuhi Contemporary Art Trust (Te Tuhi). Both CAF and Te Tuhi are registered charitable trusts and not-for-profit entities.

CAF is committed to contemporary art that is locally engaged, regionally responsive, and internationally ambitious.

CAF's vision is:

- To be the contemporary art organisation in New Zealand that is nationally and internationally renowned for its art, engagement and participation practices.
- To be a catalyst for new ways of engaging with communities, new ways of supporting and developing creative practices and new ways of thinking.
- To further its contemporary art, education and residency programmes throughout Auckland and beyond.
- To play a significant role in the arts and culture sector in Auckland and New Zealand, making Auckland a culturally rich and creative city.

Te Tuhi continues to punch well above its weight, earning its reputation as Auckland's most innovative, cutting edge, contemporary art gallery. Te Tuhi contributes significantly to making Auckland a culturally rich and creative city, in line with the vision of the Auckland Plan to make Auckland the world's most liveable city. Te Tuhi continues to grow and expand its offer as a dynamic creative hub for the local community and the region. Te Tuhi delivers on all six of the Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan goals to: invest in arts and culture; celebrate Auckland's unique cultural heritage; increase participation in arts and culture; develop a network of vibrant arts and culture organisations; contribute to a robust and flourishing creative economy; and to contribute to Auckland's place-making through its onsite and offsite programmes.

2. Strategic issues and focus areas

Te Tuhi has ambitious plans for the next three years and will continue to develop its successful and aspirational programmes, both onsite and offsite, with a particular focus on increasing and diversifying audiences both for Te Tuhi and for the arts and culture sector across Auckland. Te Tuhi's success and growth is based upon a reputation for innovation and placemaking, however there continue to be significant challenges for the future of Te Tuhi.

Auckland Council is carrying out a review of legacy CCOs, and a review of the Cultural Heritage Sector as a whole. While CAF is not one of the institutions being reviewed under the Cultural Heritage Sector review, the outcome of this review will have an impact on the wider sector. CAF acknowledges the need for consistency across the governance of arts institutions, and supports the proposal to bring arts institutions across Auckland under one governing body. CAF has requested that any review of its CCO status be held until the outcome of the Cultural Heritage Sector review is known, so that it can align with the sector in the most appropriate way.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns are evident in the outcomes for CAF in both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years. CAF has seen reduction in activities provided and visitor numbers. Financial losses as a result of reduced activity are yet to be fully quantified.

In the 2021 to 2024 period Te Tuhi faces considerable uncertainty for its future operation in Pakuranga from the impact of Auckland Transport's Eastern busway project, and the Reeves Road Flyover in particular. Te Tuhi is committed to engage fully with Auckland Transport to ensure the best possible outcomes from the design process, with a view to mitigating as far as possible any negative environmental and operational impacts, particularly around the provision of parking for access to the Pakuranga building.

However, the impact of road works, which began in 2019 and will continue for an estimated 4 to 5 years, are already having a considerable impact on the ability of Te Tuhi to raise 60% of its operational budget from commercial activity, and its ability to maintain visitor numbers.

The Contemporary Art Foundation seeks to maintain the existing operation in Pakuranga for as long as viably possible and will continue to work with key project stakeholders to secure the future of Te Tuhi, while at the same time pursuing options which may include substantial mitigation work and/or relocation of part or all of its programmes to more appropriate venues.

Both the Covid-19 pandemic and the impacts of the Eastern busway project have substantial implications for the financial outlook of CAF in the next three year period. The Trustees have considered the uncertainties around the provision of services at the current Pakuranga site and have set aside additional reserve funds to mitigate these uncertainties.

Since 2008/09 CAF has had a real-terms decrease in funding from Auckland Council of nearly 8% or \$48,000, and an increase in depreciation charges of 270% or \$114,000. As a result, the amount of funding available for Te Tuhi's operating costs has fallen from 52% in 2008/09 to 41% in 2019/20. This is creating a significantly increased income generation burden for Te Tuhi.

In order to maintain a reasonable level of funding to Te Tuhi to deliver the requirements of its funding agreement with Auckland Council, CAF has reported a cash surplus, but an accounting deficit, since 2011/12.

While these are significant challenges for the future, CAF looks forward to continuing to make significant contributions to the ecosystem of contemporary art in Auckland and beyond.

3. Highlights for the period

In July 2020, Te Tuhi presented Olivia Webb's *Anthems of Belonging*, the second online-only digital exhibition to be shown on Te Tuhi's website. In August this was followed by the presentation of a video work by Cuban artist Dagoberto Rodríguez titled *Geometría Popular – Popular Geometry*.

In September 2020, Te Tuhi opened the major group exhibition *DE-celerate* curated by Gabriela Salgado. Including the works of 9 international artists and 7 Aotearoa New Zealand artists, the show explored the fluctuations in artists' thinking at the time of a worldwide pandemic, and how ways of being in the world may change pace during this time. The exhibition included works by renowned South Korean artist Kimsooja, Mapuche Chilean filmmaker Francisco Huichaqueo and Tongan New Zealand artist Visesio Siasau. New commissions by Aotearoa artists Charles Buenconsejo and Ella Sutherland were also presented on Te Tuhi's Project Wall and Reeves Road and Parnell Station Billboards.

In December 2020, Te Tuhi opened three new solo exhibitions. *A Death of Prosperity* curated by Andrew Kennedy presented a commission by Mount Maunganui artist Darcell Apelu, who was the recipient of the 2019 Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Te Tuhi UK Residency Award. Ana Iti's exhibition *Kimihia te āhua* curated by Abby Cunnane was presented across Te Tuhi's Reeves Road and Parnell Station Billboards, as well as on our new Digital Billboard site. The Project Wall hosted *Obaachan during the lockdown, Wahiawā, Hawai'i*, a series of tufted rugs by Claudia Kogachi.

Between July and December 2020, 1,527 students participated in Te Tuhi's Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) programme funded by the Ministry of Education. Each student took part in practical art making exercises and discussion of works in the galleries.

The 2020 Iris Fisher Scholarship was awarded to Aaron Kong. The scholarship enabled Kong to complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) at the University of Canterbury. The 2020 Yorkshire Sculpture Park UK Residency Award was awarded to Tāmaki Makaurau artist Deborah Rundle. Rundle will commence the residency when travel is possible.

In 2020 we continued to build the profile of Te Tuhi at Parnell Station, with a well-attended open studio day held in October. Te Tuhi's Curatorial Intern James Tapsell-Kururangi delivered several exhibitions and events in his independent art space Papatūnga, working with artists including Shaun Thomas McGill, MASS Alexandria, Qian-ye Lin and Qianhe 'AL' Lin and Isabella Loudon.

In the first half of 2021, Te Tuhi has a rich artistic programme scheduled. In February Te Tuhi will present *A Very Different World*, a major group exhibition from renowned Māori curator Ngahiraka Mason. Presented in association with Auckland Arts Festival and the New Zealand Maritime Museum, the exhibition will feature the works of four international and 14 Aotearoa artists across multiple venues. Bringing to light the changed realities and unprecedented difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic, the artists reflect on a second chance for humanity.



Visesio Siasau, *NGATU 'o VAVANGA 'ATALOA*, 2020 (installation view). In collaboration with Serene Tay and Saimone Fonohema. Commissioned by Te Tuhi, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Photo by Sam Hartnett.

4. Financial performance

Contemporary Art Foundation

\$	Budget to date	Actuals	Variance	Full year budget	Full year forecast	Variance
Operational						
Revenue/External funding	43,907	62,257	18,350	87,814	151,184*	63,370
AC funding	293,503	294,230	727	587,006	588,459	1,453
Expenditure excluding depreciation	330,833	337,028	6,195	661,665	726,996*	65,331
Depreciation	91,263	91,167	(96)	182,525	182,333	(192)
Surplus/(deficit)	(84,686)	(71,708)	12,978	(169,370)	(169,686)	(316)

* The increase in full year income and expenditure reflects a new area of work for CAF as the lead organisation for the Aotearoa Public Gallery Directors Network.



Ella Sutherland, *Keys to The Book of the City of Ladies*, 2020 (installation view, Reeves Road). Commissioned by Te Tuhi, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Photo by Sam Hartnett.

5. Key Performance measures

Measure	Year-end target	On track	Half-year actual	Date of last measure
Total number of visitors	150,000	No*	48,038	31/12/2020
Number of exhibitions	12	Yes	8	31/12/2020
Number of artists	15	Yes	23	31/12/2020
Number of commissions	6	Yes	11	31/12/2020
Number of school students participating in programmes	5,000	No*	1,527	31/12/2020
Number of workshops and classes	50	Yes	39	31/12/2020
Number of public events	15	Yes	15	31/12/2020
Customer satisfaction	Greater than 80% positive responses	measures in full year report	n/a	

*As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, visitor numbers fell from January 2020 to the point of lockdown on 20 March 2020. Te Tuhi operated from home until the gallery reopened on 23 May 2020, with a number of exhibitions moved to digital platforms and the introduction of online classes for virtual teaching and learning. Classes were resumed onsite in July 2020 until Te Tuhi was closed again by a second lockdown in August 2020 and further restrictions on gathering lasting through September 2020. Operations resumed in full from Term 4, 12 October 2020, albeit with reduced numbers.



Claudia Kogachi, *Obaachan during the lockdown, Wahiawā, Hawai'i, 2020* (installation view). Commissioned by Te Tuhi, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Photo by Sam Hartnett.

6. Māori responsiveness activities

Initiative	Description	How it contributes to Māori well-being or outcomes	Progress
Exhibition and Public Programmes	To showcase contemporary Māori art and provide opportunities for Māori artists.	Promote distinct identity Ensure sustainable futures Develop vibrant communities	Three exhibitions and one public programme showcasing te ao Māori and/or Māori artists between July-December 2020.
Schools and Youth Programmes	To showcase contemporary Māori art and develop opportunities for Māori school children and young people to engage with the arts and creative sector as audiences and participants and highlight vocational pathways into the creative sector.	Improve quality of life	All school and youth programming includes Māori art, artist/s and/or te reo content.