

## **KCDC Public Art Panel**

Submission to Council on The Kāpiti Gateway Proposal 15 February 2021

*The KCDC Public Art Panel comprises Kāpiti Council's appointed advisory experts on public art. The Panel's role is to consider strategically how public art contributes to the whole of the Kāpiti Coast District.*

*The Panel welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Kāpiti Gateway proposal.*

*These comments are limited to public art issues only.*

### **Context**

1. The Panel were asked during their meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January that they review the proposed Kapiti Gateway project and consider making a submission to Council.
2. Members of the panel at that meeting were provided architectural and landscape drawings for the Kāpiti Gateway project Resource Consent Application Rev. 3, 13 July 2020. These show opportunities for public art integration in the project and suggestions of what these could be through precedent images.
3. A special meeting of the Panel was convened for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. At this meeting the panel received a briefing on the project from Janice Hill, (Principal Advisor Growth & Development KCDC). The panel then held discussions relating to the information provided to them to consider the opportunities for Public Art relating to the project.
4. This submission has been prepared as a reflection of the views and opinions of the members present at the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> February.

Janet Bayly, Nick Ray, Robin Simpson, Tracey Morgan

### **Public Art Opportunities**

5. The Panel sees great opportunity for public art associated with both the building and landscape, to celebrate the complex stories past and current, relating to the sites' history and environment, and the purpose of the centre. This fits with an important narrative throughout Aotearoa New Zealand of telling the country's past, current, and future stories.
6. The Concept shows multiple opportunities for integrated public art including Pou, Waharoa, Waka elements on the beach, display panels, wall patterns, paving patterns, bridge. Precedents demonstrate successful examples of how such components could express and enhance this project.
7. The project fits within the Public Art Strategy to extend geographically and express the diverse stories of community and place along the coastal strip landscape, from mountains to sea. There is potential to connect with the Tohora sculpture already in Maclean Park through narrative or theme.

8. The Panel notes that public art can be the vehicle for serving the kaupapa of the building and can facilitate connection between the Paraparaumu Beach village and the centre, drawing tourists to and from the village for economic benefit to the village. The example of a line of Pou illustrated shows an opportunity to extend into the town, assisting wayfinding through visual presence and bringing the motu presence into the town.
9. The Panel's brief includes fostering established and emerging artists in Kāpiti. The Panel sees opportunity to celebrate local artists and artisans through public art installations and exhibitions at the centre and surrounds. There is an opportunity to accommodate dynamic, interactive, and rolling exhibitions that can change over time providing further opportunities to express the complex stories related to the site. The display panels illustrated could be the means for such exhibitions.

### **Other Considerations**

10. The Panel notes that the concept drawings appear well developed. While this level of development assists by showing promising examples of artworks and potential locations, these are concepts alone. It should also be acknowledged that the precedents included are from other projects. This project offers unique opportunities for public art in Kāpiti. Specific works should be developed and undergo due process specific to this place and project.
11. The Panel notes that with short notice to provide comment, and without information on process to date, they are limited to preliminary comments on the project. The Panel are very keen to remain involved with this project and provide expert advice to deliver the best possible public art outcomes from the Kapiti Gateway.