

Title:
PIAB - Waitakere Pacific Arts and Culture

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Regional Arts and Cultural Funding Allocation Sub-committee some very basic issues affecting the PIAB through the Development of Pacific Arts at Corban Estate Arts Centre.

Background

Pacific'ata

- *Is the formal trading name for*
- **Waitakere Pacific Arts and Cultural Centre at Corban Estate Arts Centre**

The cultures represented here are from –

* **Polynesia,** * **Melanesia** * **Micronesia.**

The opportunity offered by such a centre is to connect with each other and

* **Te Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa.**

Collectively they offer their cultural riches to the wider community through their arts and cultural activities.

Through these activities they have realised the potential for –

- * **Socio-economic Development based on**
- * **Arts & *Culture**

and this has developed as an important thread for the

* **Pacific Islands Advisory Board (PIAB)***

In 2002 the PIAB developed a Feasibility Study for a Cultural Centre. The vision was large and there was a realisation that their aspirations could be met in some part through the development of

* ***Pacific Arts and Culture at Corban Estate Arts Centre***

The Pacific arts centre was seen as a grass roots operation that had the potential to grow.

The Development at Corban Estate has been organic.

A group of **Mamas** who meet regularly have become an institution –

A **Waitakere City Icon** and known throughout the region for the quality and special nature of their work.

They **weave, stitch, dance and celebrate** their cultures and teach their arts to children and adults.

They sell their work and participate in city-wide events.

AI

Total immersion school workshops conducted in a dynamic Pacific-flavoured environment have developed over the past nine years into a much-loved activity for many schools.

* *The PIAB is an independent incorporated society and have a formal relationship with Waitakere City Council through the signing of an MOU agreement*

The **vision** of the PIAB is that the Pacific peoples in Waitakere City be **empowered** to fully participate in the **decision making** process at local government level and **pursue a strong socio-economic framework**.

As part of their **goal**, they wish to work with several agencies to **improve the social-economic** conditions impacting on the Pacific peoples whilst **maintaining their cultural integrity and diversity**.

Arts Committee

As part of this the PIAB administers the Waitakere Pacific Arts and Cultural Development Committee (Arts Committee) which is mandated through the board to:

- 1. Guide the development of Pacific Arts and cultural activities in Waitakere and in particular at Corban Estate.**
- 2. Provide direction for other Pacific arts and cultural activities that the PIAB wishes to support.**

The Arts Committee consists of four members of the PIAB; three Pacific artists; one Waitakere City representative and a respected member of the arts community.

Objectives are to:

- a) Showcase Pacific arts and artists**
- b) Develop and exchange cultural practices and knowledge**
- c) Create opportunities for training and employment**
- d) Educate people about Pacific arts and traditional knowledge and practices**
- e) Create and meet demand for Pacific art (locally and internationally)**
- f) Gain sustainable funding and resources to support Pacific art**
- g) Create partnerships around Pacific arts, education and employment**
- h) Provide a bridge between traditional and contemporary Pacific arts and culture**
- i) Preserve and safeguard Pacific knowledge and traditions (including intellectual property)**

Pacific'ata – Waitakere Pacific Arts and Culture is a large part of what the Arts Committee administers. The arts centre has been located at Corban Estate in Waitakere City, and has been a window to Waitakere's Pacific cultural riches. The diverse Pacific communities have come to weave, dance, make tivaevae and create Pacific art in many forms. The centre has not only been significant to the city, but to the wider regional and national planning for the economic and cultural development for Pacific people. Strategies are being developed to support arts enterprises based on these activities.

Another aspect of the organisation has been the informal operational partnership with Corban Estate Arts Centre. The school workshop programme is a joint initiative and there are occasional collaborative market days. Currently an Operational Agreement is being developed to consolidate the working relationship.

Activities at the centre

- 1. School workshops**
- 2. Market days**
- 3. Sales of arts and craft on site**
- 4. Pacific Living Arts Festival** – annual event supported strongly by Council
- 5. LTSA partnership – schools road safety art exhibition**

Proposed new developments

- 1. Outdoor sculpture studio – Fatu Feu’u, local artist**
- 2. Weaving studio/shop**
- 3. Business and Professional Development plan –**

The proposed new developments offer opportunities to pilot business training.

Fire crisis

On the night of 1 April 2004 there was a fire at the Pacific Centre area.

Currently the Mamas gather in Council’s foyer on Wednesdays to meet and create new art works but what is urgently needed is a ‘home base’.

A short term solution to housing Pacific activities is being devised by Waitakere City Council. It has also become apparent that what was a long term vision needs to become a medium term goal. A new purpose-built Pacific arts centre needs to be seriously considered and planned for.

There is some impact on the operational work done to date. Obviously some operational plans were specific to the situation in the World Rooms – they may need to be modified.

Budget items

- Operational funding –
- Short term building needs
- Brief and design consultancy budget for permanent building
- Seed funding for new building