

**Refinery ArtSpace Annual Report
July 2018 to end of June 2019**



Performance Summary, Refinery ArtSpace Contract Objectives

Objective [Level of Service]	Performance Measures as per contract	Performance Measures actuals
Refinery: Support a range of artists and art groups to celebrate and explore their heritage, identity, art practice and creativity	Not less than 24 exhibitions and related activities 1] Report on numbers of artists participating in exhibitions / activities 2] Number of community / groups participating	<u>total:</u> 45 activities 1] <u>total:</u> 153 participants 2] <u>Examples:</u> Youth Art Show, Centre for Fine Woodworking, JustSpeak NZ – Korero Pono, Nelson Heritage/NCC, Nelson Tasman Potters... <i>Please see a more detailed reporting to Performance Measures. [page 3, 4]</i>
To provide a community gallery that is widely used by the community and offers a diverse and stimulating range of art	3] Not less than 12,000 visitors p.a. Report on: 3a] Open 6 days per week year round [closed public holidays]	11, 121 visitors p.a. 3] closed 29 April to 4 May: Open however Easter Monday & Queen’s Birthday <i>Please see a more detailed reporting to Performance Measures. [page 4.]</i>
Maintain costs effective running costs	4] Percentage of locals/visitors into the gallery	4] Not recorded – however estimate to be 50:50 local versus national/international visitors
	5] Provide Refinery ArtSpace annual budget and approved accounts	5] Yes – annual Refinery ArtSpace operational budget provided & 2 monthly reporting
Develop and trial new activity to ensure the arts sector is relevant, sustainable and or original	6] Identify new areas of participation, report on 6a] Successes 6b] Failures	6] One off Events, i.e. Sound Experiments, Planning Meeting NCC Heritage Festival, Book Launch, Talk by Ronnie Martin part as Heritage Festival, more artists studios, etc... <i>Please see a more detailed reporting to Performance Measures [page 4, 5, 6]</i>

Achievements & Appreciations outside of 'Refinery ArtSpace Objectives'

Face Lift - Front

in collaboration with NCC & Arts Council Nelson/Refinery ArtSpace Development Portfolio. A special appreciation to NCC for financial support towards the painting of our front and trimming trees, tidy up.

A successful response to visitor feedback over the last 3 years on our visibility.

Including a Successful Resource Consent Application – **Signage**

Interior Improvements

As a result of the Refinery ArtSpace operational success since 2015, Arts Council Nelson Board was able to allocate \$20,000.- towards interior improvements.

Garden

Operational success further allowed for a tidy up of our garden, hedge trim by Nelmac & contracting a gardener to maintain it.

'Maud'

On 'loan' to us, Light Nelson Sculpture of a Moa, called 'Maud' to entertain and enhance visibility of the Refinery ArtSpace. It is with delight to watch passerby's and visitors taking photos and enjoying this work.

Artist Studios

Additional two new leased studios, as a result of a major 'working bee' by Arts Council Nelson Board.

New appointed Executive Board

The newly appointed Arts Council Nelson Board, reflecting the overall engagement we have achieved over the last 3.5 years – a truly overview of the Nelson creative scene.

From 'Community, Festivals, Performing Arts, Literature/Writing/Design, Youth, Practicing Artists, Education, Local Businesses.

Welcoming the Improv Theater – after the closure of Ghost Light Theatre

Rehearsal and Performing. This is still in its first steps, but we hope to generate a beneficial working together and further nurture new audience engagement of performing arts within a visual arts environment.

I would like to express my respect, gratitude and thanks for all these amazing efforts and achievements:

- **NCC** – Kirsty Kennedy, Jules Read, Jock Edmondson
- **Contractors** Nelmac Bev Goodall, Luke Ashby & teams [garden – they went out their way to fit us into their busy schedule] Duane Pratt, [building] Able Roch, Goleman and his team [Constructions/Painting].
- And everyone behind the scene – conferring with Heritage, assessing our trees, decision makers. THANK YOU.
- **The Refinery ArtSpace Development Portfolio** - Josephine Cachemaille, Barbara Franklet, Annie Pokel, Lee Woodman and recently on board Amanda Raine and
- **The Refinery ArtSpace Programming Portfolio** – Josephine Cachemaille, Annie Pokel, , Michael Dell, Ronnie Martin [until October 2018] – more new members Faye Wullf and Sophie Kelly.

Detailed report on Objectives – Performance Measures

[1] [2] Support a range of artists and art groups to celebrate and explore their heritage, identity, art practice and creativity

Performance Measure - #exhibitions and related activities, #of visitors, #local visitors

21 exhibitions
18 Openings
2 Closing Gatherings
2 Meet the Artists
6 one off events
6 artists featured in the Foyer

total of 55 activities

Topics, presented in various forms – from paintings to photography to installation based work. Here a few examples that might capture the wide spectrum we had within our walls in 2018/19.

Presented by Youth Art – an exhibition with a focus on the implications of Mental Health Issues that extend to our young generations and how working creatively can be a tool to address such. {10 local Youth artists}.

A truly immersive experience – which in parts told the Māori story of ‘How Māori came to use a net for fishing’ and about an encounter of the quality of water in Fjordland. [Ari Edgecombe, Invercargill]

An installation based body of work was concerned with the discomfort and displacement the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake amplified in many residents. [Brooke Georgia]

A Large Format Photography body of work – comparing two rural towns after the recession and their attempts to avoid further ‘isolation’ and to flourish again – one being successful, one kept declining [Waverley versus Shannon, Thomas Slade, Wellington] – which interestingly many of our local visitors related to.

Local artists [various fields of media] – which ranged from storytelling of a place possible lost? [Mark Baskett], an exhibition about identity/individuality if one relocate from another culture/country [Jimena Johnston, originally from Mexico], a collection of Japanese Scrolls, to Maggy Johnston with her take on environmental issues, specifically our use of plastic.

Group shows included the Arts Council Nelson initiative of the 10 years celebratory award exhibition ‘Changing Threads’, an exhibition [part of Nelson Arts Festival/Readers & Writers Festival] with a writer responding to invited local artists and their ‘fictional’ stories’ that they might encounter within their art practice. [The Story Inside Your Head]. To mention here, the catalogue was produced by a 2018 NMIT Media and Arts graduate [Penny Royal].

A curated exhibition reflecting on the long standing history of pottery/ceramics of the Nelson Tasman region to an interactive travelling show from Wellington by the Just Speak movement responding to

the impact of the criminal justice system – with a first in the Refinery ArtSpace being presented in English as well as in the Māori and the well-established exhibition by the local Centre for Fine Woodworking end of Fine Furniture Program.

2018/19 has seen an amazing **increase in Youth** participation [between 18 – late 20's] – out of the 21 exhibitions – 7 shows were within this age group, a curated show with two participants in that age group and 4 artists featured in our Foyer – with two being artists on the road from overseas.

3] To provide a community gallery that is widely used by the community and offers a diverse and stimulating range of art

VISITORS 2018/19

General: 9470

Openings: 1389

Events: 262

total of 11121

note: the Nelson Fringe Festival 2019 was canceled – in 2018 the festival generated with participating artists, volunteers and audience a visitor number of 1661.

This impacted on the target of 12000, which could not be reached.

Galleries have been close 29 April to 4 May 2019 as a result, however seen further interior improvements at the time and the yearly wall maintenance, which usually is scheduled for early July.

4] & 5] Maintain costs effective running costs

Performance Measures Percentage of locals/visitors into the gallery & Provide Refinery ArtSpace annual budget and approved accounts

Please see performance summary page 1 and Achievements page 2

It is with pride however, that the Refinery ArtSpace costs effective running over the last four years, based on an approved budget and monthly measured actuals, has enabled the Arts Council Nelson Board to allocate \$20,000 towards improvements, which was designed to celebrate the original building and it's past stories/memories. This will continue into 2019/20.

Success in the financial area has further allowed to contract a gardener for maintenance, paid front of house for Saturdays during annual leave of the Refinery ArtSpace manager and an H&S expert to develop an up to date H&S policy for Arts Council Nelson – which also covers the Refinery ArtSpace facility. The implementation is still currently still in progress and will continue into the first quarter of the 2019/20 reporting period.

6] Develop and trial new activity to ensure arts sector is relevant, sustainable and or original

Performance measure – Identify new areas of participation, report on failures and success

We have continued to position the Refinery ArtSpace and it's point of difference within the creative sector in Nelson Tasman, offering a unique space that allows for experimentation, professional development and interpretations towards social/political issues as well as personal reflections.

New areas for participation were '**Sonic Experiences**' – audio/visual creations as one off ticketed events, however being developed and performed pro bono with assistance by ACN executive Board members on the night

- Nelson Atomic Gardening Society with 'A Sonic Meditation' and
- 'Hamerkop' with their first show hosted in Nelson for their New Zealand touring [Canada based] – introducing a different audience that otherwise would not visit the Refinery ArtSpace.

We have further hosted a book launch, the **Nelson Heritage Planning Meeting** and a **Floor Talk by Ronnie Martin** as part of the Nelson Heritage Festival – further activities that brought in a different audience.

As a result of the closure of the Ghost Light Theatre we have started a trial with their **Improv Theatre** for rehearsal and public performances. [May, June 2019].

Mentoring/advise has increased even more in the 2018/19 year to any creative visiting, the Refinery ArtSpace volunteers, may this be advise on their work, how to take the next step or wanting to have insights into the workings of the creative sector, which is not always just related to the Nelson Tasman region. Advise on galleries around NZ, competitions, awards, commercial/non-commercial organizations/institutions, relevant reviews, books, what to follow on Facebook and or Instagram, extending out from just the visual arts.

It is with delight, that one of our studio artists as a result will hold a solo exhibition at the RED Art Gallery later in 2019.

Another success was to introduce Bethan Fletcher [volunteer] as a possible candidate for a gallery assistant position at the Parker Gallery, which she was appointed to.

The visual improvements in **the Foyer** has allowed us to activate part of it as an additional gallery space – introducing artists that would otherwise not be able to showcase their work in a commercial gallery or do not suit other artist run spaces in Nelson Tasman. These ranged from installations to small bodies of work, i.e. installation by Rebecca Morcombe Young [UK], Georgie Merry [local] and her exhibition towards finishing her education with the 'Learning Connection' [Wellington].

A working bee was held to clear out container and the rooms behind the workshop area and these were successfully implemented as **two new artist studios** – both rented.

The Shed – a little shed that was in the past years often broken into and in winter 2018 mostly occupied by the transient population [in a very respectful way], has been moved into the garden and Arts Council Nelson Board has approved to advance it to another exhibition/project space. A vision, project management proposal & financial strategy is currently in development.

Our relationships/networking with other galleries, institutions such as the Suter and the Nelson Provincial Museum and the NMIT, helping each other out with equipment is working well is an additional service to our visitors – as well as artists development.

In my role I have been again invited to join the **Professional Development Advisory Board at NMIT** – and will give a talk to the students in that capacity later in 2019.

In general the 2018/19 year has overall been a success – and the Refinery ArtSpace is a growing hub, which lead to an important necessary discussion on the ACN Board to evaluate the vision and a clear

mission statement, also addressing the growing role of the Refinery ArtSpace Manager to ensure optimal operational functioning to achieve in the future. Still in progress.

There is no failure to report – 2018/19 – if anything scheduling around **Painting of the Front**, has seen more communication with exhibiting artist to ensure their efforts were unhindered. This is really a minor whatsoever, as the Face Lift of our front has been received very positive and has most certainly achieved better visibility and curiosity to enter.

Once again as in previous years with other items [heating, insulation], NCC has shown it's support by financially assisting with this. Thank you.

I would like to thank the ACN Executives, ACN staff and NCC for their continuous support and encouragement for looking beyond into new possibilities/activities.

Ann Braunsteiner, Refinery ArtSpace Manager on behalf of Arts Council Nelson. June 2019