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**WCC Aho Tini 2030
Arts, Culture & Creativity
submission
Historic Places Wellington (HPW)
10 May 2021**

Historic Places Wellington (HPW) wishes to make an oral submission on Aho Tini 2030 and requests that it reflect the importance of the protection of cultural goods/taonga of all people.

Built Heritage and Significant Sites

In particular, Historic Places Wellington's comments relate to Focus Area 3: Places and Spaces. HPW supports greater visibility of heritage protection, including recognition of built heritage and sites of importance to residents of Wellington/Te Wanganui-a-Tara.

HPW supports the aim of assisting people to "engage in our heritage" (page 6) and the reference to "our cultural institutions".

Specifically, HPW wishes to see completion of earthquake strengthening of the Town Hall and St James Theatre given priority and completed as soon as possible. HPW supports the Opera House venue being cared for and maintained appropriately.

HPW calls for the continued protection, preservation, and celebration of critically important built heritage precincts such as the Cuba St heritage precinct; Newtown heritage precinct; Courtenay Place precinct; Aro Valley and other small shopping precincts, reflecting early Wellington commercial centres and the city's identity. For example, CubaDupa and the Newtown and Thorndon festivals are great examples of arts and culture in heritage spaces.

The character of older inner city suburbs is an important heritage/taonga which contributes to the identity and community of this place. Those densely developed, multi-family structures are inclusive and mixed in nature providing proximate and inclusive communities for their residents.

The built heritage of this place provides cultural continuity and reflects intangible heritage over and above the materials used. They embody stories and history for old and new residents alike.

The preservation, protection and celebration of built heritage is critical for the well-being of Wellingtonians, past, present and future, and contributes to improving the lives of all New Zealanders. Heritage is entwined with culture and needs to be given greater emphasis and acknowledgement in Aho Tini 2030.

In addition to built heritage, there are heritage spaces, such as various parks, marae, and the previous shoreline where there may be no remnants of built heritage, but which provide 'venues' /spaces to recall events of historical importance and settings for creative events or works of art.

More generally, the Draft Strategy aims to give higher profile and visibility to Māori and Pasifika art and culture and to deliver an arts environment that supports students and young people in particular. HPW supports art and cultural activities, including taonga preservation and protection, for all ages and ethnicities but recognises that language and art form a large part of culture and are essential to the wellbeing and identity of Māori and Pasifika.

Our aims are consistent with the following Māori principles, which we support as a context for arts, culture and creativity funded by WCC¹:

Tohungatanga: Identify, Understand and Value Our Heritage, Our Taonga

Kaitiakitanga: Protect and Care for Our Heritage, Our Taonga

Manaakitanga: Celebrate and Share Our Heritage, Our Taonga

Rangatiratanga: Give Leadership and Respect for Our Heritage, Our Taonga

Wairuatanga: Spiritual Connections with Our Heritage, Our Taonga

Note:

Historic Places Wellington is a not for profit society dedicated to the preservation of historic places in the wider Wellington region. We aim to promote the identification, protection and conservation of historic places and to inform, advise and educate the public of their significance. We work cooperatively with local councils, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and other organisations concerned with the preservation of historic heritage.

Felicity Wong
Chair, Historic Places Wellington

¹ We have taken these from the Christchurch Heritage Strategy 2019-2029:
<https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Culture-Community/Heritage/Our-Heritage-Our-Taonga-Heritage-Strategy-2019-2029.pdf>