

12 February 2025

File Ref: IRC-7612

Nic Lane  
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Tēnā koe Mr Lane

Thank you for your email dated 3 December 2024 to Te Kaunihera o Pōneke | Wellington City Council (the Council). Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). As per my email dated 21 January 2025, the Council extended your request to allow the necessary consultation on your request. This has now been completed, below is our response to your request.

***To supply your current agreement with Mason Screen - CIRCUIT Artist Moving Image Aotearoa (the CIRCUIT) regarding curating and delivering the Masons Screen, including timelines of when these agreements started/have been renewed.***

The current Letter of Agreement signed November 2022 for January 2023 - January 2026 programme period. Following this, the agreement may be extended for a further duration. See Item 1.

Timeline of agreements:

| <b>Date of Agreement</b> | <b>Fund Period</b> | <b>Programme period</b>       |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 10 November 2015         | F2015/16           | December 2015 – December 2016 |
| 9 June 2016              | F2015/16           | December 2016 – December 2017 |
| 13 August 2018           | F2018/19           | January 2019 - January 2020   |
|                          | F2019/20           | January 2020 – January 2021   |
|                          | F2020/21           | January 2021 - January 2022   |
| 22 November 2022         | F2022/23           | January 2023 – January 2024   |
|                          | F2023/24           | January 2024 – January 2025   |
|                          | F2024/25           | January 2025 – January 2026   |

Note: historic public art funding allocations, can be found online - [Past Public Art Fund grant allocations - Arts - Wellington City Council](#)

**Can you please supply meeting minutes and calculations as to how the \$750 commissioning rate for new works was assessed and how it has been reviewed?**

The Council may discuss the rates with the supplier. However, the Council does not calculate, review or assess the commissioning rates for new works, this is managed by the supplier (in this case CIRCUIT). Discussions with CIRCUIT on the rates were discussed in the Public Art Panel Meeting Minutes for November 2015 and October 2022. Please see item 2 and 3.

**Including how it's been tested against your commitment to Living Wage frameworks?**

The Council does not test public art suppliers against our own commitments to the Living Wage. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

**How pay parity for video artists are comparable to those delivering works for the Courtenay Place Lightboxes?**

Pay parity between video artists, still-works artists, and other forms of art is not directly comparable. Each form of art utilizes different methods, materials, and resources, as well as distinct processes for development, printing, and installation. Consequently, compensation for artwork will be subjective and variable.

**Can you please provide the council's definition of public art and how the Mason's screen maintains this with the inherent physical barriers of the site?**

See Public Art Policy pg 3 'Definition: What is public art?' [Public Art Policy](#). The CIRCUIT fits the definition "art process and artworks in the public sphere that may be variously described as sculpture, murals, street-art, performance, new-genre public art, relational aesthetics, and/or installations.

**What accommodations have been made to ensure video works are accessible to all?**

While the on-site artwork has accessible limitations the Council has ensured that the site is safe for those that can access the site. To ensure that artwork is available to all, CIRCUIT does display some of their video work online.

**How has the curation ensured it fairly represents disabled artists, please include any data representing this?**

CIRCUIT undertakes an open call for all artists, the Council reviews proposals alongside CIRCUIT, but CIRCUIT ultimately makes the final decision. The Council does not hold information or data on CIRCUIT's curation of new works or the representation of disabled artists. This part of your request has been refused under section 17(e) of the LGOIMA that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

**How much council investment to date has gone into this Smart Capital urban design?**

The Council has invested \$285,000 in the Smart Capital Urban Design Project which was completed in 2015.

**How has it been assessed against your commitment to 'creating spaces that showcase universal design' in your Accessibility Action Plan 2019.**

The Masons Lane project encompassed the refurbishment of a key pedestrian connection between The Terrace and Lambton Quay. The project had a particular focus on improving safety and wayfinding for all users, incorporating improvements to surfaces, lighting and signage, along with opening up sightlines to improve visibility.

The aims of the project were:

- improve the pedestrian network and strengthen a key link between Lambton Quay and The Terrace;
- improve the safety of all users through passive surveillance;
- improve the quality of the environment with better quality surfaces, artwork and light;
- support existing businesses, residents and pedestrians;
- highlight entrances to the laneway to draw people into the space and assist with wayfinding.

The Mason's Lane project was completed in 2015 and thus pre-dates the Accessibility Action Plan (2019). However, the project would most closely align with the following Actions:

*Action 3: Accessible Spaces - The accessible space will act as a starting point within the city for full accessibility.*

*'Universal Design principles will be applied to the space, street and buildings. The space will be designed with the accessibility community who will input on what the new higher standard should look and feel like.'*

*Action 6: Urban Design Ensure that the design of public spaces incorporates universal design principles.*

*'Better designed streets, managing footpaths and public spaces, and removing potential barriers that block these spaces' in alignment with the emerging Footpath Management Policy at that time.*

Due to the challenging topography of the space, a fully accessible route through the lane wasn't possible as part of this refurbishment project. However, consultation was undertaken with the Accessibility Advisory Group in 2015, which provided advice on handrails, step edge contrast, surfaces, reduction in clutter and other Universal Design and accessibility aspects.

Below are the documents that fall in scope of your request and my decision to release the documents:

| Item | Document Name               | Decision   |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1.   | Current Letter of Agreement | Release with redactions under section 7(2)(a) to protect privacy of natural persons. |

| Item | Document Name                       | Decision   |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2.   | PAP Agenda & Minute – November 2015 | Release with redactions under section 7(2)(a) to protect privacy of natural persons. Some information is also out of scope of the request. |
| 3.   | PAP Agenda & Minutes – October 2022 | Release with redactions under section 7(2)(a) to protect privacy of natural persons. Some information is also out of scope of the request. |
| 4.   | Public Art Policy                   | Release in full  |

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact [official.information@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:official.information@wcc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

Asha Harry  
Official Information & Privacy  
Wellington City Council