

# Nelson City Community Arts Facilities – Gaps Analysis

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DRAFT Final Report

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# Executive Summary

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to Nelson City Council on the current provision and use of community arts facilities in Nelson. A range of venues operates across Nelson, each set up to cater to different art forms and audience sizes.

Nelson City Council has made significant capital and operational investments in the city's premier arts facilities – the Theatre Royal, the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts and the Suter Art Gallery. These are regionally significant venues that regularly attract high quality performances and exhibitions.

Cost, availability and venue size are cited as barriers to community use of these venues. There are several smaller venues that are used by the community, including the Red Door Theatre, Fairfield House, the Refinery ArtSpace, and The Boathouse. However, the fit-out of these is generally minimal, and groups face significant costs that are additional to the hire fees depending on their need for staging, lighting and sound.

Interviews were carried out with a range of people involved in running and using existing arts venues in Nelson. Based on those conversations, a digital survey was developed and received 90 responses.

In general, visual arts, classical music and smaller crafts groups are being catered for in existing venues. Gaps are identified for

- Larger touring shows (and conferences) where the Theatre Royal is too small;
- Contemporary music venues, particularly venues for youth bands to play to youth audiences;
- Theatre and rehearsal space for locally produced performing arts shows, where the Theatre Royal is too big;
- Studio space for artists; and
- Delivery of community arts programmes to the wider community.

The key venues identified as being needed in Nelson were:

- Large auditorium/performance space 750+ capacity
- Black box theatre 120-150 capacity
- An artists' co-lab space providing affordable studios for artists
- A community arts centre providing access to the arts to the whole community.

There is potential cross-over between these ideas, with some existing provision of all but the large auditorium space.

- The Suter Theatre could function as a black box theatre but requires investment and the provision of more support to artists
- A co-lab space could be created within an existing building – and does not necessarily need to be situated within the city centre
- Community arts programmes could be run from existing community centres.

Other feedback received sits outside the scope of this study, but has been passed on to the team developing the Nelson Arts Strategy.

# 1 Purpose and Scope of this Report

## 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Nelson City Council on the current provision and use of community arts facilities in Nelson, including:

- An assessment of the current provision of community facilities and venues for the arts in Nelson city
- Identification of the gaps in provision and barriers to use of existing facilities for both practitioners and their audiences
- Establishment of priorities for new arts space or spaces for existing groups to be able to better deliver arts opportunities to the community
- Identification of potential locations for priority spaces

## 1.2 Scope of Study

The scope includes:

- Community spaces and facilities suitable for arts and culture purposes available to the public, including amateur, semi-professional and fully professional practitioners across Whakatū Nelson
- Barriers to use to be considered include cost, location, parking, physical accessibility, cultural, distribution of information and language barriers
- These facilities include those that are publicly owned or funded and some private facilities which have community outcomes as their primary goal
- Arts and culture are defined as:
  - Performing arts
  - Visual arts
  - Craft and object arts
  - Screen and digital arts
  - Literary arts
  - Cultural arts (Ngā toi Māori, Pacifica art).

Out of scope:

- Large venues predominantly used by commercial users (Trafalgar Centre, Trafalgar Park, conference and event centre)
- Private galleries that commission artists or sell art on a commercial basis
- Bars, pubs and night clubs that serve as gig venues on a commercial basis only
- Gallery and studio space leased out at market rate
- Accessibility report.

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 Background

Nelson City Council (NCC), in its Arts, Heritage and Events Activity Management Plan/Mahere ā-Hapori 2021-31 identified the need for Council to ‘consider options for development of a Community Arts Centre based on investigation of community needs.’<sup>1</sup> This report identifies those needs and provides options for the Council to consider.

Nelson has a range of established arts facilities, including the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts (NCMA, formerly the Nelson School of Music), the Suter Art Gallery and the Theatre Royal. These venues have all been upgraded with capital support from NCC over the last 25 years, and cater for specific types of performing and visual arts. NCC continues to invest operational funding in these regionally significant arts facilities. The Suter Theatre is located within the Suter Art Gallery complex and hosts a range of arts performances, including regular Nelson Film Society shows and film festivals.

NCC also owns and operates a large, multi-functional venue in the Trafalgar Centre. It provides audience facilities associated with indoor sporting events such as basketball and netball, and can also be configured as a performance venue for theatre and music, seating up to 2,300 people, and accommodating up to 4,500 standing.

Council has owned the old tobacco refinery building on Halifax Street since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which was used as a reserves depot until the early 1980s. In 2003, the Refinery ArtSpace on Halifax Street was opened under the umbrella of the Kahurangi Employment Trust. The centre comprised a cluster of artists with workshop spaces and shared exhibition space. Its role expanded in the 2010s as Arts Council Nelson took over the management of the venue, providing space for performing arts as well as visual arts<sup>2</sup>.

The Halifax Street Refinery building was closed due to earthquake prone-ness in 2020. Council has funding within its Long Term Plan to strengthen the building. Since 2020, Arts Council Nelson (ACN) has operated the new Refinery ArtSpace from privately-leased premises on Hardy Street. NCC provides operational funding to ACN. ACN has indicated its desire to remain within the city centre and not to return to the Halifax Street Refinery building.

Between 1998 and 2002, a community arts centre operated on council-owned land, on New Street. Known as the Artery, it provided a space for music rehearsal and recording studios, visual arts workshops, video editing, photographic darkroom and a pottery kiln, and provided a venue for a range of performances. Whilst the venue was not without its issues, many people within the Nelson arts community still talk nostalgically about the centre. It subsequently became the Hub, and then the New Hub, with a focus on youth activities. It was one of the few venues where youth bands could play to youth audiences in an affordable venue. The Trust that ran the New Hub wound up in 2016, and the building, which was earthquake-prone, was demolished in 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> [Arts, Heritage and Events Activity Management Plan Mahere ā-Hapori 2021 – 2031](#), page 4

<sup>2</sup> [Nelson Refinery and Tobacco, The Prow](#) accessed 26 May 2022

Council also operates the Pūtangitangi Greenmeadows Centre. Whilst intended for general community use, rather than specifically as a community arts venue, it does host arts groups and performances.

Whakatū Marae has hosted Toi Māori events including kapa haka and weaving workshops.

Other arts venues discussed in this review include (see also figure 1):

- The Red Door Theatre (formerly Nelson Musical Theatre)
- The Johnny Cash Room, Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT)
- The Boathouse
- Fairfield House
- Annesbrook Church
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Studio One
- The Broadgreen Centre

Old St Johns has been used as a performing arts venue but is currently closed and is not likely to be available for use as an arts venue again.

## 2.2 Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on events and venues across New Zealand. Lockdowns have meant that performances and shows had to be cancelled, and the Red Traffic Light setting placed restrictions on venue operations that made it impracticable and unaffordable to run shows.

As of May 2022, some venues are starting to build back their forward bookings. However, there is still uncertainty around, as community transmission impacts on audience numbers. Most venues spoken to believed that a return to pre-COVID-19 activity was likely, but that it may take some time to get there.

Equally, there has been a significant impact on artists, and performers in particular. Losing the ability to attract paying audiences has impacted financially on professional, semi-professional and amateur performers alike. Whilst there have been some notable examples of innovation, the overall impact on finances has been negative, and morale within the sector is low.

## 2.3 Research Approach

The approach taken was to carry out a sequential engagement programme that used information gained at each stage to inform the subsequent discussions. This included:

- Liaison with Waihanga Whakatū – Create Nelson Arts and Creativity Strategy process
- Desktop study of known facilities and arts groups operating in Nelson
- Direct engagement with venue managers (see Appendix C)
- Direct engagement with key stakeholders (see Appendix C)
- Electronic survey split into five parts – artists, groups, businesses, individual non-artists and other
- Attendance at Waihanga Whakatū community hui

Given the impacts of COVID-19, interviews were carried out by a combination of in-person, online and telephone conversations.

## 2.4 Strategic Context

### Local Government Act 2002 (The Act)

One of the purposes of local government is 'to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.' Arts venues and performances have a role in contributing to each of these four wellbeings.

The Act places importance on the assessment of demand and needs as it requires that services are appropriate to present and anticipated future circumstances. The Act requires local government to consider during decision making the diversity of communities and the interests of communities within its district, for both current and future communities.

### NCC Long Term Plan

NCC's Long Term Plan 2021-31 identifies the following relevant community outcomes:

- Our communities have opportunities to celebrate and explore their heritage, identity and creativity
- Our communities have access to a range of social, educational and recreational facilities
- Our region is supported by an innovative and sustainable economy
- Our Council provides leadership and fosters partnerships, a regional perspective, and community engagement

The NCC Arts, Heritage and Events Activity Management Plan/Mahere ā-Hapori 2021-31 identified the need for Council to consider options for development of a community arts centre based on investigation of community needs.

### Arts, Heritage and Events Activity Management Plan 2021

The Arts, Heritage and Events Activity Management Plan (AMP) summarises the Council's long-term approach to the provision of arts, heritage and events activities. One of the two new issues identified was:

- Consider options for development of a Community Arts Centre based on investigation of community needs.

The AMP identifies that there are many stakeholders who offer opportunities to work in partnership to achieve arts outcomes for the community.

### Arts Strategy (under review)

NCC adopted the Regional Arts Strategy "the Art of being at the centre" in 2009. One of its five key focus areas was "community participation", and its principles include:

- Arts are about, by and for everybody
- Investing in the arts is an investment in the region's cultural, economic, educational, environmental and social wellbeing and growth
- The arts are essential to the region's economy.



NCC is currently reviewing this strategy (May 2022) and this report should be considered in light of the direction that the revised strategy sets.

### **Founders Heritage Park Strategic Plan (adopted 29 October 2020)<sup>3</sup>**

The vision of the Founders Heritage Park Strategic Plan is:

‘Founders Heritage Park is a highly valued, vibrant heritage attraction which celebrates the Nelson Whakatū community, past and present.’

Four venues are identified: The Granary, Energy Centre, Jaycee Room and Church. These are available as dry hire, with limited support for venue hirers. The Energy Centre and Church have only basic facilities.

Two objectives are identified:

- Improve the standard of the venue, maintaining flexible and memorable spaces; and
- Improve the use of the venues.

Within the 10-year work programme, upgrades are identified to improve each of the venues, and associated service delivery to venue hirers.

### **Te Ara ō Whakatū – Nelson City Centre Spatial Plan**

Te Ara ō Whakatū provides the pathway to transform Nelson into a people-focused place, full of green spaces, where more people live, and visitors want to linger longer. One of the values that helped shape the plan is a ‘Stronger role for Nelson arts community in shaping our identity and places.’ This theme is carried through the plan, particularly in the actions ‘Seeing Ourselves’ – which is about ensuring local stories, culture, artists and people are the inspired source of design, place names and artistic expression in Nelson’s city centre, and in ‘Streets for people’ which identifies Hardy Street as ‘Arts and Eats.’

The plan highlights opportunities to engage with Te Ao Māori and other local artists to develop design and expression outcomes.

Whilst it does not identify specific locations for any new venues, its guiding principles should be used to assess any new venue location.

## 3 Current Arts Facilities and Venues

### 3.1 Theatre Royal

The Theatre Royal is one of the oldest wooden theatres in New Zealand. It was extensively renovated in the 2000s and, prior to COVID-19, it was also one of the busiest proscenium arch style theatres in the country. It seats up to 333 people over two levels, and is used for a range of art forms, including:

- Theatre and drama
- Musicals
- Contemporary amplified music concerts and shows
- Dance and ballet
- Comedy/stand-up.

The Theatre Royal provides a comprehensive range of support, including technical, front of house, marketing and ticketing.

Feedback from interviews:

- Technical, ticketing, marketing support is excellent
- Staff are very supportive
- It is busy and date availability can be issue
- Cost is an issue for smaller performances
- Can be challenging to get rehearsal time
- Works for amplified music, not so good for acoustic.

### 3.2 The Suter Art Gallery/Te Aratoi o Whakatū

The Suter Art Gallery/Te Aratoi o Whakatū underwent a major redevelopment in 2015-16. It now provides three curated gallery spaces, The McKee Gallery, used by the Nelson Suter Art Society for exhibitions, and an education room. The latter is used for a variety of purposes including to deliver arts classes.

Exhibitions focus on:

- Visual arts – painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics
- Works from working artist members of the Nelson Suter Art Society, including painting, sculpture, woodwork, weaving, printmaking, glass art and ceramics.

Feedback from interviews:

- Very good gallery space
- High quality of exhibitions
- Regionally significant
- Accessibility can be an issue – some people feel unwelcome.

### 3.3 The Suter Art Gallery/Te Aratoi o Whakatū (Pastorius Waller Theatre)

The Suter Theatre has tiered seating for 150 plus two accessible spaces. A new digital projector provides outstanding picture clarity and the venue provides unrestricted views to audiences for live performances or for lectures and meetings. The theatre regularly functions as a cinema with films screened by Nelson Film Society and State Cinemas. The Suter Foyer and box office can be used to support events, and ticketing can be provided through State Cinemas. Activities include:

- Films and film festivals
- Improv/comedy
- Small-cast theatre
- Music performance
- Dance and ballet.

Feedback from interviews:

- Great audience experience – intimate and good sight lines
- Works well for smaller performances
- Film screenings are popular and venue works well for those
- Basic lighting rig and sound system is easy to use
- Perceived conflict between theatre use and gallery space
- Backstage areas are very basic
- Better ticketing, marketing and technical support, bar facilities needed to support performances
- Seen as expensive, particularly if need to hire in additional sound/lighting
- Date availability can be an issue, particularly as regular film screenings are booked well in advance.

### 3.4 Nelson Centre of Musical Arts (NCMA)

Situated in the heart of Nelson, the NCMA offers a range of opportunities to learn an instrument and to rehearse and perform as an individual or as part of a group. It also provides two performance venues – the main auditorium (capacity – 298 seated) and the smaller recital theatre in the Rainey Wing (capacity – 100 seated).

The main auditorium is suited to non-amplified music. Both venues are supported by green rooms and use of the foyer space as a bar. Performances include:

- Orchestral pieces
- Choral works
- Jazz/blues
- Contemporary music
- Dance
- Workshops and masterclasses.

Feedback from interviews:

- Excellent acoustics for non-amplified productions

- Range of spaces available to support performances and practice
- Foyer/bar space works well and supports performance spaces
- Technical support from Theatre Royal staff available
- Acoustics not suited to amplified music
- Cost can be an issue for smaller groups
- Lighting improvements needed
- Has been seen as exclusive but that is changing with more contemporary music.

### 3.5 The Refinery ArtSpace on Hardy Street

The Refinery Artspace includes a small multifunctional exhibition and performance spaces. Situated in the city centre, it benefits from foot traffic bringing people in to view exhibitions. It focuses on community-driven and/or contemporary exhibitions, projects and events, and issues a call for proposals to the community each year for use of the space.

There are three galleries and bookable workshop/rehearsal and meeting rooms. One of the galleries is suited to small performances, but may require performers to bring lighting and sound equipment in.

Exhibitions/performances include

- Visual arts exhibitions: painting, sculpture, woodwork
- Courageous conversations – community stories
- Textiles and weaving
- Student expos
- Comedy
- Drama
- Nelson Fringe.

Feedback from interviews:

- Provides regular access to exhibition space for local artists
- Central location is a plus
- Staff are excellent and supportive
- Limited as a performance space
- Generally affordable, costs can add up if need to bring external lighting/sound/stage
- Rehearsals need to be outside of office hours.

### 3.6 Fairfield House

Fairfield House is a unique heritage building that hosts a range of functions, events and performances, both inside and outside in the gardens. Run by the Friends of Fairfield, it offers reasonably priced access to its performance spaces, and seats an audience of up to 70 people in the ballroom. Has basic sound equipment on site but generally performers bring their own sound and lighting if required.

Events/performances include:

- Music – all styles including folk, jazz, blues, classical, world

- Drama
- Comedy
- Poetry
- Dance classes
- Art classes.

Feedback from interviews:

- Easy to use, basic space
- Affordable
- Ability to use outside space is a bonus
- Available for rehearsals
- Good multi-use facility
- Lighting/sound system very basic
- Bar can be provided – requires special licence
- Parking can be limited.

### 3.7 The Boathouse

The Boathouse is run by the Boathouse Society on behalf of its members. The Boathouse has regular live music shows and provides dining and bar facilities. It's also available for community use and private functions. It has its own PA system, but bands tend to bring their own. Bands take door sales, while the Society takes bar revenue.

Events/performances include:

- Music – range of contemporary styles
- Comedy
- Burlesque
- Buskers.

Feedback from interviews:

- Easy to use
- Friendly and helpful staff
- Eclectic music offering
- Can feel flat if low audience numbers
- Availability limited by member use.

### 3.8 Founders – The Granary

Located within the Founders Heritage Park complex, the Granary has a full commercial kitchen and bar fixtures on site. It is a flexible space, used for performances and as a private function room.

Events/performances include:

- Music – range of styles, including folk, classical
- Readers and writers
- Poetry

- Drama.

Feedback from interviews:

- Blank canvas – works well for music, not so well for drama performance
- Founders Heritage Park is a unique location
- Cost of dressing, sound, lighting can be high
- Can be conflict with other uses/users of park.

### 3.9 Founders – The Jaycee Room

Located in the Founders Heritage Park, The Jaycee Room is a smaller venue with a built-in wooden dance floor and its own kitchen. Used primarily by community groups.

No feedback from interviews.

### 3.10 Founders – The Energy Centre

Located in the Founders Heritage Park, the Energy Centre is the largest bookable venue in the complex, seating up to 500 people theatre style. Hired out as a 'dry-hire' venue, it requires lighting/sound/staging to be brought in. There are plans to improve this facility.

Events/performances include:

- Music – range of styles, including contemporary, folk, jazz.

Feedback from interviews:

- Big capacity venue
- Costs of bringing infrastructure in are high
- Can be conflict with other uses/users of park
- Cold and hard to heat
- Needs big audience to make it work
- Hard to put theatre type performance due to lack of facilities
- Distance from city centre cafes/bars etc.

### 3.11 Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) Johnny Cash Room

The Johnny Cash Room is a versatile contemporary auditorium suited to performances. It is primarily used by NMIT students but is available for hire by anyone. The adjacent atrium can be used as a foyer and for drinks.

Events/performances include:

- Music – range of styles, including contemporary
- Arts/literature talks.

Feedback from interviews:

- Modern venue, works well for music performances
- Great facility for students to access

- Good acoustics
- Date availability can clash with NMIT course use
- Pack in/pack out can be challenging as room set up as teaching space
- Size is too small making it difficult to work commercially.

### 3.12 Annesbrook Church and Event Centre

A large, well equipped performance space located between Richmond and Nelson. Ticketing and bar facilities available, can be set up in variety of ways from large auditorium to smaller, 200-seat venue. Has kitchen and five break-out rooms, including a large foyer to support the performance space.

Events/performances include:

- Music – range of styles, including contemporary, brass band, Christian
- Film festivals
- Comedy
- Dance
- Drama.

Feedback from interviews:

- Modern venue, with smaller rooms available
- Good technology, lighting, large screen – need to use Annesbrook technicians
- Good large performance venue, under-used
- Lots of parking, good access
- Bookings need to be made around church use of the facility, i.e. no Saturday nights.

### 3.13 Greenmeadows Community Centre

A purpose-built community centre with a range of bookable spaces, located in Stoke. Kitchen and bar facilities available and there is a café within the complex.

Events/exhibitions/performances include:

- Drama
- Floral art
- Arts classes
- Songwriting workshop
- Comedy.

Feedback from interviews:

- Modern venue, with a range of rooms available
- Suited for community programmes rather than commercial
- Opportunity to display art in community setting inside and outside
- Community rates available for use
- Needs lighting/sound to be bought in, adding to costs.

### 3.14 Broadgreen Centre Le Cren Meeting Room

A community-run meeting room (up to 50 pax) with attached kitchen set next to the historic Broadgreen House and gardens.

Events include:

- Craft and hobby groups
- Embroidery and textiles
- Workshops and classes.

### 3.15 Nelson Musical Theatre (Red Door Theatre)

A community-run theatre situated next to Founders Heritage Park. The Theatre is run by the Nelson Musical Theatre, a volunteer organisation, which puts on its own musical productions in its theatre. The Red Door Theatre can be booked by other groups, and can accommodate an audience of 70-90. Small bar available in foyer, and has a range of back stage spaces.

Events include:

- Musicals
- Drama
- Nelson Fringe
- Comedy
- Dance
- Music – various styles, including folk, blues
- Buskers
- Arts workshops.

Feedback from interviews:

- Good space, small stage
- Ideal for amateur dramatics
- Volunteer run, so responsiveness can be an issue
- Foyer/bar space is small
- Would benefit from upgrade/investment.

### 3.16 Studio One

Studio one is a multi-use studio and performance space, run by an incorporated society, and can accommodate audiences of up to 50 people as a small black box theatre. Located just off from the city centre, it is a quirky, boutique venue. Its location allows it to support the nearby Refinery ArtSpace on Hardy.

Events/performances include:

- Burlesque/cabaret
- Fringe performances
- Comedy
- Theatre



- Dance
- Performance arts classes and workshops
- Rehearsal space.

Feedback from interviews:

- Affordable venue, close to city centre
- Works well for small, intimate shows
- Limited backstage facilities.

### 3.17 Christ Church Cathedral

Whilst Christ Church Cathedral is primarily a place of worship, it is also a venue for performances. It has excellent acoustics for choral and chamber music performance. Investigating increasing the performance space available to enable larger orchestral pieces to be performed. Has ability for high-definition live stream and recording, with audience space for up to 330 people.

Events/performances include:

- Classical music, including choral, Adam Chamber Music Festival
- Organ recitals
- Brass band
- Rehearsal.

Feedback from interviews:

- Good acoustics, setting suits certain music types
- Under-used venue, needs to promote itself as a venue more.

### 3.18 Other venues

There is a range of smaller spaces used by individual groups across Nelson, for example:

- Highland Pipe Band – shares Sun City Darts space
- Brass Band – band rooms adjacent to Hathaway Terrace
- Nelson Community Potters on Rutherford Street
- Community Artworks in Wakatū Lane
- Magenta, formerly in Old St Johns Hall.

As well as a range of professional artists who work from home or private studios.

## 4 Online Survey Results

The Online Survey was opened on 6 May 2022 and closed on 14 June 2022. See full results in attached appendix.

### 4.1 Demographics

Q1. Of the 97 respondents, around a third identified themselves as individual artists, one third as representing an arts group, with the remainder split between individual (non-artist), business or something else.

Q2. A mix of art forms is represented by the respondents. Two thirds identified with the performing arts, but there was good representation across all sectors. Multiple answers to this question were allowed.

## 4.2 Responses from Individual Artists

Q.4 Shows the range of disciplines covered by those answering as individual artists.

Q5. Shows that many of the respondents work from home/private residences. Interviews suggested that cost and lack of availability of space were contributing to this.

Q6. Whilst the numbers are low, the Theatre Royal, Old Refinery, NCMA, Annesbrook Church, the Cathedral and private galleries all met or exceeded expectations for users. Each of the other venues had not met expectations for at least one user.

Q7. Affordability is the key issue when thinking about using a space. The provision of services, e.g. marketing and technical equipment, e.g. lighting/sound also rated highly. Having a licensed bar attached was less important to performers (although it does contribute to the economic viability of the venue).

Q8. Artists identified a range of spaces across Nelson, including BATS (Wellington), ASB Blenheim and Queenstown Arts Centre. People appreciated supportive staff and management as well as the built facility.

## 4.3 Responses from Groups

Q10. A range of groups was represented in the survey.

Q13. Affordability was again the key criteria for groups using venues, with location in the city centre also being important to most. All of the criteria were deemed essential by at least one group. Having a bar attached was seen as the lowest need.

Other needs identified include: large stage, storage, disability access, kitchen, projection facilities, good acoustics and sightlines, outdoor space and one group identified exclusive use as being necessary.

Q14. Small numbers of groups had experience using the different venues, with many of the venues identified as meeting or exceeding expectations. Users of the Suter Theatre had the most mixed experiences of a venue.

Other venues used include:

- Nelson Library
- School halls
- The Nelson Provincial Museum.

## 4.4 Responses from Businesses

Q16-20. Six businesses completed the survey. With such a small sample size, it is difficult to draw conclusions from the data. However, the results are similar to those for individual artists and groups.

## 4.5 Responses from Individuals (Non-Artists)

Q21-22. Twelve individuals completed the survey as 'non-artists'. Key issues were:

- Strong support for Theatre Royal, Suter Art Gallery and Theatre, NCMA, Fairfield House, the Boathouse
- Subject matter, affordability and supporting local artists were key factors influencing decision to attend.

## 4.6 Other Responses from Individuals (Non-Artists)

Q23-24. Eight respondents completed the survey as 'other'. Their feedback was similar to the responses from non-artists. Accessibility for blind and low visibility people was highlighted as an issue that needs to be addressed by venues.

## 4.7 Feedback on Options

Of the three options presented:

- A large auditorium was supported by 60% of respondents
- A black box theatre was supported by almost 55% of respondents
- Studio spaces were supported by over 60% of respondents.

Other spaces identified include:

- A community hub
- Performing arts complex (i.e. multiple spaces)
- Places for contemporary art
- Filmmakers' hub
- Standing concert spaces
- Large dance venue
- Better use of existing spaces.

No one option was significantly more important than the others.

# 5 Assessment of Gaps and Needs

## 5.1 Large Performance/Conference Venue approx. 750 Seats

Council has been asked to provide the community with a large performance venue since the mid-1990s. There are several drivers:

- Nelson is missing out on touring shows that are too large for the Theatre Royal, but which need a venue that is fitted out as a performance venue as opposed to an arena venue
- A large auditorium would complement existing conference venues and could attract larger conferences
- A large auditorium could accommodate larger civic and other community functions
- As Nelson grows, there will be increased demands and opportunities for larger shows, both touring and 'Nelson-grown'

- Availability of a larger venue has a trickle-down effect in relieving capacity issues of smaller venues.

Ideal location – inner city fringe. As a destination in its own right, it would not be reliant on foot traffic, but should be within easy walking distance to the city centre. Given its size and associated traffic, consideration should be given to sites in the vicinity of where Hardy Street meets with Rutherford Street and Vanguard Street. This has the added benefit of proximity to the Theatre Royal. This could be a stand-alone venue or incorporate a black box theatre (see below) as does the ASB Theatre in Blenheim.

## 5.2 Black Box Theatre – 120-150 Seats

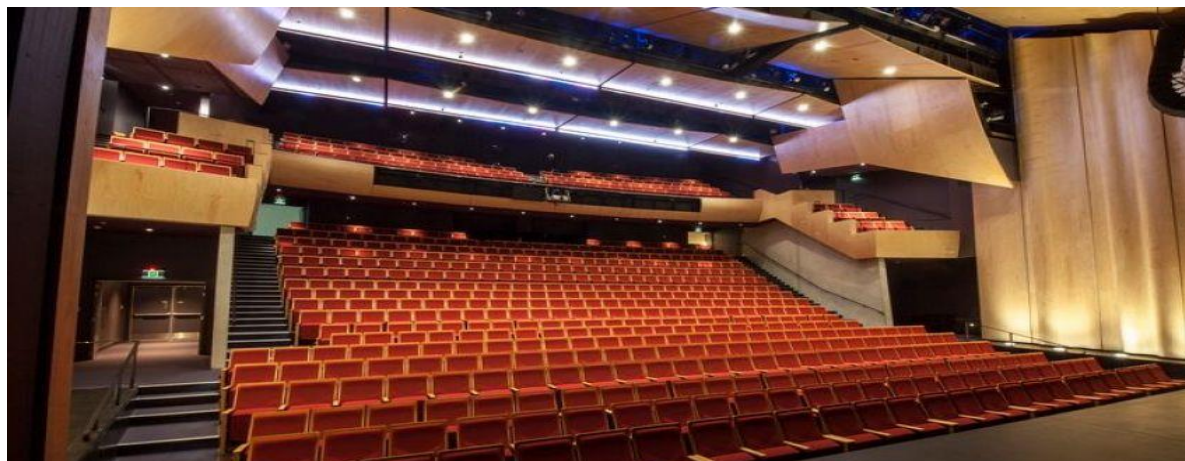
A black box theatre is a flexible performance space which puts emphasis on the performer-audience interface rather than having complex sets and technical effects. Its flexibility means it can be used for a variety of purposes: a classroom/workshop space, performance and stand up, for bands, and as an exhibition space. Seating is equally flexible, allowing for different layouts for different performances. Black box theatres are generally cheaper to use and to construct than single use venues. However, all users have to accept a degree of compromise that offsets its flexibility.

The drivers for a black box theatre are:

- A need for venues smaller than the Theatre Royal, but big enough to attract audiences that enable shows to break even
- The need for a space for youth bands to play and where young people can attend youth events in a safe and supportive environment.
- The need for affordable rehearsal space
- The need for flexibility that enables creativity in performance design, e.g. in the round
- Smaller venues are not economic to put shows on. Need 120+ to break even/make small profit.

Several interviewees suggested that the Suter Theatre is close to being a black box theatre. With some investment it could perform some of those functions. It is the right size and has associated infrastructure (foyer space, ticket office) but does not offer flexible seating or staging.

## Large Venue – McLauchlan Family Auditorium, Blenheim



The ASB Theatre Marlborough is a multi-use and purpose-built venue, situated overlooking Blenheim's Taylor River, adjacent to Blenheim's CBD. It is operated by the Marlborough Civic Theatre Trust.

### Venues

Four different venues are available for hire:

*The McLauchlan Family Auditorium* is a 700-seat lyric theatre (shown above) with excellent acoustics. Seating is split over two levels, with easy stage access available.

*The Anderson Theatre* is a black box studio theatre, seating up to 100 people theatre-style, designed specifically with adaptability and versatility in mind. The space lends itself to boutique theatre and concerts, breakout sessions, exhibitions, meetings and seminars on a smaller scale. It also can be used as a warm-up space for larger productions held in the main auditorium.

*The Whitehaven Wine Room* is a function break-out room, and can be used for meetings and seminars, catered events, such as cocktail functions and dinners, as well as trade exhibitions. It can also be used for small concerts. The inclusion of a fully removable wall provides further versatility as an extension to the main foyer.

*The Marlborough Electric Power Board Foyer* is available for use as either part of a larger conference event, or smaller stand-alone events such as long-term exhibitions, small award presentations, cocktail functions and smaller dinners and concerts.

### Funding

The Marlborough District Council eventually contributed grant funding of \$10 million of the \$25 million total cost (2016). It also purchased (and subsequently redeveloped) the Trust's old theatre for \$6 million. The remaining funding came from central government (\$2.5 million) and local fundraising (\$5.5 million).

MDC contributes \$380,000 per year as an operational grant.

## Black Box – The Loft, Q-Theatre Auckland



In 1998 Auckland City Council sought out a design brief for a new theatre, but determined that rather than owning or running the venue outright, that it should be industry-led and run. A group of key performing arts practitioners and supporters formed the New Theatre Initiative (NTi), helping to identify several potential sites in the city, including 305 Queen Street.

Q-Theatre has four venues onsite, a larger theatre, the lounge, the vault workshop space and The Loft – a 150 capacity black box studio space that hosts intimate and experimental shows. Q's business model relies on income from venue hire and associated costs, ticketing fees and revenue from the café/bar operation. Q also relies on the support of funders, sponsors, patrons, and donors. Q is partially funded by, but not operated by, Auckland Council.

Q-Theatre is run by a charitable trust and is built on land leased from Auckland Council, with a 35 year lease expiring 2046.

Performance types include: drama, dance, music, comedy.

### 5.3 Artists' Collective – Work and Studio Space

Many artists found it hard to get affordable studio space in Nelson, particularly at the start of one's career. The opportunity to co-create in a space with other artists would enable peer support and cross-art form exhibitions and productions. The Old Refinery on Halifax Street used to provide four working studio spaces, with support from commercial sponsorship.

The Beehive<sup>4</sup> was given as an example of an existing collective.

The key drivers of such a space are:

- Lack of affordable studio space in Nelson
- New artists have not built a reputation to secure residencies or gallery space
- Lack of opportunities in Nelson for individual creatives to work together
- A collective is a low-cost model, requiring minimal operational management and could act as an incubator for other programmes and activities
- Encourages artists to explore arts as a viable means to make a living and contribute to the local economy.

There is a strong sense that this does not need to be a new building, but that opportunities to repurpose existing buildings should be considered. There is no requirement for such a space to be in the city centre – suggestions have included empty Council buildings or industrial units.

### 5.4 Community Arts Hub

Many people spoken to identified the need for a community arts hub – a place that could act as a centre for community-driven arts activities.

A community arts hub may include art studios, or a black box theatre, but the main kaupapa is to provide access to the arts to anyone in the community. This is achieved by holding workshops and classes, practical demonstrations and hands-on activities for people to engage in creating their own art, regardless of their proficiency.

Community arts centres contribute to the social and cultural wellbeing of communities. They can also be an entry point for newcomers to a city's arts scene. Generally, community arts centres rely on significant grant funding in order to operate.

Some people thought that rather than ask the community to come to a central hub, it would be more useful to take arts programmes out to existing community spaces. Opportunities for arts programmes to be delivered from the Greenmeadows Centre or Victory Community Centre would attract more locals and provide opportunities for local community connectedness to be developed. There are many organisations in Nelson that could contribute to such a programme but there is a need for co-ordination and funding.

Council has previously received a report on a community arts centre proposal for the Refinery on Halifax Street. It identified some key themes for a community arts hub:

**A safe, inclusive, connected place** – The facility should welcome all in the community who share a desire to express themselves creatively.

**A flexible place** – The community arts centre should be able to cater for different users at different times of the day/week.

**A creative space** – It should be used primarily for creative activities rather than just be another bookable community space.

**A community space** – The community needs to be involved at every stage of the development of the centre and in its management.

Community Art Works (CAW) currently operates on a small scale as a community arts centre in its current premises. As well as providing activities for people during the day, it often hosts other groups on evenings and weekends, which has built a sense of community. It is possible that CAW could, in the right premises and with governance and management support, grow organically into a larger community centre.



## Community Artists Collective – Wanaka Arts Centre



The Wanaka Arts Centre has a mission to ensure that local artists and musicians have access to a central space to create. It supports community members in a variety of ways with events, arts groups and studios; there are several musicians and visual artists, as well as regular recitals with the students of the teachers too.

It provides 12 studios for artists, as well as a central workshop/teaching space. Each artist is asked to make a commitment to their professional creative practice, aiming to make art for its creative, cultural, intellectual or philosophical value, as much as, and sometimes in preference to, its commodity value. They are asked to participate in public events, including an annual open studio event, and occasional studio visits.

Art forms supported include: ceramics, fibre, mixed and electronic media, jewellery, music, painting, photography, poetry, printing, sculpture, theatre and writing.

The organisation is self-funding with studio fees covering the rental from the Council. Any surplus is used to provide scholarships to young artists.

## Community Arts Hub – Vincents Art Workshop



Vincents Art Workshop was established in 1985 and is one of the oldest operating creative spaces in New Zealand. Its kaupapa is to be an inclusive space where everyone is welcome to come and create. It is a community-based initiative providing access to arts and craft facilities, skilled tuition materials and equipment within a supportive environment.

Vincents provides weekly tutored art workshops, one-off workshops, general studio hours for casual attendance, art materials and opportunities for participation in a variety of art forms, free of charge. It provides community events and regular exhibitions of works created onsite.

The Ministry of Social Development, the largest source of funding, provides annual funding for a target of 80 artists with a disability although 210 artists are registered. Wellington City Council provides operational grant support.

Vincents is an incorporated society, governed by a committee. Six committee members are artist representatives who attend Vincents regularly, and six committee members are representatives from the community with other relevant experience.

## 5.5 Other Opportunities

Council could make a significant impact on arts venues without necessarily building a new venue. Opportunities include:

- Providing support to artists to help them find venues, and deal with the logistics and administrative aspects of putting on a show
- Providing an events and venues calendar which can be used by artists to identify and avoid conflicts
- Facilitating the repurposing existing buildings to provide arts spaces
- Enabling existing arts venues to upgrade to align with artist requirements
- Building a programme of taking art into our communities using local schools, halls etc as venues.

There was a range of other issues raised that do not relate directly to venues. These have been passed to the Nelson Arts Strategy Review Team.

## 6 Concluding Comments

Discussions with key stakeholders and artists identified three key gaps, which were tested through an online survey. A fourth gap, that of a community arts hub, is identified more by community groups than by artists.

The loss of the Artery (then Hub/New Hub) is still felt by the arts community. The biggest loss appears to be in the loss of a youth music/youth events venue. It also was a place where different creatives could come together.

There is support for all four of the options identified:

- Large performance/conference venue approx. 750 seats
- Black box theatre – 120-150 seats
- Artists' collective – work and studio space
- Community arts centre.

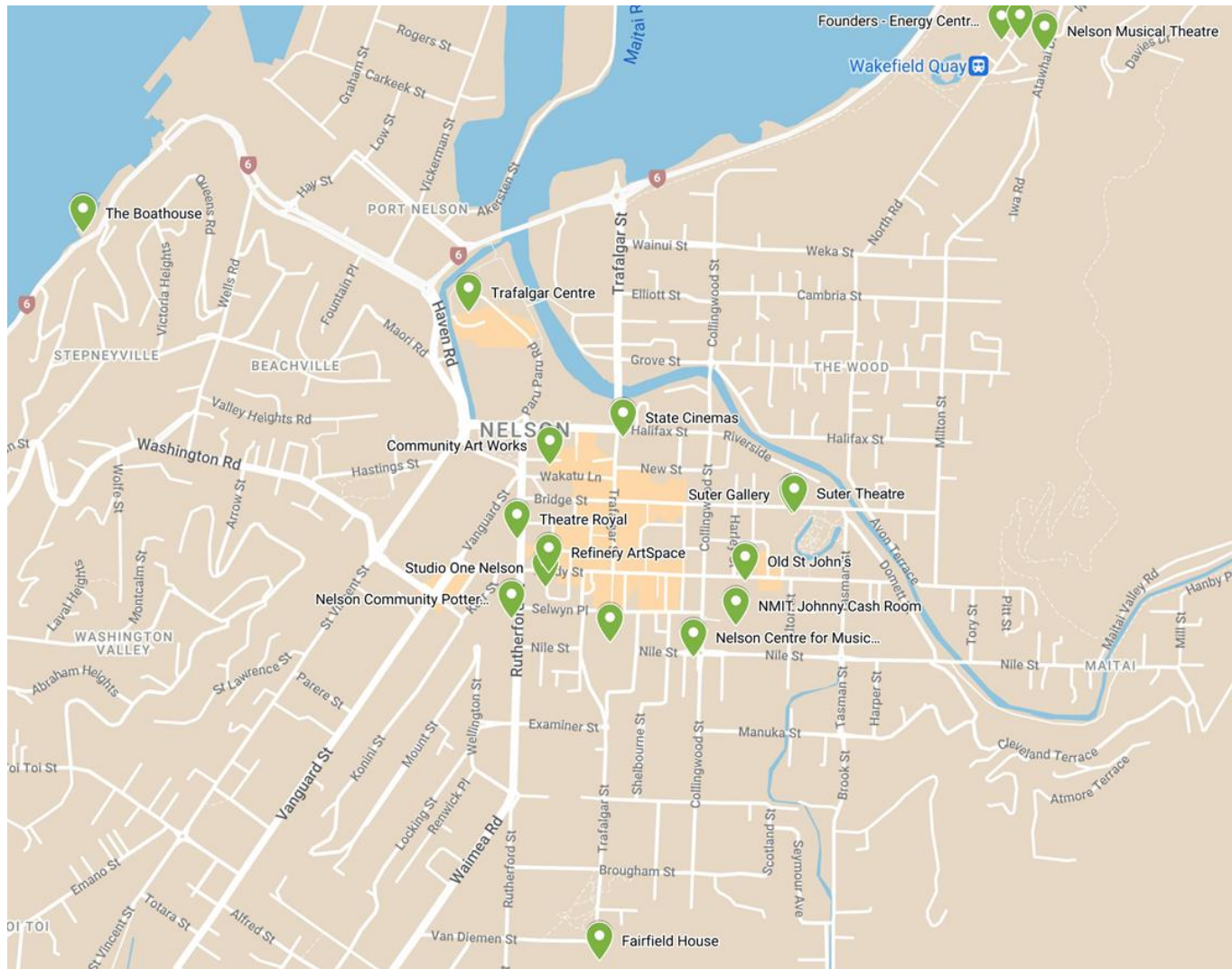
There is potential cross-over between these ideas, with some existing provision of all but the large auditorium space.

- The Suter Theatre could function as a black box theatre but requires investment and the provision of more support to artists
  - Improved backstage facilities
  - Improved technical facilities
  - A theatre manager role that supports and promotes theatre use
  - Consideration of how foyer/theatre interface works.
- A co-lab space could be created within an existing building – and does not necessarily need to be situated within the city centre
  - The space could be targeted at new/emerging artists
  - Some commitment to public exhibitions/workshops could deliver additional community outcomes
  - Affordability is key.

- Community arts programmes could be run from existing community centres
  - There are many community arts organisations across Nelson, and it would be difficult to provide space for each of these
  - Having some co-ordination (as recently shown by NCMA/NCC) to take arts to the community would engage people where they feel comfortable, and possibly reach communities (e.g. refugee and migrant) that a central community arts centre would not
  - Existing community centres and halls have capacity and have been shown to be able to host community arts events and classes.

Other feedback received sits outside the scope of this study, but has been passed on to the team developing the Nelson Arts Strategy.

Figure 1: Map of Arts Venues, Nelson



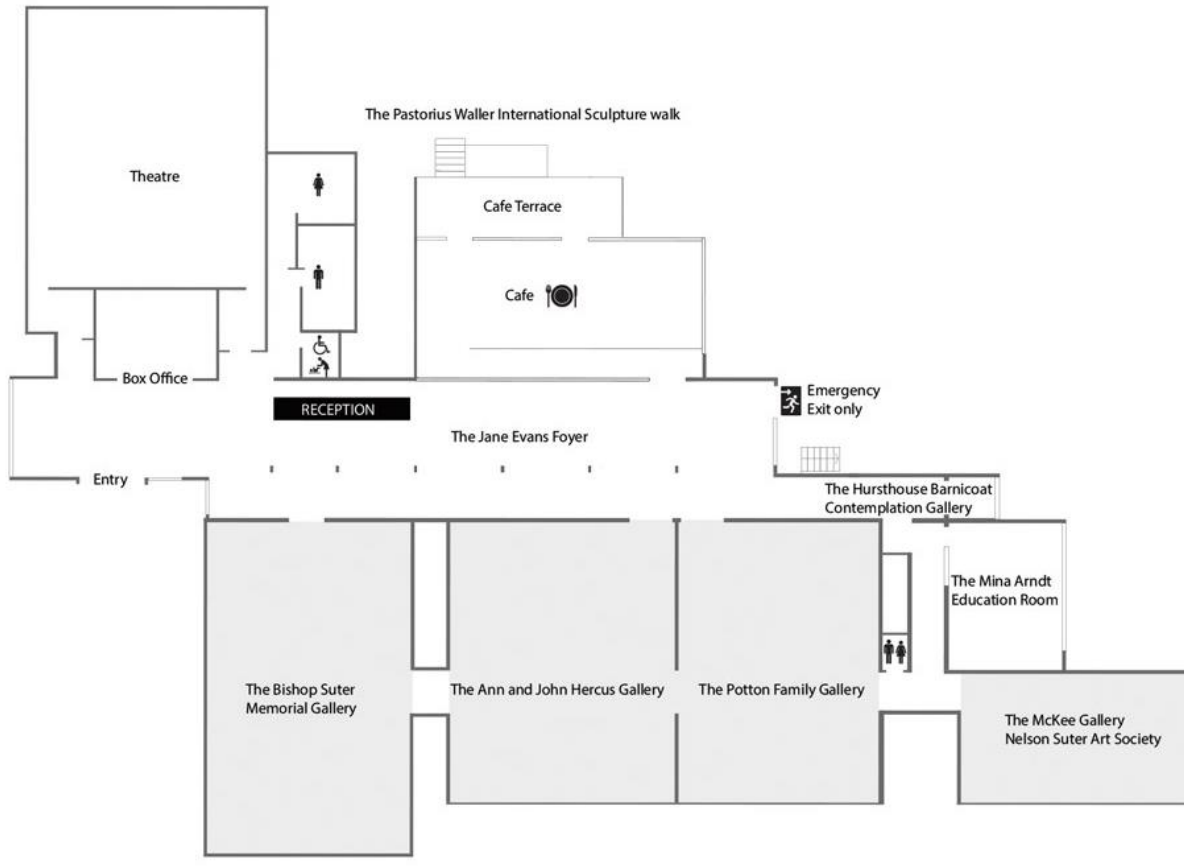
Not shown, off map: Greenmeadows Centre, Broadgreen Centre, Annesbrook Church

# Appendix A – Community Arts Venues in Nelson


## A1 Theatre Royal

<b>Venue location:</b> 78 Rutherford Street, Nelson <a href="http://www.theatreroyalnelson.co.nz">www.theatreroyalnelson.co.nz</a>
<b>Description of venue:</b> Restored A-listed theatre
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>
<b>Capacity:</b> 333 seats over two levels, all with unobstructed views
<p><b>Hire costs</b></p> <p><b>Professional:</b> \$1,480 or 10% of net box office</p> <p><b>Community:</b> \$1,165</p>
<p><b>Technical equipment/support available</b></p> <p><b>Equipment:</b> Sound system; multiple power outlets; rigging and hanging positions; lighting system</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Venue technician; performance fire warden; lighting/sound/fly operator</p>
<b>Ticketing arrangements:</b> In person and telephone booking service operates weekdays, plus an online booking service
<b>Bar facilities:</b> Licensed bar
<b>Backstage facilities:</b> Dressing rooms; rehearsal room; toilets; shower
<b>Other services/facilities:</b> Marketing; front of house; orchestra pit
<p><b>Example performance types:</b> The Theatre is multi-purpose and capable of configuration for a variety of production styles, including traditional stage plays, music, dance, circus, cabaret and community events</p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Touring shows, Nelson Youth Theatre Company, Nelson Repertory Theatre, Gillian Francis Nelson Academy of Dance, ZENDA Middle Eastern Dancers</p> <p><b>Example shows:</b> Smokefree Rockquest; Drag Up Your Life – Nelson!; Gin Wigmore; Troy Kingi with Delaney Davidson – Black Sea Golden Ladder; Friends – The Musical Parody; Tom Sainsbury – Snapchat Dude Live; The World of Musicals; A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland</p>

## A2 The Suter Art Gallery/Te Aratoi o Whakatū

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 208 Bridge Street, Nelson <a href="http://www.thesuter.org.nz">www.thesuter.org.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Public art gallery; Nelson City Council governance, managed by the Bishop Suter Trust</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>  <p>The floor plan shows the layout of the gallery. At the top left is the Theatre. To its right is the Box Office. Further right is the Reception area. Above the Reception is the Cafe Terrace and Cafe. To the right of the Cafe is the Emergency Exit only. Below the Reception is the Entry. To the right of the Entry is The Jane Evans Foyer. Further right is The Hursthouse Barnicoat Contemplation Gallery. Below the Reception and Entry are several galleries: The Bishop Suter Memorial Gallery, The Ann and John Hercus Gallery, The Potton Family Gallery, and The McKee Gallery Nelson Suter Art Society. To the right of The McKee Gallery is The Mina Arndt Education Room. At the top center is The Pastorius Waller International Sculpture walk. There are also restrooms and a wheelchair icon indicating accessibility.</p>
<p><b>Example performance types</b></p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Nelson Suter Arts Society (McKee Gallery)</p> <p><b>Example shows:</b> Marti Friedlander: Portraits of the Artists; Rare and Unrivalled Beauty: Landscape Paintings from the Kelliher Art Trust Collection; Fire and Earth: Contemporary Ceramics from the Top of the South; Jan Thomson: Woolsheds to Wilderness; Jane Duncan: Shades of Feminine; Georgia Elliston and Andrew Robertson: 2020 NMIT Grads</p> <p><b>The Mina Arndt Education Room:</b> The Suter runs Ministry of Education-funded school programmes for children plus art classes for adults.</p>

### A3 The Suter Art Gallery/Te Aratoi o Whakatū (Pastorius Waller Theatre)

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 208 Bridge Street, Nelson <a href="http://www.thesuter.org.nz">www.thesuter.org.nz</a></p>	
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Cinema theatre in public art gallery; Nelson City Council governance, managed by the Bishop Suter Trust</p>	
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers:</b></p>	
	<p>Tiered seating for 150 plus two wheelchair accessible spaces. Suitable for live performances, lectures, meetings, film screenings.</p> <p>Photo source: <a href="http://www.thesuter.org.nz/theatre">www.thesuter.org.nz/theatre</a></p>
<p><b>Technical equipment/support available</b></p> <p><b>Equipment:</b> Cinema screen; movie and video projection; sound system; stage; air conditioned/heated auditorium; stage lighting and rig; box office; lectern, tables and chairs; data projector</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Ushers/front of house</p>	
<p><b>Ticketing arrangements:</b> Ticketing through State Cinemas</p>	
<p><b>Bar facilities:</b> Foyer refreshment area</p>	
<p><b>Backstage facilities:</b> In need of improvement – not upgraded as part of main refurbishment.</p>	
<p><b>Example performance types:</b> Suitable for live performances, lectures, meetings, film screenings</p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Nelson Film Society; private hires; summer film festivals; other film festivals – Italian, Swedish, Top of the South</p> <p><b>Example shows:</b> La Liste–Everything or Nothing; Napoleon: In the Name of Art; Art on Screen: Tutankhamun–The Last Exhibition</p>	

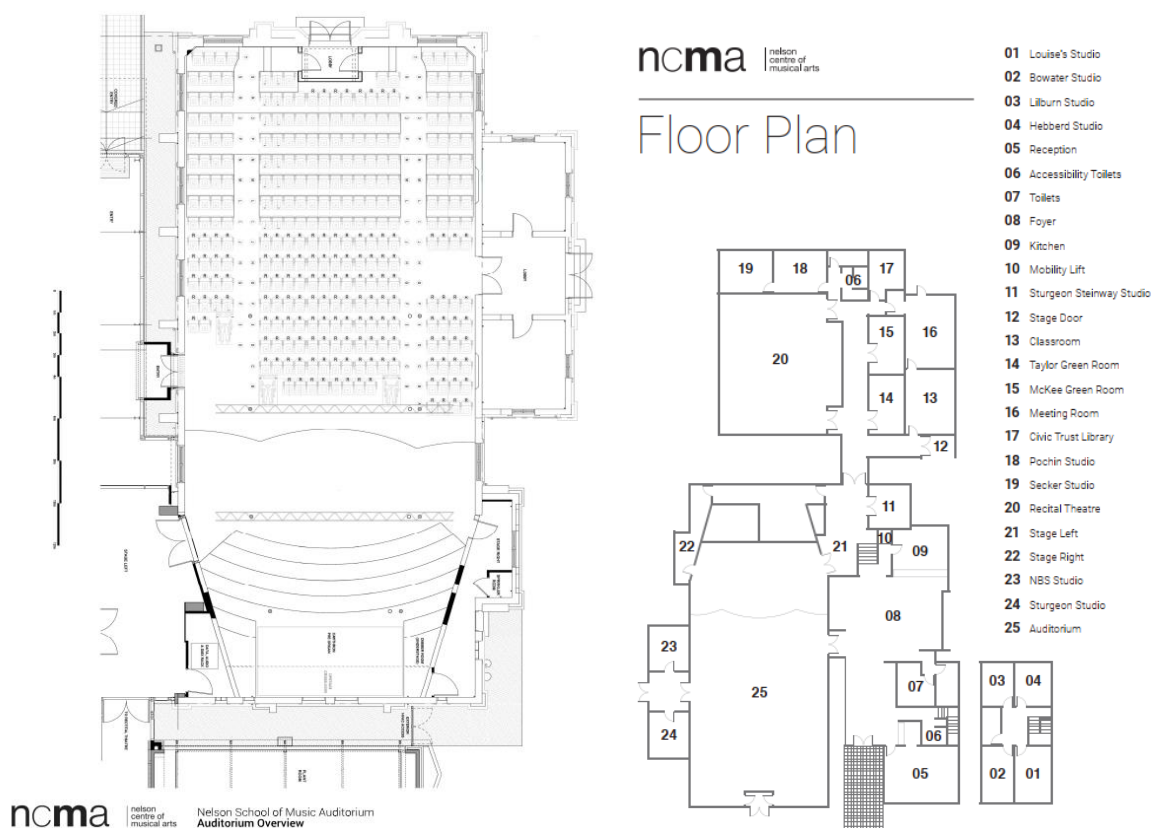


## A4 Nelson Centre of Musical Arts

**Venue location:** 48 Nile Street, Nelson [www.ncma.nz](http://www.ncma.nz)

**Description of venue:** Community-based performing arts and music education centre; non-profit, charitable organisation with support from Nelson City Council in the form of an annual grant as well as funding from a small number of key funding partners

### Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers



**Auditorium:** Acoustically renowned, historic concert hall, with stage, risers and pipe organ; seats 302 including three wheelchairs

**Recital theatre:** Modern flexible configuration with acoustics designed by Marshall Day; seats 130

**Foyer:** With bar/kitchen; accommodates up to 200 depending on configuration

**Entire facility:** Capacity 455 (per fire regulations)

### Green rooms and rehearsal studios

**Hire costs:** Eight-hour event hires include four hours of public event staffing (front of house manager/health and safety officer and venue technician)

**Commercial:** Entire facility \$1,650; auditorium \$1,250; recital theatre \$400; rehearsal \$150-\$850

**Community (30% discount):** Entire facility \$1,155; auditorium \$875; recital theatre \$280; rehearsal \$150-\$595

### Technical equipment/support available

**Equipment:** Auditorium house lighting and sound system is included with auditorium hire in the standard configuration; other AV and theatre equipment for hire through NCMA partners Venuetech; fully-mobile flexible staging solution (a set of eight 2mx1m decks and a set of mobile curtains)

**Support:** NCMA bar manager (compulsory if hirer sells or services alcohol)

**Bar facilities:** Bar and kitchen; bar leaners; cafe-style folding tables for seated service

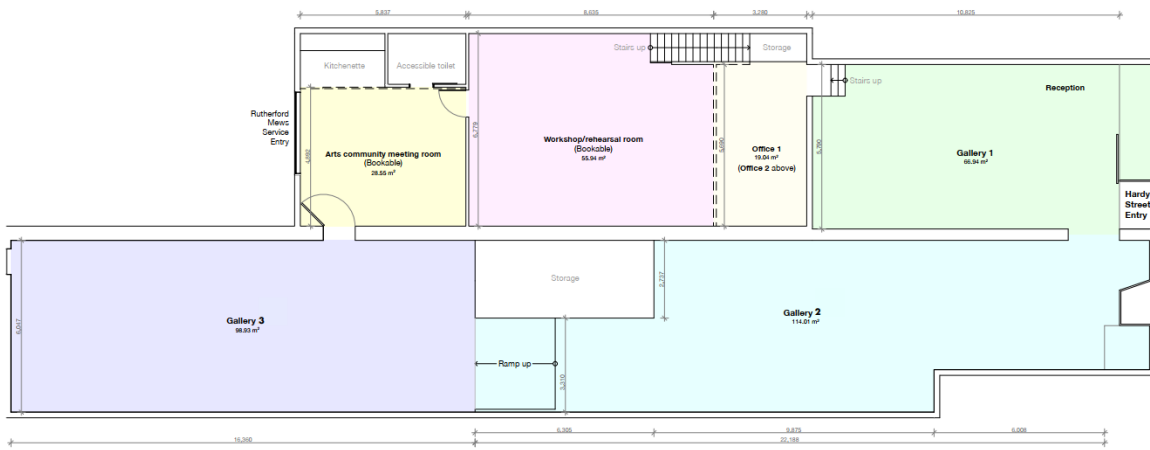
**Backstage facilities:** Two green rooms/dressing rooms; make-up bench and mirror with lighting; private toilet, shower and hand-basin; upright piano; couches

**Other services/facilities:** Toilets, wheelchair facilities, internet, blue lights, air-conditioning, fire safety, smoke/particle alarm


**Example users:** Greenhill Training Orchestra, Nelson Civic Choir, Nelson Jazz Club, Nelson Male Voice Choir, Nelson Symphony Orchestra, Viva Chamber Orchestra, ZENDA Middle Eastern Dancers; venue for several festivals and from time to time has artists in residence who help to deliver workshops and masterclasses, performances with local professional musicians, concerts and recitals

**Example shows:** Adam Chamber Music Festival

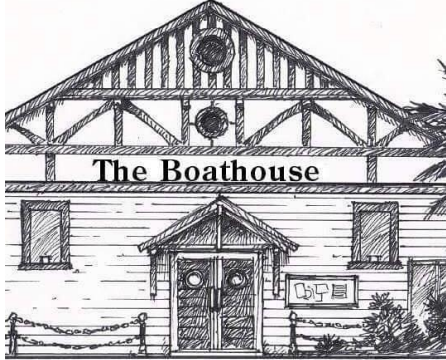

## A5 The Refinery ArtSpace

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 114 Hardy Street, Nelson <a href="http://www.acn.org.nz/the-refinery-artspace.html">www.acn.org.nz/the-refinery-artspace.html</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Multi-use gallery and small performance space</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>  <p><b>Gallery 1</b> floor 10.8mx5.7m, height 3.5m, suitable for solo and small group exhibitions, and smaller installations/multi-media work</p> <p><b>Gallery 2</b> floor 22mx6m, height 3.5-4m, suitable for groups, large format works/installations, multi-media work</p> <p><b>Gallery 3</b> floor 16.3mx6m, height 3m, suitable for solo and small group exhibitions, and smaller installations/multi-media work</p> <p>NB: There are two swing partition walls (that separate gallery 2 from 3) which can be used to open up the area to suit the need of the users and make one larger gallery space, or to divide the space in two</p>
<p><b>Hire costs</b></p> <p><b>Gallery 1</b> \$80/week</p> <p><b>Gallery 2</b> \$200/week</p> <p><b>Gallery 3</b> \$100/week</p>
<p><b>Example performance types:</b> Community-driven and/or contemporary exhibitions, projects and events</p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Arts Council Nelson; Art Group Nelson Inc.</p> <p><b>Example shows:</b> Changing Threads – Contemporary Textile Fibre Art Awards; Raw 22: Work Outside the Edge; Lotus Eaters Lullaby; Malsha Ariyawansa: A Glimpse of Ancient Art; Wāhine; Nelson Fringe Festival</p>

## A6 Fairfield House

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 48 Van Diemen Street, Nelson <a href="http://www.fairfieldnelson.org.nz">www.fairfieldnelson.org.nz</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Arts performance venue (live music and theatre); Department of Conservation gazetted building; seven acres of surrounding woodland as a Local Purpose Reserve; Friends of Old Fairfield Inc (charitable organisation) control and manage it; it now has National Heritage Classification 1</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>  <p>Photo source: <a href="http://www.fairfieldnelson.org.nz/venue-facilities/fairfield-sitemap/">www.fairfieldnelson.org.nz/venue-facilities/fairfield-sitemap/</a></p>
<p><b>Ballroom:</b> 12x6m seats 90 for lecture presentation; or audience of approximately 70</p>
<p><b>Gallery:</b> Seats 40 for presentation</p>
<p><b>The Sanctuary:</b> Includes meeting room (5.5x4.5m), Jester Room and Meditation Loft</p>
<p><b>Hire costs:</b> Venue hire cost is 30% of door take</p>
<p><b>Technical equipment/support available</b></p> <p><b>Equipment:</b> Chairs, staging blocks, limited amount of stage lighting; no PA system</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Fairfield House will manage front of house and assist artists in any way prior to performances; Fairfield undertakes marketing for performances</p>
<p><b>Bar facilities:</b> Fairfield runs a bar at concerts unless the artist prefers no alcohol</p>
<p><b>Other services/facilities:</b> Courtyard and gardens; kitchen and catering</p>
<p><b>Example performance types:</b> Theatre and music performances</p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Classes and training; weddings and conferences; parties and celebrations; funerals and memorials; meditation groups; mindful living and teachings</p> <p><b>Example shows:</b> Bazurka: Novi Grad All Stars; Hera: Life Lessons Tour with support from Emma Dilemma and the Moses; Rennie Pearson: Traditional Celtic Music; Manawa Ora offering Mirimiri and Romiromi; Jukejoint electric blues and old-school R&amp;R</p>

## A7 The Boathouse

<b>Venue location:</b> 326 Wakefield Quay, Nelson <a href="http://www.theboathousenelson.co.nz">www.theboathousenelson.co.nz</a>	
<b>Description of venue:</b> Café and live music venue	
<b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b>	
	
<p>Photo source: <a href="http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/107995182/nelsons-waterfront-venue-the-boathouse-open-once-again-after-storm-repairs">www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/107995182/nelsons-waterfront-venue-the-boathouse-open-once-again-after-storm-repairs</a></p>	
<b>Fridays:</b> Café opens at 5 pm for dinner, drinks and dancing with live music	
<b>Saturdays:</b> Functions, events and community groups	
<b>Hall:</b> 220 square metres; hall capacity – 130 seated meal; 160 theatre style; 180 cocktail function	
<b>Hire costs:</b> From \$500 to \$2,200 (Saturday all day); community rates available	
<b>Technical equipment/support available</b>	
<b>Equipment:</b> Hire includes lighting, heating, inhouse stereo, fixed kitchen equipment, deck furniture, gas barbecue, stage, indoor chairs and tables; PA system	
<b>Bar facilities:</b> Fully equipped licensed and staffed bar	
<b>Other services/facilities:</b> Commercial kitchen	
<b>Example performance types</b>	
<b>Example users:</b> Brazilian Social Club; The Alpaca Social Club; members have run of the building on Sundays	
<b>Example shows:</b> Wazzo Clash; Solomon Crook; Diablos Caravan; Steve Michell – “Hannah in the Wars” (W Elijah Burton)	

## A8 Founders – The Granary

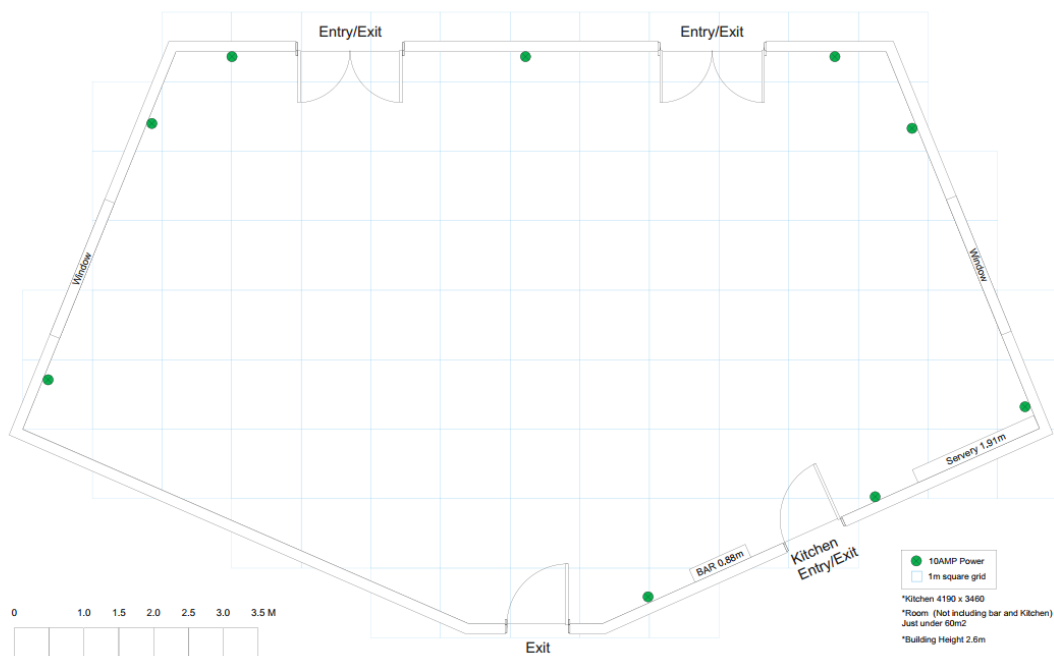
<p><b>Venue location:</b> 87 Atawhai Drive, Nelson <a href="http://www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-granary">www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-granary</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Hall suitable for conferences, dinners, functions, meetings, music, weddings</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p> <p>Capacity: Concert 290; theatre 290; dinner 150; classroom 60</p>
<p><b>Hire costs</b></p> <p>Community full day rate \$211          Private social full day rate \$320          Commercial full day rate \$600</p>
<p><b>Bar facilities:</b> Antique bar</p>
<p><b>Other services/facilities:</b> Chairs and tables; full commercial kitchen; access to Village Green</p>

## A9 Founders – The Jaycee Room

**Venue location:** 87 Atawhai Drive, Nelson [www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-jaycee-room](http://www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-jaycee-room)

**Description of venue:** An adaptable space for smaller events and functions or meetings

**Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers**



Capacity 70 cocktail/theatre style, fully carpeted with a built-in wooden dance floor and indoor-outdoor flow onto the patio area and Village Green; own kitchen. Floor area 60m<sup>2</sup>

### Hire costs

Community full day rate \$105  
 Private social full day rate \$160  
 Commercial full day rate \$250

### Technical equipment/support available

**Equipment:** Projector and screen, wifi, wooden dance floor

**Other services/facilities:** Chairs and tables; kitchen; on-site catering

### Example performance types

**Example users:** Rhythm for Relaxation with Padma

## A10 Founders – The Energy Centre


<p><b>Venue location:</b> 87 Atawhai Drive, Nelson <a href="http://www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-energy-centre">www.founderspark.co.nz/venues-for-hire/the-energy-centre</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> A hexagonal space which can accommodate larger events and functions, as well as meetings, seminars or workshops</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>
<p>Capacity: Concert 500; theatre 280; dinner 300</p>
<p><b>Hire costs</b>                  Community full day rate \$105                  Private social full day rate \$200                  Commercial full day rate \$500</p>
<p><b>Technical equipment/support available</b>  <b>Equipment:</b> Projector and screen, WIFI</p>
<p><b>Bar facilities:</b> Bar</p>
<p><b>Other services/facilities:</b> Chairs and tables; on-site catering</p>
<p><b>Example performance types</b>  <b>Example shows:</b> The Upbeats; Kids Climate Change Art Expo; Matariki Festival</p>



## A11 Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) Johnny Cash Room

<b>Venue: Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) Johnny Cash Room</b>	
<b>Description of venue:</b> Contemporary auditorium with stage	
<b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b>	
	
<p>Suitable for presentations, conferences or performances                  127 square metres                  Capacity up to 100 people                  Room is quiet and can be blacked out or open to daylight                  Photo source: Aline Lefevre, NMIT</p>	
<b>Hire costs:</b> Half day (up to four hours) \$158; full day \$265	
<b>Technical equipment/support available</b>	
<p>Data projector; lectern; a fixed PC, easy to use touch screen data panel which is linked to the basic audio, data projector/screen; small stage with musical equipment set up at the front of the room that needs to remain in place (the projection is higher than the gear and there are a few drop cloths that can be thrown over the drum kit at least to encourage the gear to disappear into the background); fixed lighting and sound desk toward the back of the room; speakers attached to the ceiling, coming out from the PC system</p>	
<b>Bar facilities:</b>	
<p>When alcohol is to be sold at an event in the atrium, a special licence is required from Nelson City Council as well as NMIT CEO approval; one of NMIT's Duty Managers will also have to be hired, an extra charge may apply then.</p> <p>If there is no charge for alcohol, no koha requested or alcohol is not included in the price of an admission ticket, then no special licence is required. In this case, NMIT expects the <i>Alcohol at Functions policy</i> to be followed to ensure a safe drinking environment by complying with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.</p>	
<b>Other services/facilities:</b> Chairs; toilets; classroom can be booked as a changing room depending on NMIT timetable	
<b>Example performance types</b>	
<b>Example users:</b> NMIT arts students	
<b>Example shows:</b> Talks, conferences, awards, seminars, small youth concerts	

## A13 Annesbrook Church and Event Centre

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 40 Saxton Road, Nelson <a href="http://www.nelsonvenues.co.nz/annesbrook-event-centre">www.nelsonvenues.co.nz/annesbrook-event-centre</a></p>
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Church and conference centre</p>
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>  <p>Photo source: <a href="http://www.nelsontasman.nz/meet/plan-your-event/3506-annesbrook-event-centre">www.nelsontasman.nz/meet/plan-your-event/3506-annesbrook-event-centre</a></p> <p><b>Auditorium with stage;</b> capacity 550 theatre style; 800 cocktails  <b>Foyer</b> 350 cocktails  <b>Hall 1</b> 120 theatre style  <b>Hall 2</b> 100 theatre style  <b>Classrooms 1 and 2</b> 80</p>
<p><b>Hire costs</b>          Auditorium half-day hire \$400; cleaning/venue re-set \$100; point person \$30/hour; set-up \$50; all costs +GST</p>
<p><b>Example performance types:</b>  <i>Example shows:</i> Smokefree Rockquest</p>

## A14 Greenmeadows Community Centre

**Venue location:** 491 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson [www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/venues-and-grounds/greenmeadows-centre](http://www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/venues-and-grounds/greenmeadows-centre)

**Description of venue:** Community centre

**Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers**



Photo source: [www.nelsontasman.nz/meet/plan-your-event/3495-putangitangi-greenmeadows-centre](http://www.nelsontasman.nz/meet/plan-your-event/3495-putangitangi-greenmeadows-centre)

Room	Room size	Standing	Seated	Banquet
Tūi	183m <sup>2</sup>	260	200	120
Kererū	104m <sup>2</sup>	150	60	60
Mātuhi	24m <sup>2</sup>	22	16	10
Korimako	18m <sup>2</sup>	8	14	10
Kārearea	95m <sup>2</sup>	130*	60	70
Kōtuku	52m <sup>2</sup>	50	40	40

**Hire costs:** Contact the venue

**Technical equipment/support available:** Included in the room hire price: wifi (all rooms except Korimako also have hardwired ethernet connection); tables and chairs; small staging; PA system; portable data projector; whiteboard

**Other services/facilities:** Two full commercial kitchens and serveries with cooking and dishwashing appliances. Greenmeadows Centre does not hold any kitchen equipment; hirers are able to bring in items to the centre; parking for cycles, cars, and five charging points for mobility scooters; crockery and cutlery and tea and coffee making facilities Included in room hire price

**Example performance types**

**Example users:** Stoke Tennis; Stoke Rugby; Stoke Seniors; RSA; Greenmeadows Café

## A15 Broadgreen Centre Le Cren Meeting Room

**Venue location:** Nayland Road, Stoke, Nelson

[www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/heritage/historic-places/broadgreen-historic-house/broadgreen-house-functions](http://www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/heritage/historic-places/broadgreen-historic-house/broadgreen-house-functions)

**Description of venue:** Meeting room with French doors opening on to the grounds

**Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers:** Capacity up to 50



Photo source:

<http://www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/heritage/historic-places/broadgreen-historic-house/broadgreen-house-functions/>

**Technical equipment/support available:** Whiteboard

**Other services/facilities:** Next door is a small, fully-equipped kitchen with a serving hatch opening into the meeting room; wheelchair accessible toilet.

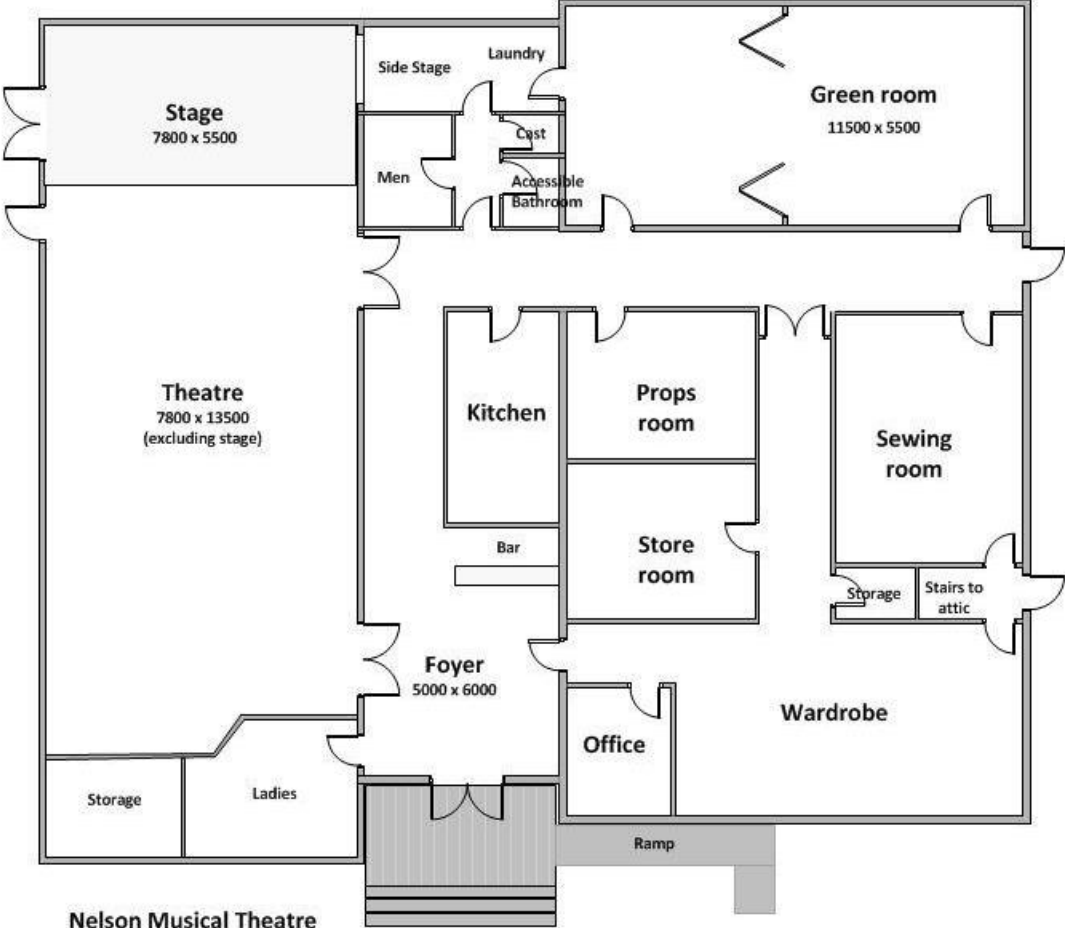
### **Example performance types**

Suitable for anniversary dinners, craft or hobby groups, birthday celebrations, small wedding functions (up to about 40 people). Loud music and late-night revels are not acceptable.

**Example users:** Nelson Embroiderers' Guild; Stitch Mates; Tasman Quilters; Textile Weaving Group

**Example activities:** Secret Lives of Dresses; Weave Your Own Washcloth Workshop; Mini Hoop Embroidery Workshop

## A16 Nelson Musical Theatre (Red Door Theatre)

<b>Venue location:</b> 95 Atawhai Drive, Nelson <a href="http://www.nmt.org.nz">www.nmt.org.nz</a>
<b>Description of venue:</b> Theatre
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers</b></p>  <p>The floor plan shows the following rooms and dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Stage:</b> 7800 x 5500</li> <li><b>Green room:</b> 11500 x 5500</li> <li><b>Theatre (excluding stage):</b> 7800 x 13500</li> <li><b>Foyer:</b> 5000 x 6000</li> <li><b>Other rooms:</b> Side Stage, Laundry, Cast, Men, Accessible Bathroom, Kitchen, Bar, Props room, Store room, Sewing room, Office, Wardrobe, Storage, Ladies, Ramp, Stairs to attic.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nelson Musical Theatre</b></p>
<b>Ticketing arrangements:</b> All tickets sold through iticket.co.nz
<b>Bar facilities:</b> In foyer
<b>Backstage facilities:</b> Green room, wardrobe
<b>Other services/facilities:</b> Kitchen; extensive wardrobe, with all costumes available to hire
<b>Example performance types:</b> Available not only for Nelson Musical Theatre performers, but also for hire to all other theatre, music, dance and performance groups of all ages in and beyond Nelson
<b>Example shows:</b> Victors, Victims and Villains; Blood Brothers; The Best of NMT

## A17 Studio One

**Venue location:** 1 Rutherford Mews, Nelson [www.facebook.com/studioonenelson](http://www.facebook.com/studioonenelson)

**Description of venue:** Multi-use studio located just off the main track in the Nelson CBD; managed by the Studio One Collective, an incorporated society of local performers and artists

**Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers**



Photo source: [www.facebook.com/studioonenelson/photos/a.2192875277654894/2192875804321508](http://www.facebook.com/studioonenelson/photos/a.2192875277654894/2192875804321508)


Studio One converts into a 50-seater black box theatre

**Example performance types**

**Example users:** Regular classes: burlesque, yoga, belly dance etc. Studio is for hire for workshops, dance/theatre classes, rehearsals and performances, photoshoots etc.

**Example shows:** Red Alert Cabaret (fundraiser)

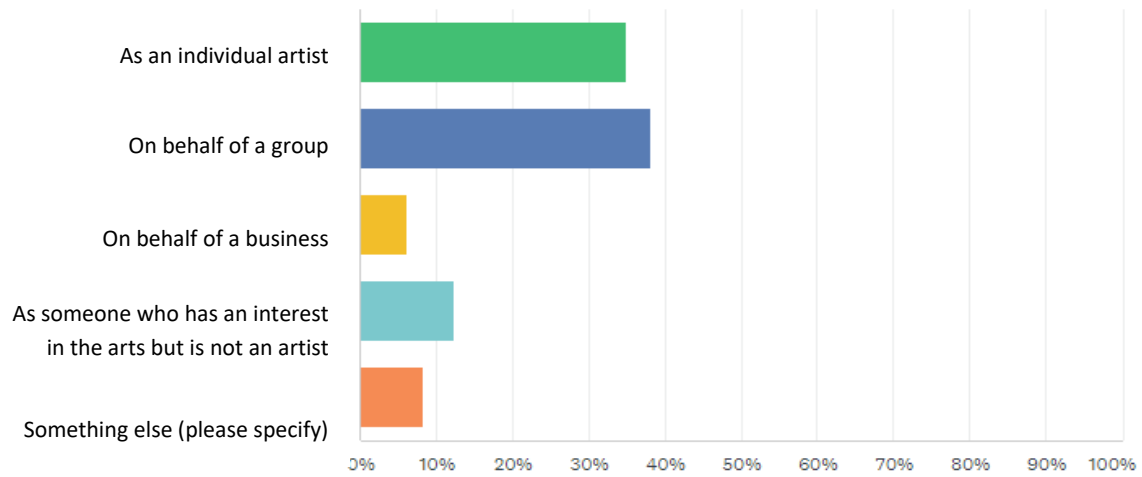
## A18 Christ Church Cathedral

<p><b>Venue location:</b> 1 Trafalgar Square, Nelson <a href="http://www.nelsoncathedral.nz">www.nelsoncathedral.nz</a></p>	
<p><b>Description of venue:</b> Anglican cathedral</p>	
<p><b>Description of performance space/exhibition space/audience numbers:</b></p>	
	<p>Whilst Christ Church Cathedral is first and foremost a place of worship, it is also a venue for performances. The Cathedral has a fantastic acoustic for choral and chamber music performance.</p>
<p>Photo source: <a href="http://www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-connect">www.nelsoncathedral.nz/copy-of-connect</a></p>	
<p><b>Hire costs</b></p> <p>Cathedral hire (includes a dress rehearsal) \$600 + GST          Regular rehearsals (two-three hours) \$75 + GST          Additional rehearsals (for concert) \$50 + GST</p>	
<p><b>Technical equipment/support available</b></p> <p><b>Equipment:</b> Grand piano; 2,500 pipe organ  <b>Support:</b> Site manager; video/sound technician</p>	
<p><b>Example performance types</b></p> <p><b>Example users:</b> Choral and chamber music performances  <b>Example shows:</b> Christmas lunchtime musical concerts with local performers</p>	

## Appendix B – SurveyMonkey Feedback

Q1 Are you completing this survey as an individual, on behalf of a group, on behalf of a business or something else?

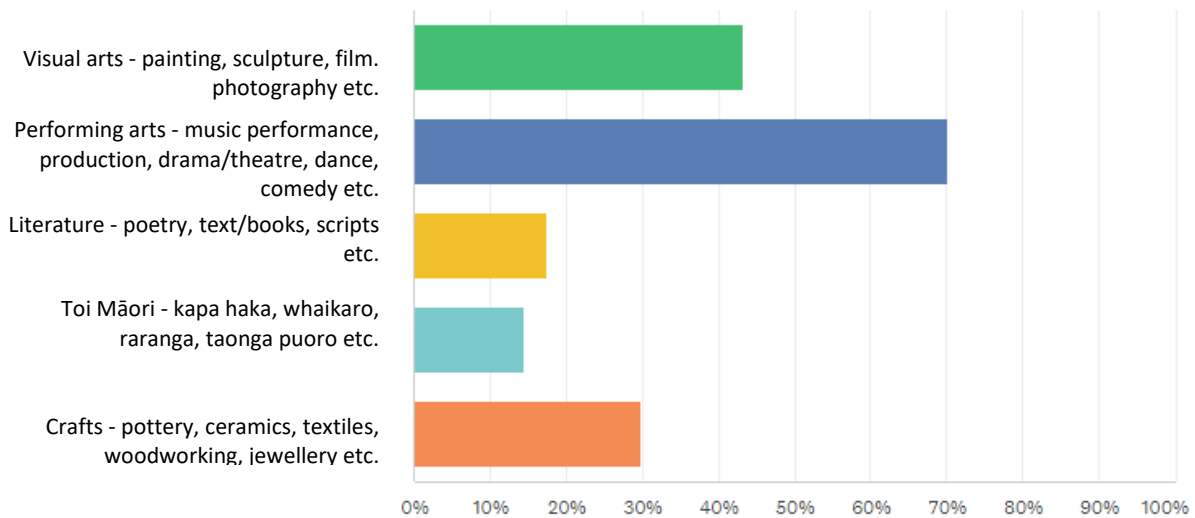
Answered: 97 Skipped: 0





### Q2 And which of the following art forms do you have an interest in?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 0



### Q3 If you would like to receive the results of this survey, please enter a contact email address. This will only be used for communications about this survey.

63 out of 97 responded to this question. Answers are withheld for privacy reasons.

The following questions relate to those identifying as an individual artist.

#### Q4 How would you describe the type of artist you are? e.g. a painter, singer, textile worker, dancer, carver etc.

25 people answered this question.

- Actor
- Actor/comedian
- Actor/director
- Actor, improviser
- Artist | jewellery + sculptor
- Ceramic artist
- Ceramist
- Dancer/choreographer
- Experience creator
- Filmmaker/playwright
- Interdisciplinary
- Inter-multidisciplinary, collaborations across art forms
- Maker
- Musician, composer, arranger, digital media, collaborator
- Musician, music educator
- Musician
- Musician
- Musician/composer
- Origami
- Painter
- Performer, singer, musician, actress
- Performing artist, producer, writer and director
- Textile designer and maker
- Writer-director of short film and theatre
- Writer, actor

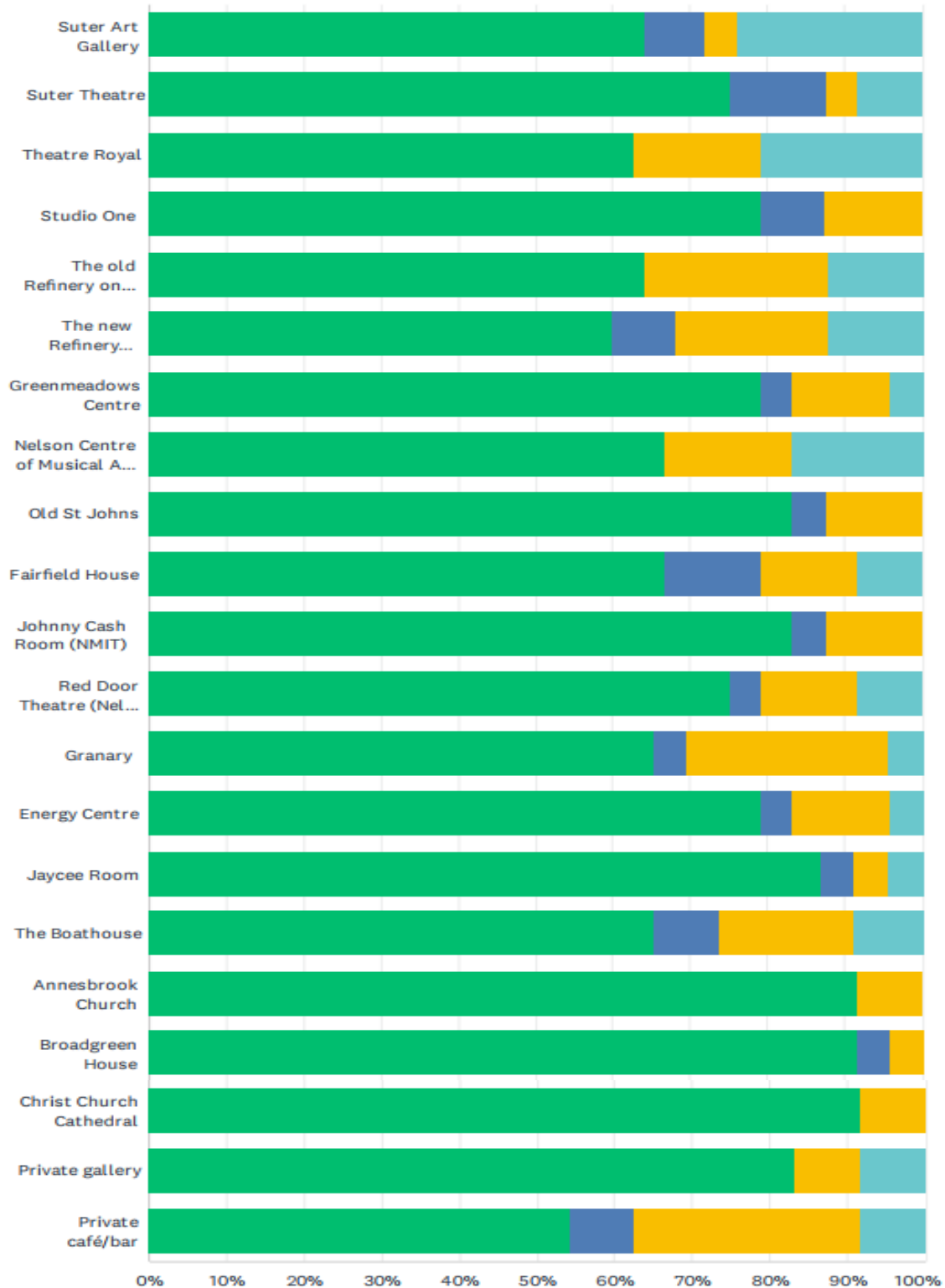
**Q5 Where do you create, practise or rehearse your art? This might be at home, in a studio, or you may be part of a group that owns or hires a facility etc. Please don't include performance or exhibition spaces in your answer.**

25 people answered this question.

- Finding rehearsal space that's affordable is a real challenge. I've used the following spaces, in order of least expensive to most: Elma Turner Library meeting room, Tāhuna Library meeting room, Fairfield House, Miki's Gym (dance studio), Victory Community Centre, Hearing Inc room, Greenmeadows, Club Italia, Trailways - meeting room
- Halls and dance studios locally to Whakatū and nationally
- Home and Nelson Community Potters
- Home
- Home
- Home
- Home
- Home (create). Film in different locations.
- Home (mine), at the home of other performers, occasionally at NMT's Red Door Theatre
- Home and Community Art Works
- Home and performance space hired by group
- Home or at the theatre
- Home or hire
- Home personal practice is typical, in a designated space. Rehearsals often happen at home but sometimes, if there is need for a larger space, bigger numbers, or specific instrument requirements, I will organise to rehearse offsite.
- Home studio
- Home studio
- Home studio but would prefer a shared space
- Home studio, bars, hire studios, public spaces outside
- Home studio, NMIT rehearsal rooms
- Home!
- Home, and in my head!
- Home, storage shed/workshop, Community Art Works, outdoors
- Home/my studio, via Zoom
- Private residences of cast members
- TSF (Top of the South Film Makers) group. Various locations for film shoots. Meetings just moved to Refinery

## Q6 What is your experience of performing/exhibiting in the following Nelson venues over the last five years?

25 people answered this question.

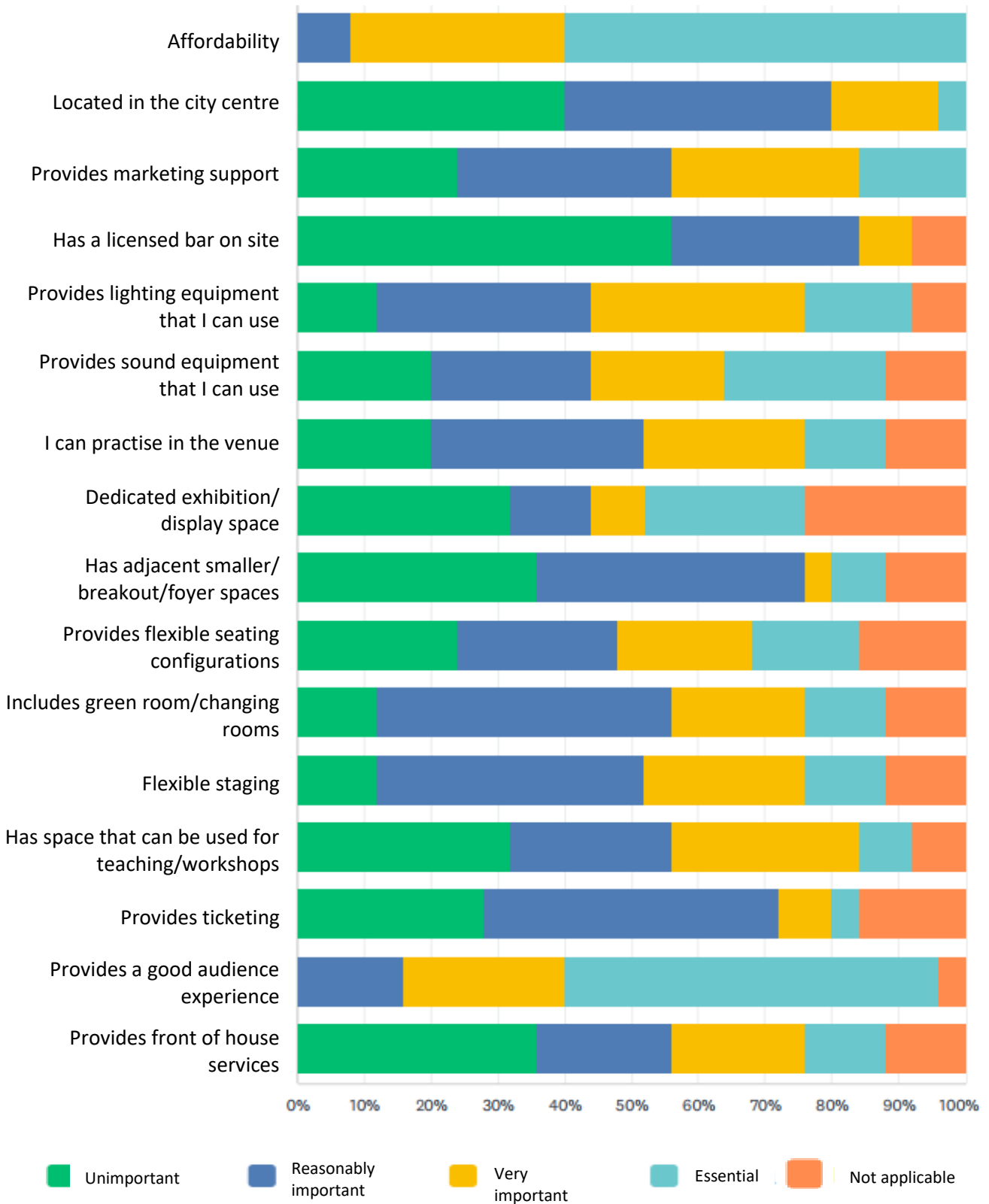


## Nelson City Community Arts Facilities - Gaps Analysis

 Haven't used     Below my requirements     Met my requirements     Exceeded my requirements

### Q7 When thinking about a performance or exhibition space, how important are the following criteria?

25 people answered this question.





**OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)**

- Availability of rigging structures in roof (e.g. beams or designated points) and decent height of space.
- flexible team to work with, relationship building, knowledge towards expert I might need or pointers to, open to change/risk, generally open to conversations - either about how the space is used, how to adapt the space, friendly, supporting atmosphere
- Provides sound personal, not just the rig. Provides a bouncer/door person.
- provides studio rooms for artists in residence, workshop rooms for teaching art and exhibition room



## Q8 Are there any good examples of arts venues from other parts of New Zealand that you are aware of? What makes them good?

12 people answered this question.

- Artist run initiatives are successful, vogelmorn (wellington) creating space within and for creative community, Dirt Gallery Dunedin etc. - leveraging spaces for use outside of or around common activities (masking space for artists without creating barriers to access or excessive administration logistics (meaning creative funding is sometimes diverted into managing infrastructure
- BATS in wellington - has varying spaces with flexible seating and audience capacities, offers great professional and fringe artist support through free/cheap use of space or hire for rehearsals, R&D and performances. Offers commissioning opportunities for artists to create/R&D and/or present.
- BATS theatre in Wellington. They have a variety of size performance spaces, and use them very efficiently i.e. usually 2-3 shows in each space per night by staging the first at 6pm, second at 7.30pm and last at 9pm - e.g. late night comedy), are incredibly inexpensive, provide marketing support and ticketing, advice and general support. Great little bar as well and fairly centrally located.
- Circa Wellington, Bats Wellington, TSB Blenheim, Court Christchurch.
- Dowse
- Dunedin and Wellington town halls (old original ones)
- Good curation
- I have been lucky enough to play at some great venues around Australia and in Christchurch. The best venues are the ones that want to get on board with you for the event as a stakeholder. They will work to provide any support that they can to ensure the performance/experience is the best it can be, and to ensure that the performers can focus of performing and not on FoH issues. The best in Chch were Blue Smoke, Fat Eddie's + others... these venues are true music venues. Other venues, such as pubs, host live music but artists need to be entirely self-sufficient with sound, lighting, promotion, door sales etc.
- Physics Room in Chch and Enjoy Gallery in Wellington - provide excellent space and opportunity for artists working in the contemporary art field who are emerging, experimental and non-commercial
- Private venues – often underestimated that people love art being showcased in their homes, gardens, galleries.
- Te Tuhi Gallery is very connected to its community, with a program that includes exhibitions, workshops and classes relevant to its community. Lively and engaging.
- The Queenstown Art Centre is in an old school building and provides studio rooms for artists in residence, workshop room for teaching and a gallery for exhibitions. It is open to the public and very welcoming.

## Q9 Contact details for your group

Answered: 26 Skipped: 68

27 out of 97 responded to this question. Answers are withheld for privacy reasons.

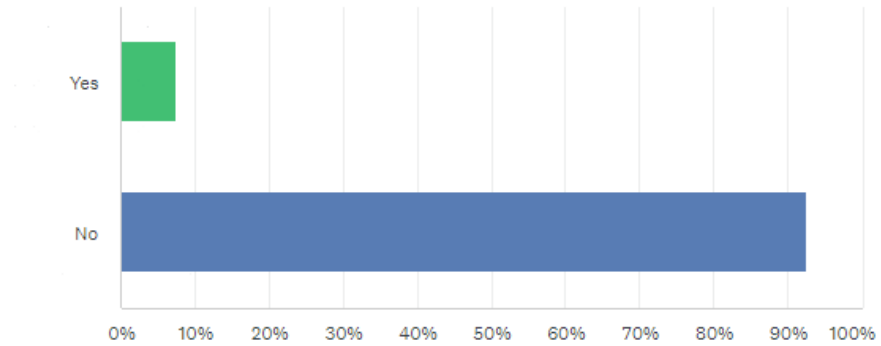
## Q10 Describe the main artforms that your group is involved with e.g. pottery, modern dance, improv, jazz etc.

27 respondents answered this question

- Adam Chamber Music Festival - A ten-day programme of chamber music concerts
- All arts led by migrant and former refugee community.
- Bagpipes and drums, performing, competing and tuition, and preserving our Scottish heritage.
- Contemporary jewellery
- Film production and exhibition: narrative and documentary
- Highland dancing competitions and exams
- Magenta is a visual arts drop-in space for people living with mental health. Our facilities cater for painting, drawing, clay, jewellery, mixed media
- Nelson Musical Theatre and performing arts
- Ngā toi Māori
- Painting, drawing, mixed media.
- Performance
- Performance arts, with a focus on dance.
- Performing arts, theatre, music, comedy, Shakespeare, improv
- Performing theatre, musicals, concerts, educating children and youth in theatre skills.
- Shakespearean theatre
- Singing as a choir
- Theatre (plays, musical, improv etc.)
- Theatre, both musical and plays.
- We are a five-piece acoustic band playing jazz charts, predominantly from around the 1920s era. Members comprise: clarinet, trumpet, tuba, trombone, drums.
- We are a music club supporting folk and acoustic music and performance that has been running in Nelson since about 1986. We run one concert a month on the second Sunday and a join-in singing session once a month on the last Sunday. All events are held in Yaza Cafe.
- We have members that bring their paints and paint every Monday at the Greenmeadows Community Centre
- We meet once per month to catch up on each other's writing, having workshops with writing exercises, and/or listen to a speaker talking about any subject related to writing novels.
- We run the annual Nelson Fringe Festival
- Whakairo Māori me Mahi Raranga.
- Writer's workshops, social gatherings and presentations
- Writing support and group publishing
- Youth music

### Q11 Do you own your own facility or arts venue?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 70



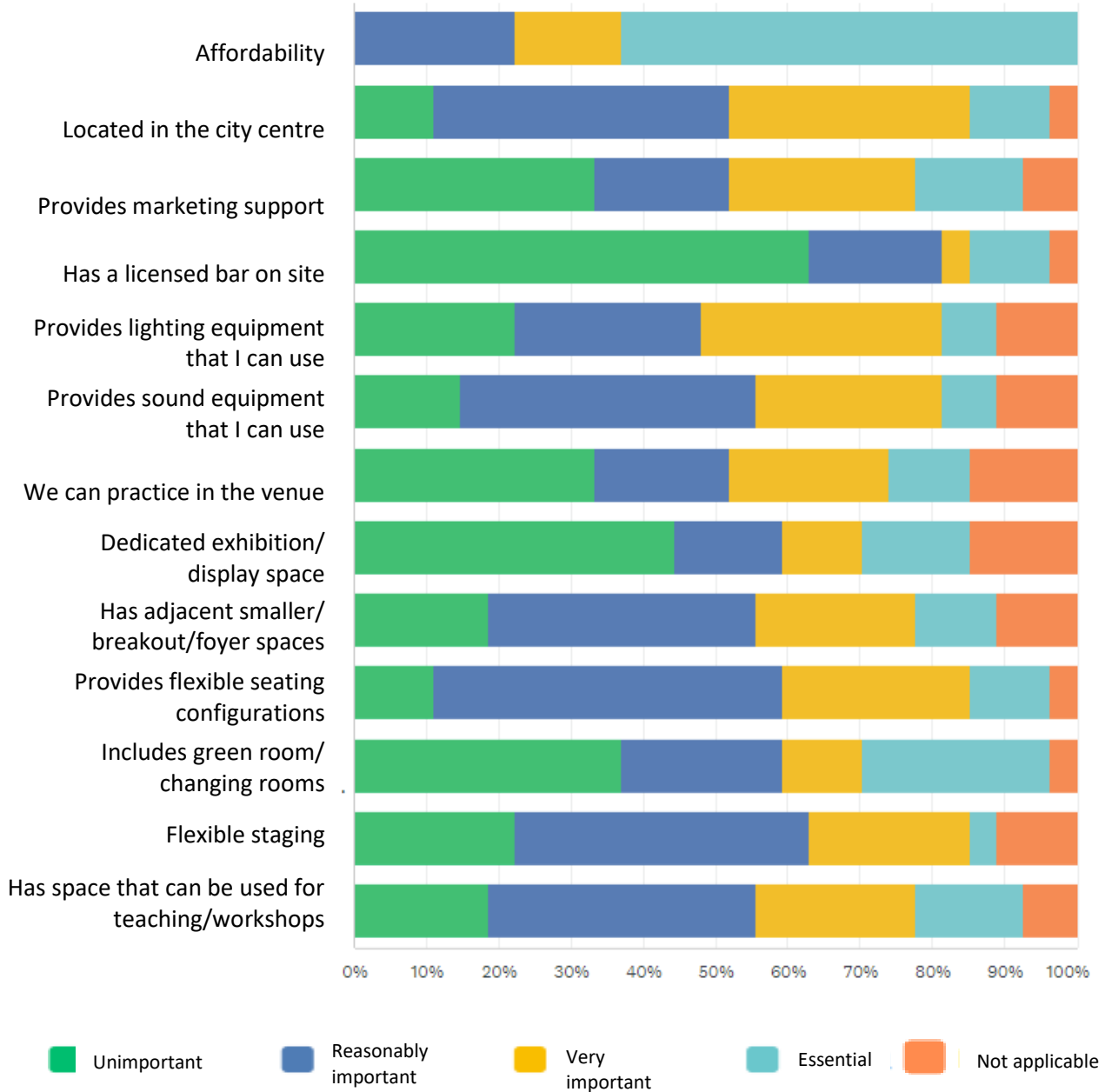
**Q12 If yes, please tell us a little bit about it, e.g. location, how many people use it, what facilities or equipment it has.**

6 people answered this question

- The venue is leased and currently we are seeking a new facility
- We have an agreement to have bookings in The Theatre Royal Nelson averaging 3 seasons in a year.
- We used to, but the Council took it from us, and demolished it. And since then, we have not recovered, nor found a suitable venue, and have been very much unsupported by the Council.
- Wharewhakairo ki Te Āwhina Marae, currently being refurbished to hold wānanga and ngā toi Māori events. It is a stand-alone building and will be fully workshop equipped. It is expected that we will have 100-200 students every year undertake wānanga.
- 95 Atawhai Drive used by ourselves and other local theatre groups also hired by touring production groups

### Q13 When thinking about a performance or exhibition space, how important are the following criteria?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 68



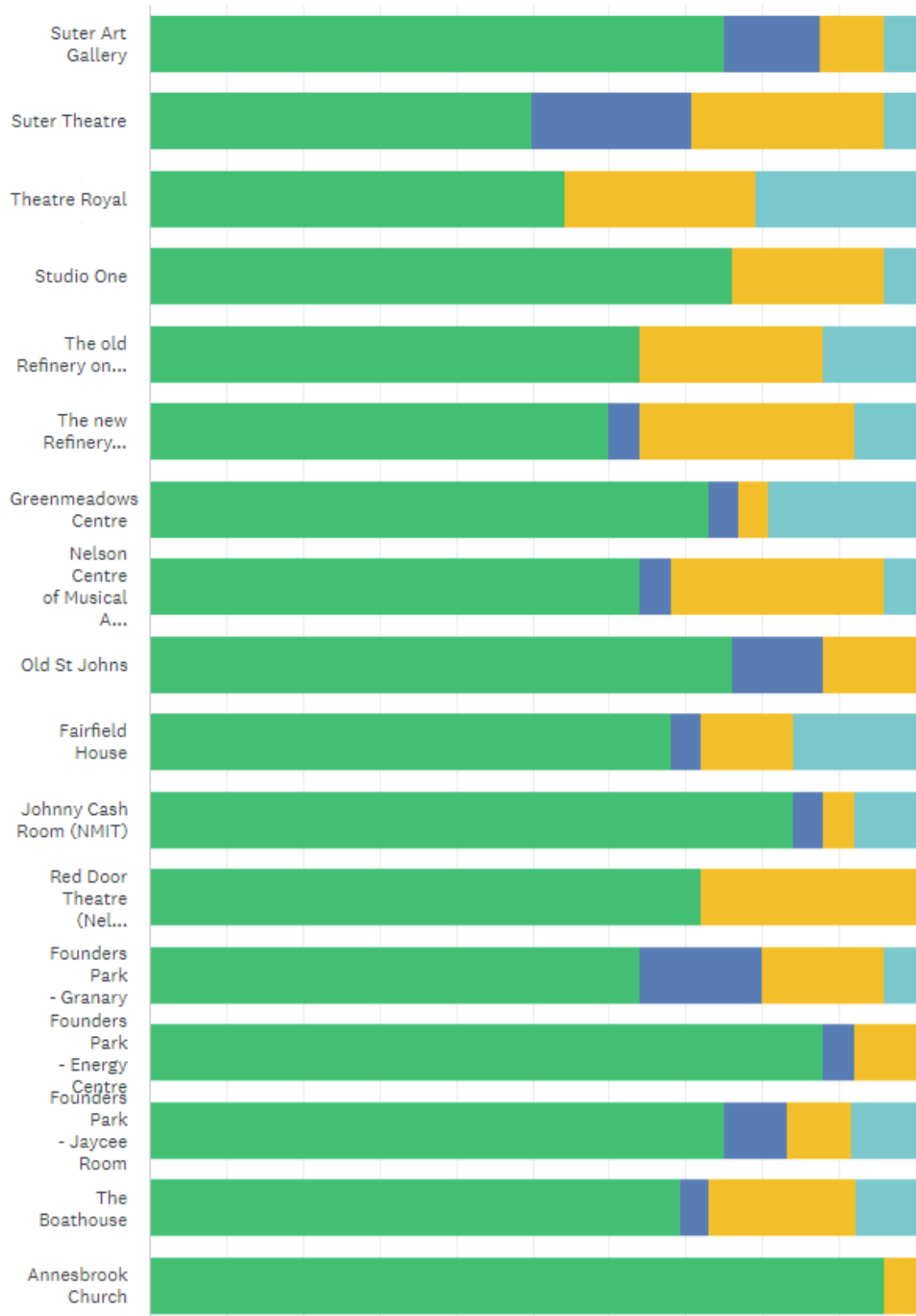
#### OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- A large enough stage to accommodate dance performances. Provide a safe environment for performers
- A place to store equipment. e.g. easel and art stands
- Allows catering and sales
- Disability access and toilet/bathroom; heating; storage
- For workshops we need the facility to have a laptop-connected projector. Also kitchen facilities like kettle, fridge, cups etc. are essential.

- Good acoustics and sight-lines. Staff that knows how to organise theatre and the ins and outs of production and can support artists
- Has film/video projection and screen, with speakers. Microphone and speakers.
- Has storage space for our instruments and uniforms.
- Potential for joining outdoor performance space i.e. a courtyard for small outdoor theatre or music.
- Secure; set up for sales; technician available
- Small kitchen to serve refreshments
- That the venue is able to be used exclusively so that we can charge a door fee is vital.

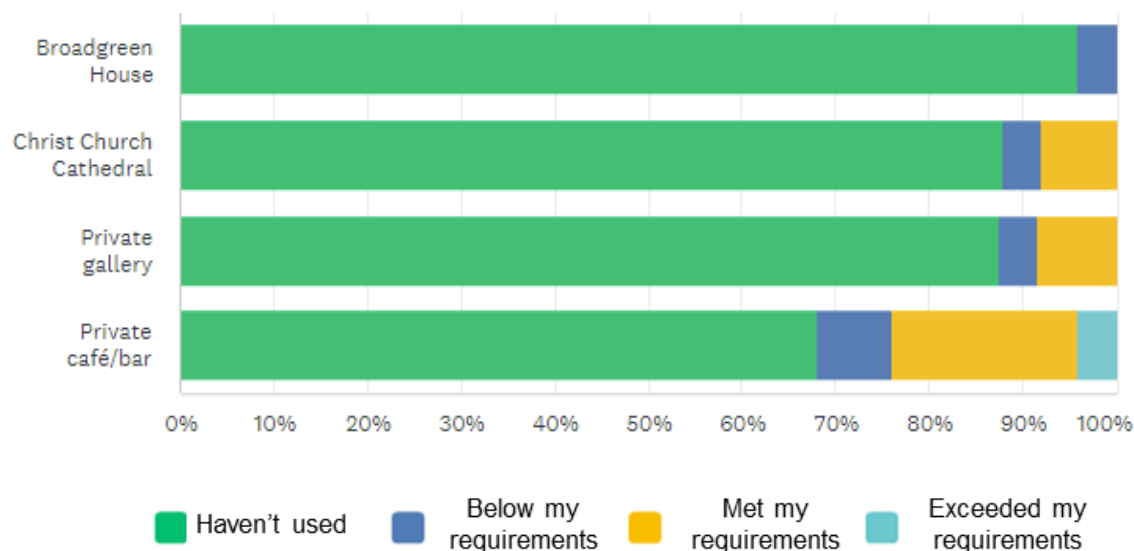
### Q14 What is your group's experience of using the following Nelson venues over the last five years?

27 respondents answered this question





## Nelson City Community Arts Facilities - Gaps Analysis



### ARE THERE ANY OTHER VENUES IN NELSON THAT YOU HAVE USED? (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Historically, we have used Fairfield House, Nelson School of Music and Suter Gallery Theatre but a long time ago - not within the last 5 years. We ran a concert in The Boathouse about 5 years ago. For our Singing Session we have previously used FreeHouse, The Prince Albert, Cafe under Cathedral Backpackers, BelAir Bar and The Wakatu. Our Christmas Singing Session is now amalgamated with the Boathouse Christmas event.
- Museum. Other spaces at Founders
- Musical theatre
- Nelson Intermediate School Hall
- Nelson Library
- Nick Smith rooms/National party hq. No longer available to our group. Significant parking issues. Multi-level.
- Note: I have used most of these venues in other capacities, not just for Barden Party, as it is mostly an outdoor show primarily due to the fact that venues in Nelson are affordable/can accommodate. Also used was Ghost Light Theatre which is now closed.
- Page & Blackmore Booksellers and Volume Space for books - no facilities to provide refreshments.
- Previously used Ghost Light Theatre
- Sun City Darts Club Hall
- Tahunanui Beach (outdoor)
- The Hub; Atelier Gallery;
- The Trafalgar Centre
- We are essentially a 'pop up' jazz band and perform around the city on random occasions. We have often used the 1903 site as an open rehearsal space but have found it is a little removed for foot traffic and more suitable for organised events. We have also used the cathedral steps half way up (great acoustics that travel along Trafalgar Street), and the covered space beside the entrance to the Nelson Provincial Museum which was an excellent place to play and well received by passers-by.
- We have our own venue

- We have previously used Nick Smith's National Party Headquarters' meeting rooms, which isn't available anymore. From 2021 we are in the Nightingale Library's meeting room in Tahunanui.

## Q15 Contact details for your business

Answered: 5 Skipped: 89

5 out of 97 responded to this question. Answers are withheld for privacy reasons.

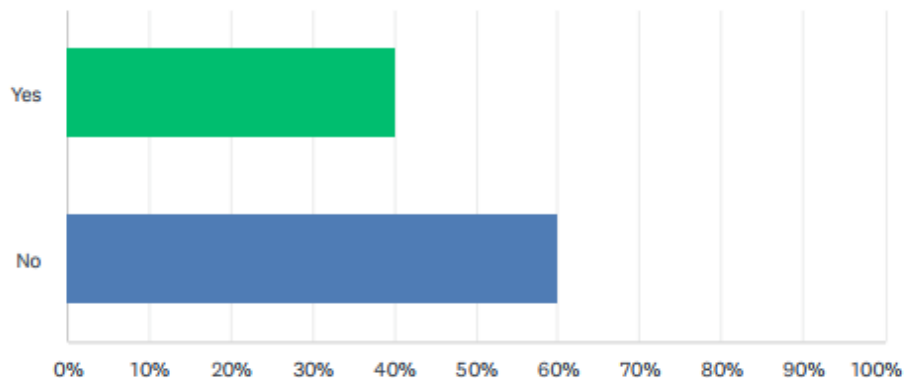
## Q16 What arts activities or services is your business involved in?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 89

- Art textile and fibre craft workshops
- I am developing a small venue adjacent and connected to The Free House
- Local paintings
- Music, festivals, theatre
- We are an art gallery in the CBD which sells photography, art, jewellery, books

## Q17 Do you own your own facility or arts venue?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 89



## Q18 If yes, please tell us a little bit about it, e.g. location, how many people use it, what facilities or equipment it has.

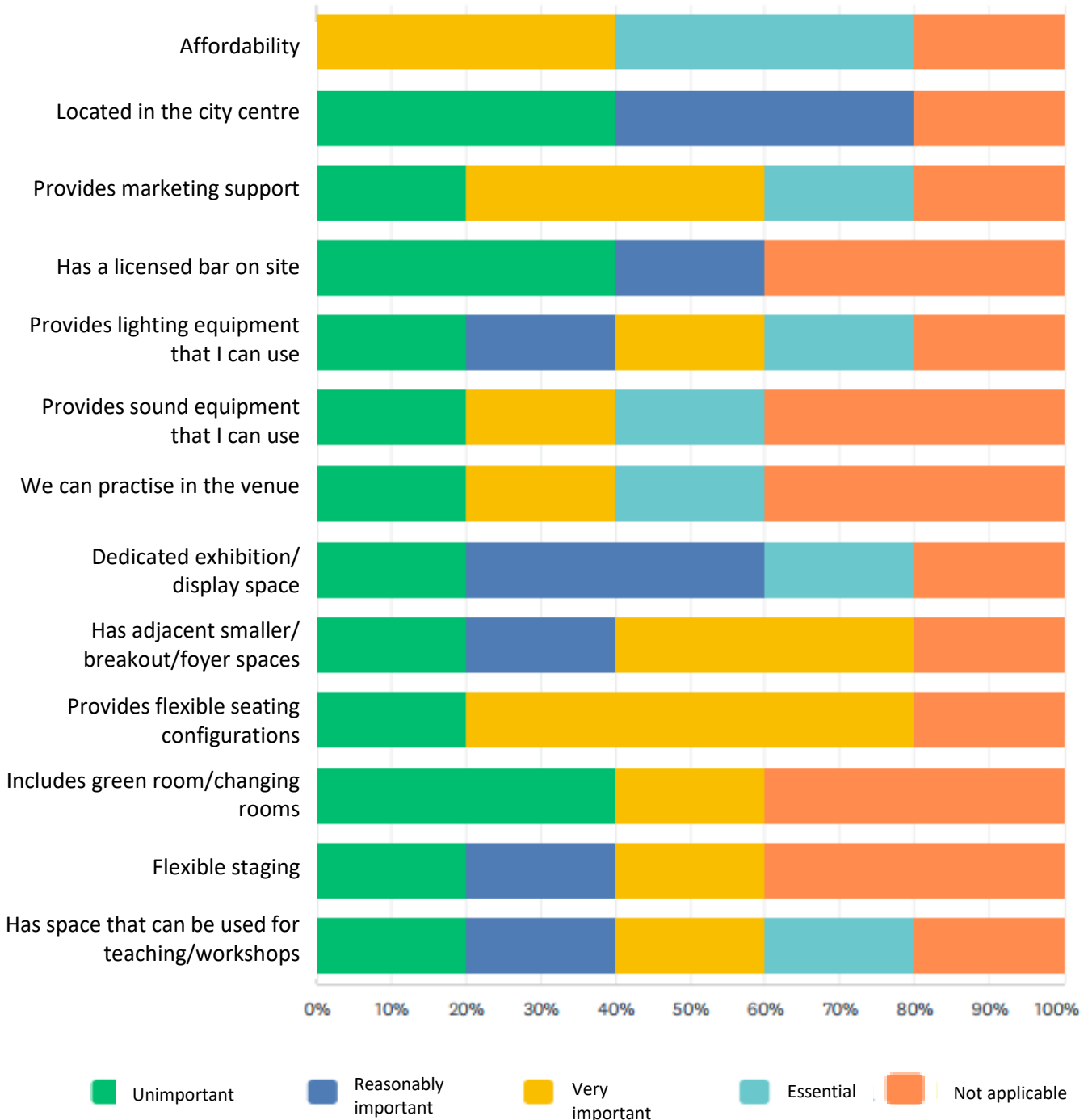
Answered: 5 Skipped: 89

- No
- Still in development due to covid cash flow restrictions, The Space @ The Free House is sited in the ex-Christian Science Church. It will be limited to 100 people standing and around 60 seated. It has a small moveable stage, PA and projector/screen set up. Basic lighting rig. When ready it will also have small bar/ticket desk and internal access to The Free House proper.
- The Stoke art group hang their paintings for sale, and change them regularly
- We don't own the facility, it is leased
- We use a variety of venues; Presently we have seven tutors. Some tutors' use their own private studio spaces, or other hired venues e.g. Le Cren Room in Broadgreen House, Fairholm Gallery and more recently Melrose House. Everything is supplied by the tutors. Access to water for screen printing or felting is helpful. Good lighting and access to outside for working outside e.g. Harakeke weaving, wild basketmaking. Workshops run with numbers ranging from 3 to 10, occasionally more. The Earth Hub was great when it was available but became too expensive. We aim to run workshops in venues that are convivial with creativity, inspiring locations and environments. Taking teaching out of a 'regular' classroom. Hip high trestle type tables are great for standing out with sitting stools. Ventilation, power and heating elements for dyeing fabrics and fibres. Tea and coffee facilities too.



### Q19 When thinking about a performance or exhibition space, how important are the following criteria?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 89



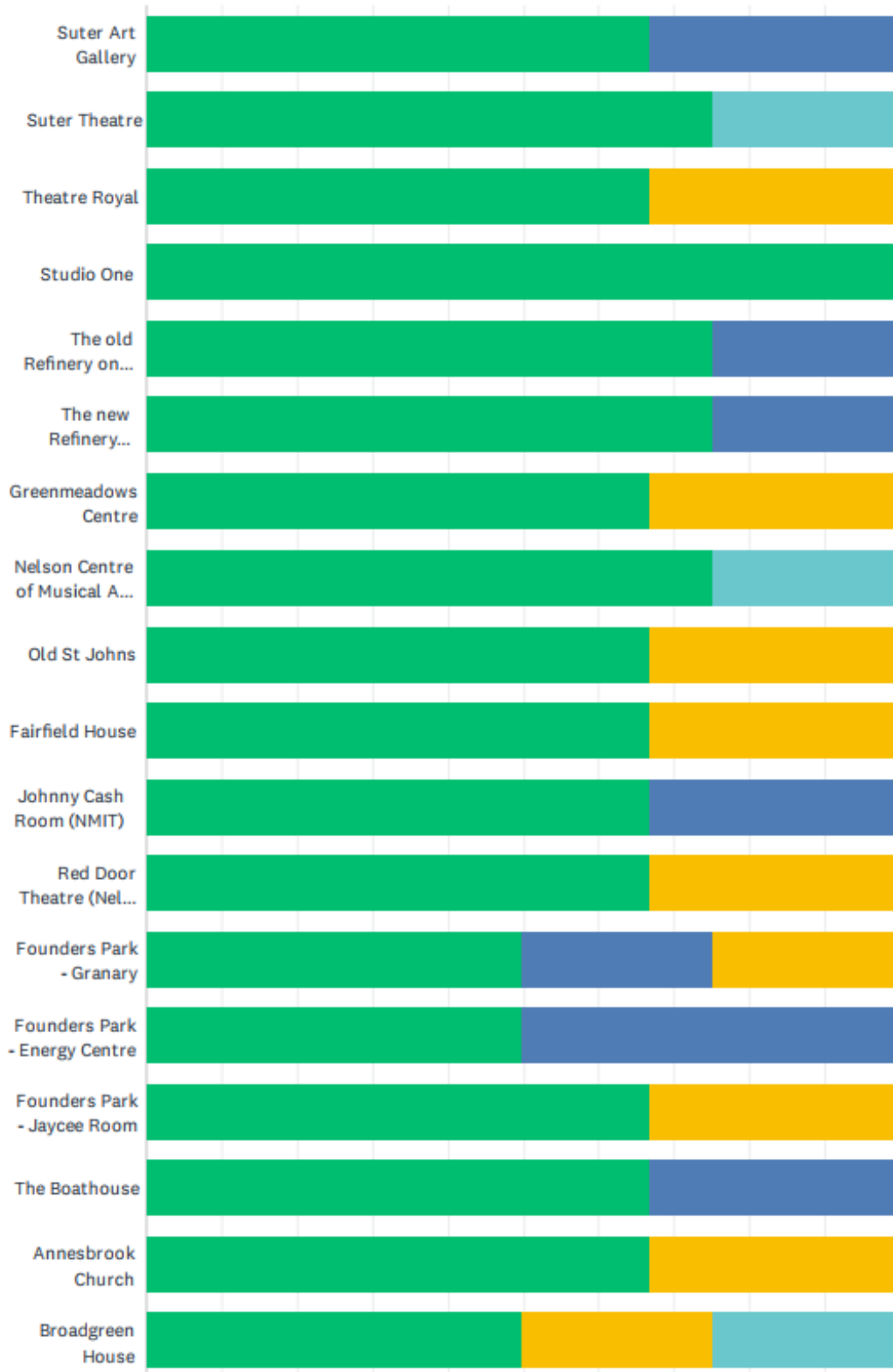
#### OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Natural lighting, access to water and outside seating/tables, covered veranda for working in wet or windy weather.

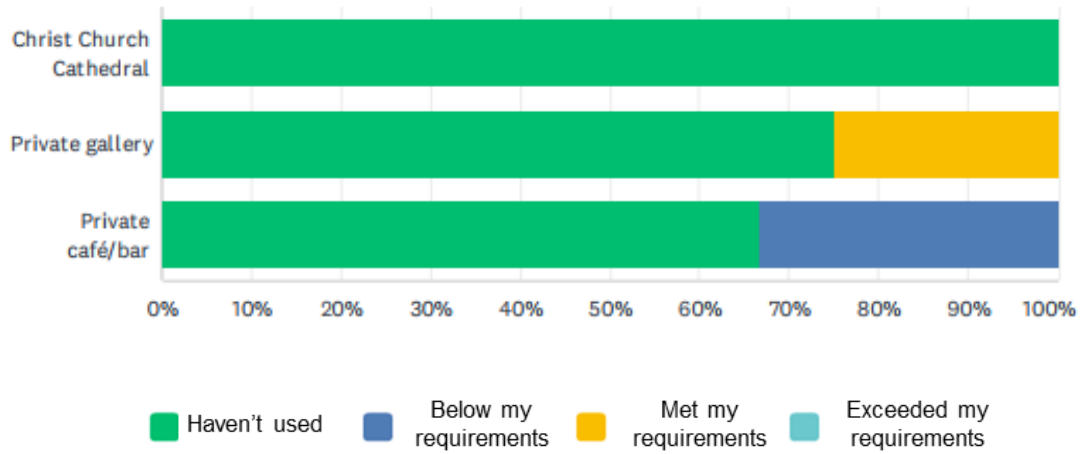


### Q20 What is your business's experience of using the following Nelson venues over the last five years?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 89



## Nelson City Community Arts Facilities - Gaps Analysis



### ARE THERE ANY OTHER VENUES IN NELSON THAT YOU HAVE USED? (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Trafalgar Centre, Trafalgar Park
- Earth Hub - no longer available



## Q21 For each of the following Nelson arts venues that have you visited, tell us your experience of the venue (not the show).

Comments from 8 respondents:

### **SUTER ART GALLERY**

- I visit regularly and am happy with it.
- Love it, fresh and diverse
- Lovely space for professional artists. It. Not a huge space. Limited by that.
- Lovely venue - slightly sterile
- not that welcoming to the general public
- very good gallery

### **SUTER THEATRE**

- A great space for film and talks but not for anything that might next space or toilets in the wings for performers. Feels like its only for lectures and film.
- Good
- Good for smaller productions, insignificant wings, no back stage
- Good size for small audiences
- I love this theatre
- Nice movie theatre
- Nice theatre space

### **THEATRE ROYAL**

- A very beautiful theatre which is great for hosting events with capacities from 100-300. Size is however an issue and we miss out on a number of touring shows because it is not economically viable to hirer with the smaller capacity.
- Fantastic space. Great backstage but dominated by youth theatre and touring shows.it was great to see it used more with matinee shows and more local professional performers
- Good for many productions, limited unraked seating
- I love this one too
- Lovely theatre, crowded foyer/bar

### **STUDIO ONE**

- I don't know it
- NA
- Small, no accessible toilets for public when shows are on. One of the few places in Nelson to take adult dance classes. Poorly lit alleyway has to be navigated to get there.

### **THE OLD REFINERY ON HALIFAX STREET (CURRENTLY CLOSED)**

- Mediocre
- Needed an over haul.not a practical performance space. Needed investment. Was great to see artists in residence.
- Nice space
- Nice venue lots of character
- Very limited gallery

### **THE NEW REFINERY ARTSPACE ON HARDY STREET**

- A couple of interesting exhibitions recently, the craft one great
- Bland
- Good gallery space. Great to see it being used. The performance space out back, less inviting. No proper backstage, only one toilet.
- Nice that it is in town
- Very limited gallery

### **GREENMEADOWS CENTRE**

- Great spaces for workshops (like the arts strategy one) but not a performance space and it feels like usage costs might be high. Not aware of it having night time usage . Very clinical space
- Lovely venue too expensive
- Negative connotations based on build
- Not familiar with this venue
- Too far away for me

### **NELSON CENTRE OF MUSICAL ARTS (FORMERLY NELSON SCHOOL OF MUSIC)**

- Fabulous
- Good for many productions, insignificant wings, no back stage
- Have attended one show there and it was fantastic. Same as the Theatre Royal - a beautiful venue for up to 200 people, but size is an issue for bigger shows.
- Haven't been since the upgrade
- Love it, go there often
- Lovely

### **OLD ST JOHNS**

- Beautiful
- Good for many productions, insignificant wings, no back stage
- Quirky
- Uncomfortable seats. Great acoustics. Has character.

### **FAIRFIELD HOUSE**

- Great location, not enough safe parking
- Love it
- Love it, go there often
- Very limited art space

### **JOHNNY CASH ROOM (NMIT)**

- Good venue not utilised enough
- Not familiar with this venue

### **RED DOOR THEATRE (NELSON MUSICAL THEATRE)**

- Good for many productions, limited unraked seating
- Great use of space
- Yet another one. It is across the road from me, but even so I have only been there once.
- Would be great to see this space shared with other performance groups.

### **FOUNDERS PARK - GRANARY**

- Big and can be cold. External facilities. Inside the park.
- Functional
- Good for small productions, limited unraked seating
- I love the way it was used for the Arts Festival
- Nice building but a bit tired

### **FOUNDERS PARK - ENERGY CENTRE**

- Atmospheric
- Big and can be cold. External facilities. Inside the park.
- No, don't like it.
- Not familiar with this venue
- Terrible acoustics
- Terrible acoustics being essentially a tin shed.

### **FOUNDERS PARK - JAYCEE ROOM**

- Dated
- No, more a meeting room
- Not familiar with this venue
- Old. Toilet Facilities are external.
- tired and not great for events, for private bookings it's ok
- Useful for small groups

### **THE BOATHOUSE**

- Great for a party but on other nights it's a mish mash of restaurant and events. Parking can be an issue.
- Love it
- Lovely venue
- Yes, good for dance parties

### **ANNESBROOK CHURCH**

- Good for talks/lectures, not suitable for visual art forms
- Great for larger events
- Great sound system
- Large and expensive.
- Too far away for me.

### **BROADGREEN HOUSE**

- Been once or twice, same with Isel house
- Great spot, but obviously lacking in TLC (funding)
- Not familiar with this venue
- Not seen any arts there

### **CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

- Keep for church services
- Not familiar with this venue
- Not seen it as a performance space or (except for xmas trees) an arts space

## Nelson City Community Arts Facilities - Gaps Analysis

- Wonderful for music
- Gardens are great

### **PRIVATE GALLERY**

- Not familiar with this venue
- Occasionally

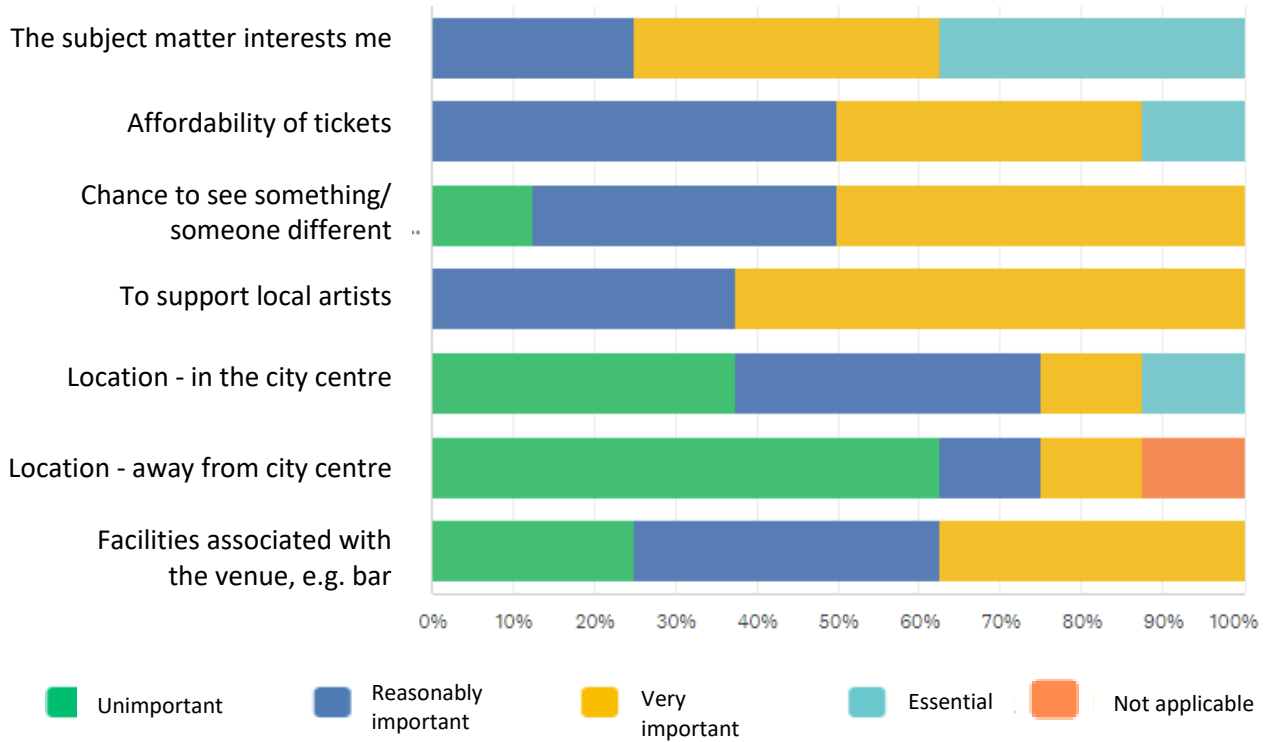
### **PRIVATE CAFÉ/BAR**

- Not familiar with this venue
- Rarely

### Q22 What are the key factors that influence your decision to go to an arts exhibition/performance?

Answered: 7 Skipped: 87

Answered: 8 Skipped: 89



## Q23 In what capacity are you completing this survey

6 respondents answered this question

- Arts accessibility for blind and low vision users
- As an event promoter who is appalled by the lack of venues and support for the local Music industry
- As an individual with an interest in there being good venues for locals to utilise as well as attracting touring productions.
- As stated in question one
- Business Manager for Nelson Youth Choir
- Person

**Q24 For each of the following Nelson arts venues that have you visited, tell us your experience of the venue (not the show).**

Comments from 7 respondents:

**SUTER ART GALLERY**

- Great
- Great. Versatile
- Limited
- Nice setting, feels very upmarket
- The front steps/entryway are difficult to navigate for Blind and Low Vision users (BLV)
- Very good

**SUTER THEATRE**

- Fine
- Good as audience member. Not always so good as presenter.
- Great
- Great for lectures, presentations
- Never visited

**THEATRE ROYAL**

- Awesome. Expensive.
- Few shows here, not suitable for most events
- Fine
- Good
- It's important that (BLV) can be seated in the front few rows - low vision are sometimes able to make out details - shapes etc. at close range. It's helpful for fully blind to be close enough to hear the performers acoustically, not just through the sound system, so they have cues for where the action is taking place - when all the sound comes out for the speakers, there is no clue as to direction for the source of the sound.
- Very good

**STUDIO ONE**

- Good at what it's able to cater for.
- Never heard of it
- Nil
- Not seen

**THE OLD REFINERY ON HALIFAX STREET (CURRENTLY CLOSED)**

- Always been closed
- Good
- It's a difficult space to navigate for (BLV)
- Needs to be utilised iconic give to iwi
- Quirky old building that can be great.
- Small eclectic

**THE NEW REFINERY ARTSPACE ON HARDY STREET**

- Good
- Have popped in, didn't feel inviting
- Not seen
- Ok
- Very good. Different spaces can cater to different needs.

#### **GREENMEADOWS CENTRE**

- Good, of what I've seen.
- Great
- Lovely facility; great car parking; good acoustics.
- No idea it existed
- Not seen

#### **NELSON CENTRE OF MUSICAL ARTS (FORMERLY NELSON SCHOOL OF MUSIC)**

- Difficult to book times we want; limited audience numbers; car parking difficult.
- Excellent
- Felt very old guard not welcoming at all
- Great for choir, orchestral
- Very good, for what it's designed for.

#### **OLD ST JOHNS**

- Defunct
- Not seen
- OK. Hard seats. Not sure about fire egress situation.

#### **FAIRFIELD HOUSE**

- Excellent
- Great small/outdoor venue
- Very good, for what it can cater for.

#### **JOHNNY CASH ROOM (NMIT)**

- Excellent
- Never knew it existed
- Not seen
- OK, but limited use as it's used by students, has instruments there.

#### **RED DOOR THEATRE (NELSON MUSICAL THEATRE)**

- Excellent
- Great for small theatrical performances
- OK. Good community theatre space.

#### **FOUNDERS PARK - GRANARY**

- Good. Can do great things with the space, given time and equipment.
- Limited arts use
- Purposeful
- Terrible acoustics



#### **FOUNDERS PARK - ENERGY CENTRE**

- Good. Can be great, but need time and equipment to turn it into different sort of venue.
- Great blank space.
- Purposeful
- Terrible acoustics

#### **FOUNDERS PARK - JAYCEE ROOM**

- Good meeting room.
- Intimate very small
- purposeful

#### **THE BOATHOUSE**

- Good for music, talks. Not really suitable for theatre.
- Great for small number of artists
- One of the better venues in Nelson
- Too expensive

#### **ANNESBROOK CHURCH**

- Decent large venue not appropriate for most events however
- Great large venue. Not suitable for extensive sets
- Not advertised enough

#### **BROADGREEN HOUSE**

- Baby presentations
- OK

#### **CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

- Good, for certain things.
- Great acoustics for music, vocals
- Needs promotion
- We are always welcome to sing at this venue.

#### **PRIVATE GALLERY**

- Not community
- Not seen

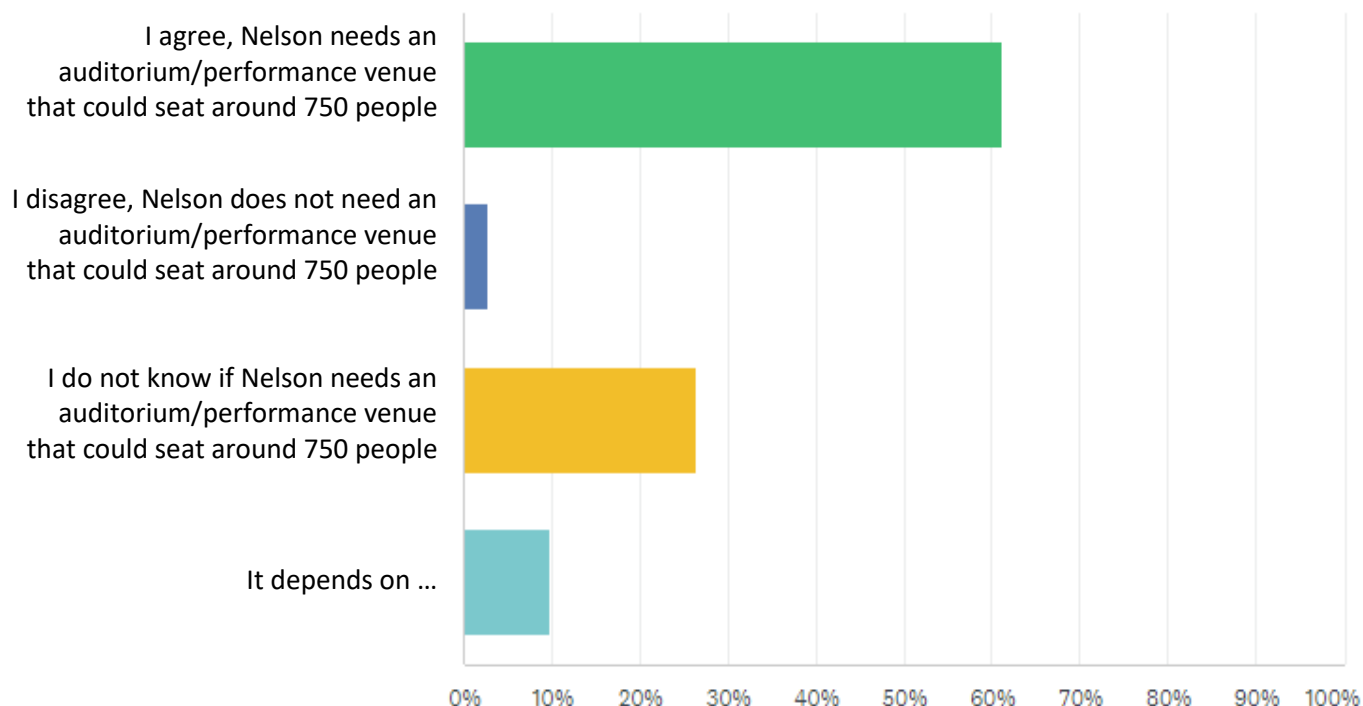
#### **PRIVATE CAFÉ/BAR**

- East St is the nicest place in town by far
- Not seen
- Open all hours

## Q25 Theme One - Nelson needs an auditorium/performance venue that can seat around 750 people. What do you think?

72 people answered this question

Answered: 72 Skipped: 25



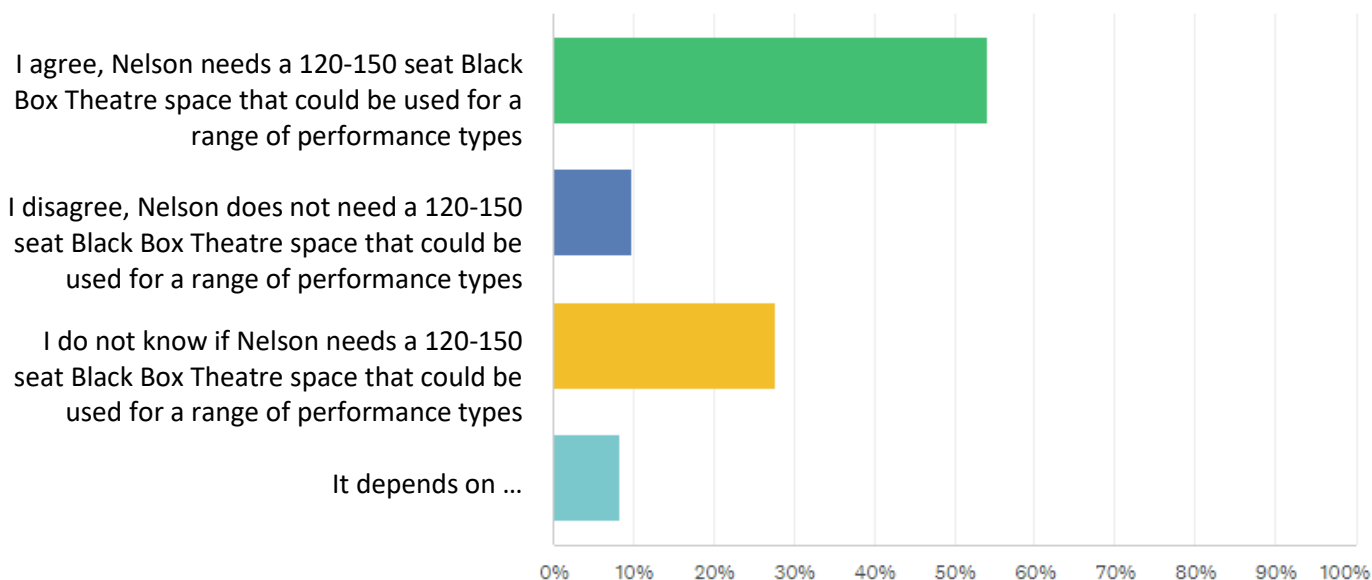
### IT DEPENDS ON ... (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Event to be held and frequency. Look at large school/education facilities. Also Suter and Theatre. facilities
- Haven't we got this already at the NCMA and Theatre Royal? What we need is a small centrally located music venue for national NZ touring bands
- I generally disagree - why build more structures (or create more admin see previous reply - there are some great venues already and many buildings that could be repurposed - the crime is continuing to suggest further venues (and the repeated strategy documents about them) after failing to provide support for fledgling artist led initiatives
- My impression is that Nelson has too many medium sized venues, competing for funding and customers. Why not improve the way the Trafalgar centre gets used for the odd occasion that a bigger venue is needed.
- The cost to use. I see it as bigger than a bar/Fairfield, but smaller than the formal venues of the Theatre royal.
- What support we could get from council and community to make such a large venue necessary

- What would you call the Trafalgar centre?

## Q26 Theme Two - Nelson needs a 120-150 seat Black Box Theatre space that could be used for a range of performance types. What do you think?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 25

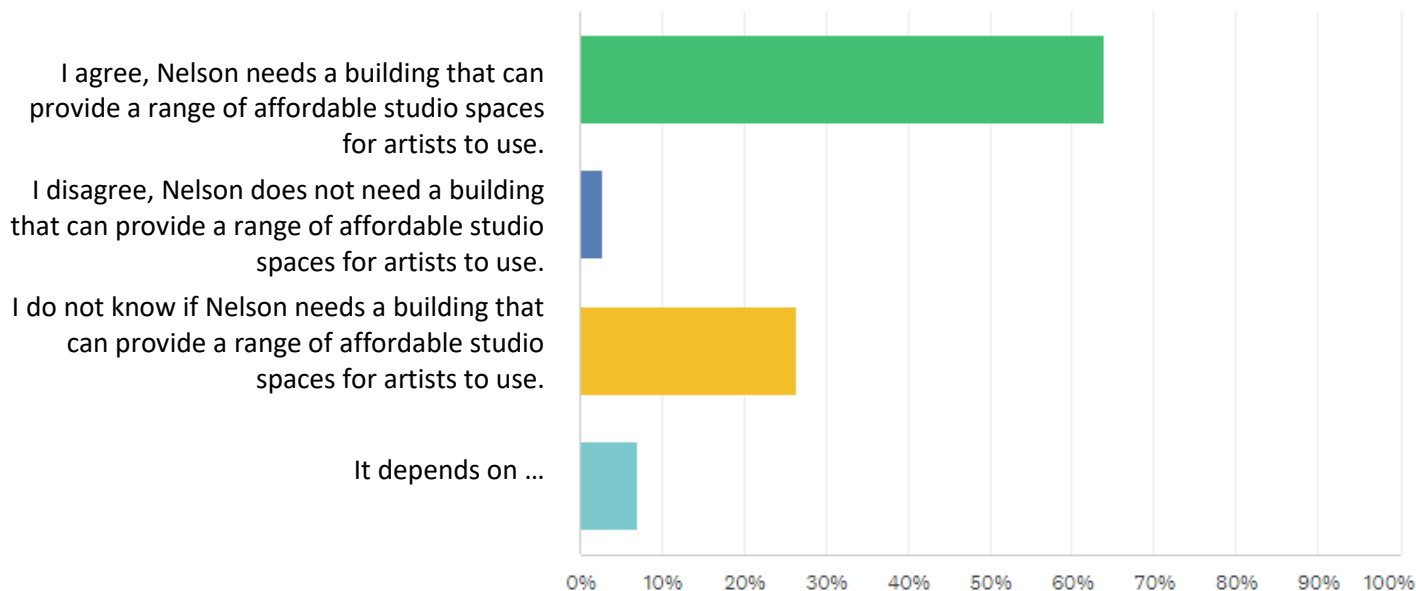


### IT DEPENDS ON... (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Doesn't the Suter Theatre cover this need?
- How often? Look at multi use venues which could be also used by all performing arts groups such as schools and colleges. Cheaper to upgrade an existing facility. by schools and colleges to fully utilise facility. Cheaper to upgrade what is already there.
- If people think there is a need for it then this is the right space to provide their thoughts. if there is a venue that needs to be upgraded or repaired why not do that instead of getting a new venue built
- The Suter Theatre is one of these - actually an excellent example. Offers community/charity hire fees, supported by existing services, i.e. ticket sales and with it easy marketing, bar, etc.
- This idea was mooted previously and turned down - yes it would be great - but why couldn't the Suter theatre be given better sound and lighting and become multipurpose ... it already exists
- Where add on to the Trafalgar centre modify that area

## Q27 Theme Three - Nelson needs a building that can provide a range of affordable studio spaces for artists to use. What do you think?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 25



### IT DEPENDS ON... (PLEASE SPECIFY)

- Not sure of the need. I know NCMA has rooms for this purpose
- The provided structure - yes to more affordable studio spaces, however this could also be more scattered in the diverse communities artists live in to engage with their communities/audiences. I think it would enhance our communities rather than being one building. That too seems against reducing our carbon foot print, etc. too artists, depending on their art form have different needs. Find the 'empty spots' already existing, give landlords something back [reduced rate - i.e. Urban Brookerage in Wellington uses that well with support by local council, etc.]
- We already have a variety of spaces - could collab with schools fulfil this?
- Yes, but it could also be a 'hub' for other artistic ventures. hold workshops, Look at Rotorua and Tauranga (the hub) venues. Both held in culturally significant buildings, preserving historic buildings for a new purpose.
- Yes, that would be great! short- and long-term use and a variety of spaces (e.g. for devising, or working out installation logistics in an open space - but also that there might be smaller workshop type areas for construction - who manages? Arts Council? NCC? another organisation?

## Q28 Something else - Tell us your thoughts on what new arts facilities or venues Nelson needs

51 people commented on this question

- 1 building with different sized theatres, rehearsal and meeting spaces. Learning spaces.
- 150ish seating theatre venue for performance/theatrical with good backstage areas. Theatre royal is too expensive
- A community hub including craft workshops, a gallery and cafe, and teaching spaces.
- A hub for probs, costumes, lights, sound equipment, dance floors, curtains, projectors, ....at the moment whilst some venue share their equipment, it is a pretty run around to find what one needs without constantly needing more storage space if bought. And maybe too venues that can deliver for our youth
- A museum specifically for ceramics
- A performance space, with adjoined community spaces that can be booked (ideally for free/with supported funding) for rehearsals and performance meetings/read throughs.
- A shared space for independent work, or teaching classes and sharing facilities e.g. large tables for printing, sink bench for washing etc.
- Always jealous of Blenheim's ASB Theatre Marlborough where they attract overseas acts & hold large audience events. Why isn't NCC talking to TDC to develop something similar?
- Definitely needed, but supported by arts funding and subsidised until it is affordable is infinitely more important
- Ease of access for packing and unpacking. Good natural lighting, heating, cooling, water access ... as above
- Ever since it became impossible to get Arts Council cover against loss, it has become much riskier for us to run large events. One of the biggest risks is very often the cost of venue hire. Nelson needs a way for Community and local performance or experience groups to be able to access either a venue at reasonable cost or backstop guarantee against loss (when we used this facility in the past, we once had to claim about \$100 cover - and we ran quite a few large concerts in The Nelson School of Music in those years with international guest musicians!)
- Future focused - performing arts comes in many ways - education and performance are key - build it either at the Trafalgar centre or NMIT partnership - the old buildings across the road
- I think something very simple that could be done is for NCC to host a page that lists - in one space! - the various venues in Nelson that are available for hire for rehearsals and for performances/exhibitions. If there was a simple spreadsheet listing each venue, pricing, photo and dimensions, things available (e.g. remaking facilities, table, chairs) contact person, at-a glance availability calendar, and a link to click to book that would be incredibly useful! If a paid coordinator maintained the page - kept it up to date - that would be FAB! The Airbnb of arts spaces! It would be win-win for both the arts community and local organisations/businesses who could generate more income easily by their spaces being utilized when not required by them. I have organizations like the Tahunanui Community Hub ask me for advice about how to best publicise their spaces to the arts community but they can only do it piecemeal and as one-offs (e.g. by making a post on the Top of the South Filmmakers FB page).

- It would be good to review Nelson Arts venues in relationship to contemporary art - I would argue there is no large dedicated space for contemporary art in Nelson. The Suter has positioned itself as an art museum (with only a biennial contemporary exhibition) and The Refinery has repositioned itself back to a Community Gallery means there is no dedicated space for contemporary art apart from pockets of independent and private art spaces and galleries such as 18A, Viewfinder, The Quiet Dog, Red Gallery. These venues are not able to access decent and sustainable public funds to develop venues/careers in contemporary art. As a practising contemporary artist, this is a real concern and blind spot for Nelson in creating and developing its creative economy, especially in terms of experimental and innovative art practices.
- Just sick of answering these surveys and nothing ever changing. Forgive the debt of NCMA and Theatre Royal.
- Keep it simple, accessible and inexpensive
- Large venue to stop the loss of events to Blenheim - but with a good 'cellar' small flexible performance space - see the Adelaide festival space for instance - both with live video streaming to hub community venues across top of the south and west coast audiences
- Low threshold spaces that are accessible to all, including youth and emerging artists, migrant communities, and iwi
- Many creatives do not know how to use social media to support their marketing and invite process. If there was someone who could talk creatives through this face to face or over the web it could be helpful. It is a scary process for some creatives but has become one of the main ways to invite people to attend events (e.g. a pottery studio launch) ticketing, advertising and marketing (and sales). It could be a drop in office people who come to get bespoke assistance setting up a Facebook page for their creative endeavours could come to.
- More support for community arts spaces and funding for art access for all regardless of their means.
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- Needs to be versatile and also provide production and office space for touring professionals
- Nelson needs a 'hub' for filmmakers. Blenheim has this in Sawmill Studios and it is really going forward, hosting short films, music videos, film meetings etc. It is a building where sets can be built for film shoots, tutorials held and meetings conducted. We lack a focal point like this in Nelson and it would really revolutionise the film 'industry here as well as possibly help attract productions here, and therefore \$\$\$.
- Nelson needs more than just performing spaces, also needs storage. Nelson/Tasman already has a number of groups who provide opportunities for performances. The current venues need support before more are built
- Nelson needs to have regular access to the theatre in the Suter.
- Nelson/Tasman need a facility equal the Marlborough ASB performance venue. It is important that we continue to support local talent but we also need to attract quality out of town performers.
- Permanency, an identity for artists professional and amateur. Accessibility, parking and good foot traffic. On a bus route. A place where artists can learn from each other.
- Provide a bus service to Blenheim so we can see High Quality Performing Arts without the need for overnight accommodation.

- Purpose built rehearsal and dance spaces. Community gallery, studio and workshop spaces. Good leadership and management. Parking. Schools of arts.
- Small groups like our non-profitable group need a smaller meeting room with either kitchen facilities to bring our own refreshments - or a meeting room with a cafeteria in the same building.
- Since we have lost Paradox we need a DJ/Band friendly underground flavoured venue that can hold 150-300 people, also the Tahuna festival site needs to be developed.
- Some type of learning space
- Somewhere the NZSO could perform and NZ ballet as well to fit large audience but excellent acoustics
- Space for audiences, car parking, central venue.
- Spaces for non-profit visual arts to work from on long term leases
- Studios - places for films and workshops!
- Support, including free/peppercorn access to spaces for training and grants/commissions/research and development opportunities for local professional artists would be so beneficial and enable artists to maintain training, creativity and a high standard evolving practice.
- Sustainable and have longevity
- The biggest hurdle for many of the venues in Nelson are the hire costs. For smaller productions or new producers, it is absurd to expect the hire fees for The Suter or other spaces that would also need complete fit-out for performances. With proper financial support from Council and Creative NZ, it would be possible for a venue to be affordable to anyone wanting to create theatre.
- The Pipe Band needs a dedicated band room and rehearsal space.
- The themes look to focus in on seated capacity. Consideration should also be given to standing concert performances. Nelson lacks a great venue that will attract domestic touring artists (this includes both indoors and outdoors). The Trafalgar Centre has become a fantastic venue for hosting a range of different events including live performances. The likes of Crowded House, Fat Freddy's Drop, Bennee, Stan Walker and more coming to the venue is great for Nelson. However with such a large capacity, it is uneconomic for concerts from 500-1500 people. Two themes that I suggest considering is in terms of international and domestic touring artists; 1, There needs to be thought put into an indoor venue that can hold a standing capacity of between 0-1,000 people. The Trafalgar Centre could be this venue, but some infrastructure would need to be put in to decrease the size of the standing floor. 2, Investment into a dedicated outdoor concert space. Trafalgar Park's main field is not the option - It is too big and needs over 10,000 to create any sort of atmosphere. The back field at Trafalgar Park could be the option, however some infrastructure is needed to make it attractive to touring promoters. We need an outdoor venue with a capacity of 0-10,000 people that we can sell to touring promoters.
- There is no centralised art hub which makes it very difficult for people to find out about classes and workshops. This is something I hear from many people that have recently moved into the area. The Refinery art space is already doing a great job considering the circumstances however, the Refinery's building space doesn't allow it to offer rooms for workshops. The city I lived in before moving to Nelson had a fantastic art centre located in an old school building. This art centre offered space for fine arts, dancing, pottery, music, a stage for performances, a gallery and a cafe. This art hub was bustling with activity and the age groups taking advantage ranged from preschool to retired. I was a place for creativity,

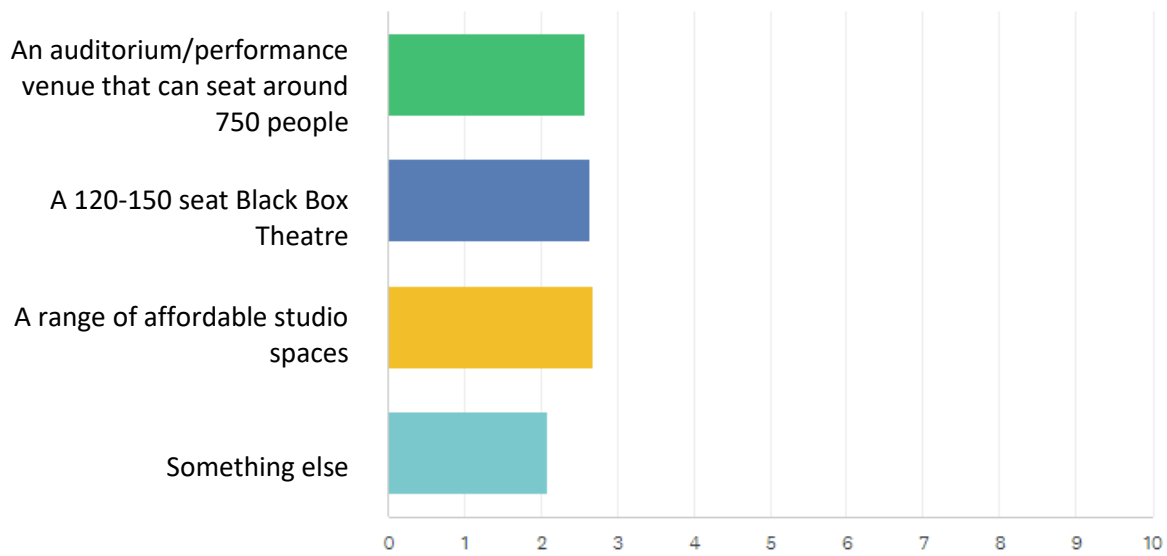
communication and connection. While the teachers were only coming in for certain classes, the coordination of those classes was done by the head office. The income of the centre was from workshops during the day, the lease of the cafe, renting out the rooms to community groups at night, selling tickets for evening performances including opera, ballet, plays, cabaret, etc. and the commission from the sale of the art works.

- There isn't an option for a gig in somewhere that isn't a bar. Other options don't have the infrastructure (PA, bar, food, manager, doorman). That means you have to be at the whims of the bar owner, and needing to try and hustle.
- We get the impression NCMA spaces might be better organised so they get more use? Very keen to see venues where we can have 'open' rehearsals for bands across the city. Often, we will rehearse/busk with no pressure (audiences drift in and out). From that comes some of the most fun results, performances and engagement with the audiences while everyone is relaxed. I'd suggest there is engagement through the proposed strategy, with local businesses who are open to the idea of an 'open rehearsal' - create a directory of venues to put performers in touch with those businesses. Generally (non-professional) performers are happy for the publicity (and a bit of food/drink) in return. The businesses benefit too - good to have live music and good for Nelson city to have this type of ad hoc diversity. It has a reputation for being a creative city with a great music scene and we should do all we can keep (and grow) that reputation.
- We need a large dance venue.
- We need a large Marlborough convention centre type facility - we miss out on larger audience shows and conferences
- We need good use of existing spaces
- Why new? why not better support current and consider redeploying empty facilities for art practitioners perhaps provide community art works with a more sustainable long-term facility to work out of (to enable them to provide for and protect current clients but to also have a more successful 'drop-in' or open studio practice-based area as well - creating space for creative communities is important as supporting critical discussion, collegiality and collaboration
- Workshop spaces and access to tools, machinery, storage



### Q29 What priority do you give to the four options above?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 25



### Q30 Are there any other comments you would like to make about Nelson's arts venues or about about this survey?

39 people provided comments:

- Affordability, we are constantly on the lookout for venues for our workshops. Some of the spaces available are just not that inspiring/cosy to be holding creative workshops.
- Already discussed in person with Chris Ward. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the survey :-)
- Always looking for a venue for our concerts 100-200 audience. Currently every facility mentioned has its limitations!
- Artists, performers and writers are mainly people with low income (unless they are world famous). We who live here in Nelson can't afford to use big fancy buildings for our work or meetings. Our group pays \$20 for half a day per month, which is doable for us. Any higher rent will make it more difficult, especially to get new members interested in joining us.
- Future thinking be bold go beyond now
- Given that Nelson is seen by many as a place where there are many practicing creative people with numerous outlets/galleries it is unbelievable that there is no 'Arts' Centre. There is no place where Art Group Nelson can call their own home. Even small towns like Thames or Reefton or Gore have their own Art Centre!
- Great to see council checking on needs
- Have spaces and opportunities for developing performers ... encourage volunteers and participation,
- I feel there's enough venues, but maybe more suitable venues for particular events are needed for variety
- I have a feeling that paying a NCC staff member to coordinate a central one-stop directory of local rehearsal and performance spaces would remove people saying we need purpose-built studio space. And be MUCH, MUCH cheaper and directly benefit the not-for-profit orgs as well as local business. It would also be a smarter and greener solution. I'd also like to see a central page for all the various funding options and grants for the arts in Nelson. I've found it hard to find out about them. And it'd be great to see a page of regular annual arts and culture events in the Nelson-Tasman area listed by month e.g. the Fringe Festival, the Nelson Arts Festival, the Nelson Film Festival, the Motueka Arts Festival, the Buskers Festival, Light Nelson, the Blissom Festival, Matariki etc. Again, at the moment it feels piecemeal (if there is a page online somewhere that brings all of these annual arts and culture events together in one at-a-glance listing with links, I still haven't heard about it!). And if there could be a page that links all the various arts and cultural groups in Nelson with a sentence summary and link for each, that would also be brilliant. Some general positive feedback: I've found the arts community in Nelson to be heart-warmingly supportive, helpful, collaborative vs competitive, and vibrant. I've found the funding organizations and grants - once I found out about them! - to be generous and supportive and accessible. And I've found the people of Nelson to be really enthusiastic about supporting and enjoying and participating in the arts.
- I have heard a lot about the Artery and the gap it left. Multi-disciplinary, low barrier spaces where artists of different colour and from different walks of life can serendipitously come together and be inspired
- I hope that accessibility has a place in these conversations. Not just "can people get into the building?" type of accessibility, but also, can surtitles be easily used? Is there a quiet space

for an audio describer? Is there more than one “wheelchair space” in the seating area, and can it be somewhere other than the first row inside the doors (where everyone files past, squeezes in front of, and generally is completely aware there’s a wheelchair in the room) Can there be a space like they used to have at the movies - a side room where you could see and hear the movie, but not disturb other viewers with accessibility accommodations? I think, actually, it was most frequently used as a nursing mother’s space, lol. TL/DR remember that accessibility is not only getting into the building, it’s being able to meaningfully and discreetly participate as an audience member once you’re in.

- I think that too much money planned for many last century projects. We are well into the digital age but continue to commit to a New Library facility. There are enough small performance venues in the area but we need a larger venue, to avoid being a cultural blackhole.
- I would like the focus to be on improving the use of current venues. I personally do not like the use of the library for music performances.
- In theatre, The Suter's lack of support really lets the town down. It's a brilliant small theatre, but there are no wrap around services (promotion, ticketing, eftpos, lighting etc.). They charge a LOT but you don't get much support, which makes it unviable for many productions.
- It's great to see this topic looked at and great to see the local arts community consulted. I do think it is also worth talking to promoters who tour artists through NZ. Nelson is often missed on a tour circuit and it would be great to know why - is it because of our lack of suitable venues? The question should be asked. My two highlights of Nelson's needs; 1, Don't just think of seated/auditorium style arts when considering a needs assessment for a venue. Also think of standing GA concerts. We lack an indoor venue that is suitable for hosting between 500-1000 people. 2, Also look at our outdoor venue options for touring summer artists. Something with a capacity of up to 10,000 people. 3, As well as the two above highlights, I also agree a 700-seat auditorium style event is also required. Maybe if something was investigated, look at ways that it could also be suitable for standing gigs as well.
- I've often mused on the idea of a live music subsidy for local venues; to bring live music which is appropriate for individual spaces into the community at low expense to the owner/operators of the venues. This will ensure musicians are paid properly and no-one goes home out of pocket. There would have to be regulations around this to avoid abuse or misuse, and it have to be music across all genres; from string quartets to rock bands - every venue has capacity to host live music, it just depends on the choice! A new arts precinct in Nelson would be amazing and would work to break silos across disciplines and some active encouragement for artists to collaborate across the arts will benefit everyone.
- Keen to see a directory of businesses that would like to host 'open rehearsals', as pre previous comments
- More that catering for our aging population and those with hearing impairment or mobility issues. Many of our venues are not good for older people. All venues need to be in a common directory ...maybe they are already and I just don't know about it?
- N/A
- N/A
- Need innovative, modern, fit for purpose spaces that are easily accessible to all, have good light and parking facilities.

- Need more funding and support than more venues. why didn't the trafilgar centre feature as a nelson venue?
- Nelson/Richmond have several "Black box Theatres" to provide local, creative, affordable, and, variable performance types. It is too bad that we spent so much, and got so little for the Theatre Royal Venue Refurbishment.
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No. Already shared thoughts with Chris. :-)
- Not that weren't expressed during phone interview :)
- Our Club has a paid membership 50-80 people in any one year and all are events are open to anyone, including non-members. We keep everything low cost and the club runs largely with volunteers. We supported the Tui Farm Folk Festival and are looking to run our own smaller festival event when Covid allows (we had to cancel the one planned for last January). In general, we fly beneath the radar of any of the 'Arts' organisations because we are small. However, we have continued to provide a place to perform and experience Folk and Acoustic Music in Nelson continuously for 35years plus (the more distant history actually goes right back to the late 1960s). This is one of the first surveys I have ever struck that actually has a place where our group can really contribute.
- Thanks for asking. I hope an even nicer art scene in Nelson thrives from this survey.
- That the Council needs to be more supportive in finding a suitable space for the City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band, due to removing our space from under us, and offering us no alternative and nowhere to practise. The band is 98 years old.
- The last priority question requires a ranking that does not allow for any alternatives - there are merits in all of those but it would be interesting to see a broader vision - where was the marae as a venue for creating and performing - how are the community centres being supported - creating more ways to say art just happens over here is removing the intrinsic value of art being an important staple of a thriving community
- There seems to be quite a few almost unknown or disused spaces around so getting easy access to them would be a good start. Several underutilized outdoor performance spaces eg top of Trafalgar stage? Vacant block on Bridge st why are they not being used? Tahuna festival site fee of \$1000 per day is ridiculous, people should be being paid to do events not the other way round!
- try to keep the character of studio and event spaces - but also max the live stream capacity – use NMIT media students to flood digital media with arts news, watching artists in studio, master classes, rehearsals - everything. make it LIVE
- Venues should be affordable and artists should be supported. We come for the art, not the building it's in
- We need the ability to have a range of spaces to allow Nelson entertainment to encourage people from further away to visit and see shows. We also need spaces for us to rehearse, ideally in the space that the show would be done.
- Why are the only options a 750 space, or a 150 space? a Black box theatre would be a potentially bad music venue. When that's what is needed. It's not just about the spaces for music, but the things that a bar normally provides. that's the difficult thing with using Fairfield or other places.

## Appendix C – Engagement List

Table 1: stakeholders contacted directly

Stakeholder Group	Contacts	
Venues	Jasmine Turner (Studio One) Mark Christensen (State Cinema) Graham O'Brien (Christ Church Cathedral) (Jack/Ian/Sarah) Founders Heritage Park Gareth Cashin (CLM, Greenmeadows Community Centre) Julie Catchpole (Suter Theatre) Aline Lefevre (NMIT Johnny Cash Room) (Lloyd Harwood/Janja Heathfield) Refinery ArtSpace Catherine Brosnahan (Fairfield House) Eliane Polack (Theatre Royal) Mike McLaughlin (Boathouse) James Donaldson (NCMA) Sam Atkin (NMIT) Martin Fletcher (Marlborough District Council) Eelco Boswijk (The Free House Pub) Kevin Moseley (ASB Theatre Marlborough) Katharine Overend (ASB Theatre Marlborough) Sophie Kelly (Adam Chamber Music Festival) Ruth Roebuck (Suter Theatre)	
Individuals	Amanda Raine Anne Rush Axel de Maupeou Bob Bickerton Gabby Winter Giles Burton Hugh Neill Justin Eade Karl Wulff Klaasz Breukel Laura Irish	Lesley Bandy Nic Foster Nils Pokel Renee Hadlow Roger Sanders Rōpata Taylor Scott Burnett Shanine Hermsen Shelley Haring Stu Dalton Wendy Clease

Groups invited to complete online survey

Group	Group
Acoustic Routes Nelson	Nelson Highland Dancing Organisation
Adam Chamber Music Festival	Nelson Jazz Club
Ali Brown Weaving	Nelson Live Poets Society
Art Group Nelson Inc.	Nelson Male Voice Choir
ArtFix Nelson	Nelson Marlborough Institute of
Artists of Nelson	Technology (NMIT)
Arts Council Nelson	Nelson Musical Theatre
Ballet Nelson – The Academy of Ballet	Nelson Performing Arts Competitions
Arts	Nelson Quilters Guild
Birdlife Productions Theatre Company	Nelson Repertory Theatre
Boulder Writers	Nelson Scottish Country Dance Club
Celtic Pipe Band Inc.	Nelson Scottish Country Dance Club
Centre for Fine Woodworking	Nelson Spinning, Weaving, Knitting
Ceol An eas	Guild
City of Nelson Highland Pipe Band	Nelson Summer Shakespeare
Commotion Youth Music Colab	Nelson Sun City Cloggers
Community Art Works (CAW) (with	Nelson Suter Art Society
Light Nelson Collective)	Nelson Symphony Orchestra
Creative Arts Network Nelson	Nelson Tasman Pasifika Community
Creative Journeys	Trust
Creative Nelson Networking	Nelson Youth Theatre Company
Cultural Conversations and Voice	Northpark Productions
Collective	NZ Machine Knitters' Society
Dance Sport Nelson	NZ Society of Authors
Fargher Academy of Dance	NZ Textile Experiences
Gillian Francis Nelson Academy of	People's Republic of Improv
Dance	Peta Spooner Academy of Dance
Greenhill Training Orchestra	Peta Spooner Academy of Dance
Histrionics	Piping & Dancing Association of NZ
Isel Park Art and Craft Group	Primarily Dance
Latin Dance Top of the South	Ragged Crow Morris Dancers
Legacy Dance	Richmond Scottish Country Dance Club
Magenta Creative Space Charitable	Rockquest Promotions
Trust	Romance Writers of NZ, Nelson Branch
Make/Shift Spaces	Rose and Luna Jewellery
Multicultural Nelson Tasman	Soundstage
NBS Nelson City Brass	Spinners & Weavers Wakapuaka
Nelson Arts Festival	STEM Writers Nelson
Nelson Arts Festival Trust	Tahunanui Community Art and Craft
Nelson Camera Club Nelson	Group
Photographic Society	Te Ramaroa

Nelson City Community Arts Facilities - Gaps Analysis

Nelson Civic Choir	Te Whatu Kura Culture Club
Nelson Community Potters Inc	The Armarie Room
Nelson Creative Fibre Group	Top of the South Filmmakers
Nelson Decorative & Fine Arts Society	Vast Dance Festival
Nelson Districts Woodturning Club	Viewfinder
Nelson Electronic Organ & Keyboard Club	Viva Chamber Orchestra
Nelson Embroiderers' Guild	Wakatū Incorporation
Nelson Film Society	Writers at Lunchtime
Nelson Fringe Festival	ZENDA Middle Eastern Dancers
Nelson Guild of Woodworkers	

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