

Creative Places Awards

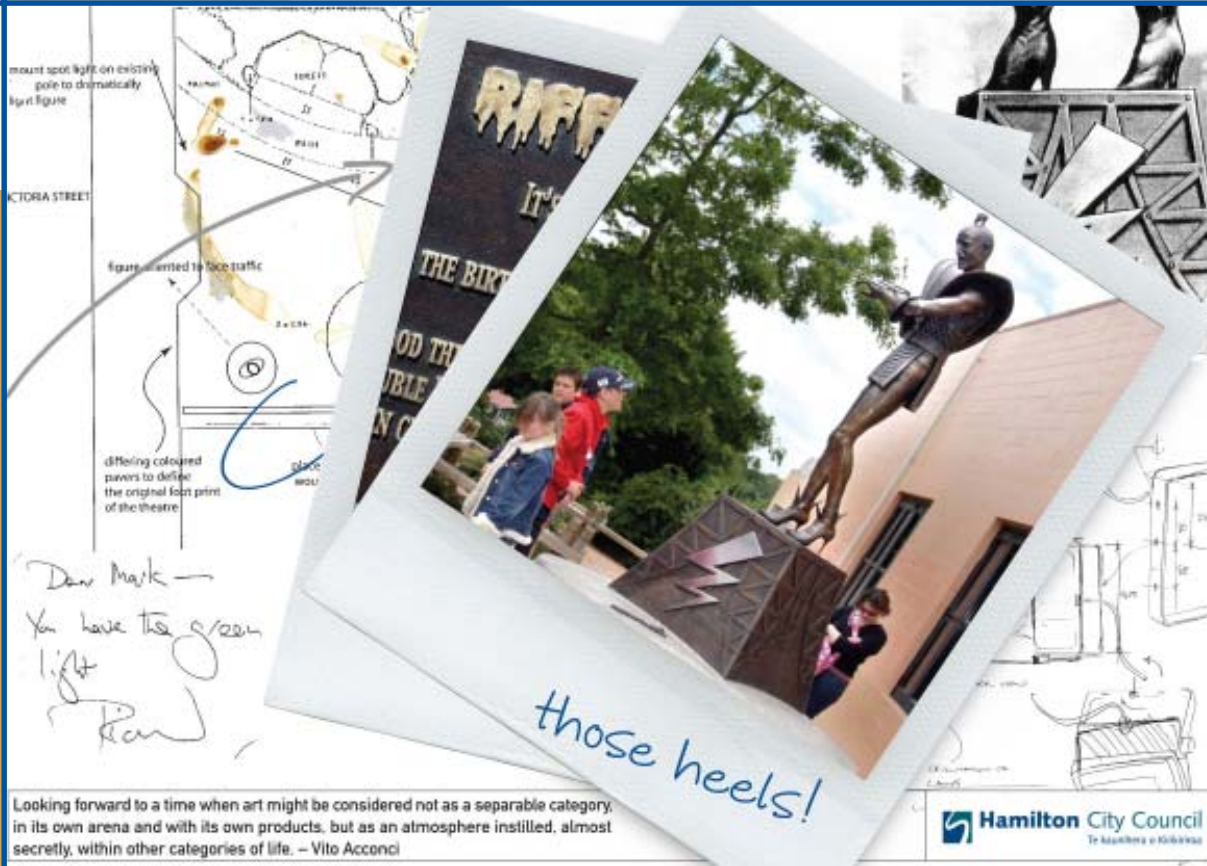
Arts Provision:
City and Regional Councils

Category Winner

2005

Creative New Zealand established the Creative Places Awards in 1999 to acknowledge the key role that local authorities play in the arts. Entries are judged by an independent panel of judges with arts and local authority expertise.

A premier winner is chosen from the District and City Council winners in four categories: Arts Provision; Built Environment; Cultural Festivals and Arts Events; and Commissions and Public Artworks.



Hamilton City Council for its Art in Public Places Policy

What: The development of an Art in Public Places Policy, resulting from the recent integration of public art in Hamilton City locations.

Where: Hamilton City

Contact: Emma Pullar, Arts and Culture Co-ordinator
PO Box 933, Hamilton
Phone: (07) 8386828
Email: emma.pullar@hcc.govt.nz

How Hamilton City described the development of its Art in Public Places Policy:

Late in 2003, Weta Workshop was commissioned to create a statue of Riff Raff, the Rocky Horror Picture Show icon created by Hamiltonian Richard O'Brien. In 2004, Chris Booth and Diggeress Te Kanawa were commissioned to create the Hamilton

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Gardens sculpture *Nga Uri o Hinetuparimaunga*. Both works were commissioned without an Art in Public Places Policy in place.

The sites chosen for both works were significant. The statue was on the site of the demolished Embassy Theatre, a highly visible location on the main street of the CBD. The sculpture was situated on a busy part of State Highway 1 at the entrance to Hamilton Gardens. The locations and commissions occurred in an environment where no significant public art contributions had been made in 15 years.

As Hamilton City went through the process of installing the works and unveiling them to the public, we witnessed a change. There was increased social dialogue; a focus on the creation of arts-based policies; debate and discussions; increased knowledge of our own unique cultural and heritage landscapes; and new levels of collaboration between the arts communities and local government.

Hamilton City also began to think and act differently. Since the installation of these two significant public artworks, we've seen many major changes in our city. These include:

- increased dialogue between arts groups, council and ratepayers
- the re-organisation of the Local Government reporting structure and the formation of a new Arts and Culture Unit at the City Council
- recognition of the importance of good design both in the CBD and in new residential development
- the identification and mapping of legacies and cultural landscapes
- awareness of the role that artists and the arts can play in the design of a city
- a request by Hamilton City for an Arts and Culture Policy, as well as policies for urban design, public art funding and heritage management
- community consultation on a new approach to theatre and support for performing arts.

An Art and Public Places Policy was written and approved by Council. The objectives of this new policy are:

- to contribute to the creation of a unique identity for Hamilton
- to promote public art of excellence in Hamilton
- to encourage artworks that have relevance to the site and the history of the area, and are in keeping with the nature and cultural significance of the area
- to develop public artworks that reflect the city's cultural diversity
- to ensure public artworks are well-managed, maintained and promoted.

What the judges said:

“We commend Hamilton City for its vision in requesting key policy development. This shows an understanding of what public art processes have done and can continue to do in shaping Hamilton’s future cityscape.”

For more information about the Creative Places Awards, please contact:

Kate Gallagher
Northern Arts Services
Creative New Zealand
P O Box 1425
Auckland
Phone: (09) 4980 577
Email: kateg@creativenz.govt.nz



Front page, main image: Statue of Riff Raff

Above, main image: *Nga Uri o Hinetuparimaunga*, 2004, Chris Booth and Diggeress Te Kanawa