

New Creative Technologies and Arts Centre FAQs

Background

Wellington City has a national and world-wide reputation as New Zealand's creative and film capital. The Council of Whitireia and the Wellington Institute of Technology (WeITec) wishes to align and develop the institutions' creative technology, applied and performing arts programmes so that to the workforce required to support these industries to grow and also to attract the talent to study and work in the Wellington Region.

Following the formation of the Strategic Partnership – *The Choice Protocol* - between Whitireia and WeITec, the Council decided in late 2013 to co-locate the creative technologies, applied and performing arts programmes currently offered by the institutions in a single campus thereby creating a strong presence for vocational education in the central city.

The proposed new Centre would see 1000 students - performers, creators and innovators converging on the Capital's CBD to learn together in a vibrant new purpose built campus.

The co-location of programmes will lead to increased cross disciplinary programmes and course options that will attract students from beyond Wellington, and international students and deliver on the Choice Protocol promise.

What programmes are proposed to be located on the site?

The Centre will offer a creative, collaborative educational environment not seen elsewhere in New Zealand, that brings together the outstanding creative technology and arts programmes that Whitireia and WeITec currently offer including: New Zealand Film and Television School, Whitireia Performing Arts Centre, New Zealand Radio Training School and programmes in digital media production and animation, journalism, creative writing, publishing and editing, music – rock, jazz, commercial and DJ, live sound and event production, visual arts and design, Maori arts, arts management, jewellery, digital design and multi-media, photography, event management, makeup and hair artistry for film and television.

Where is the proposed Centre located?

It is proposed that the new campus (yet to be named) will be located on the corner of Dixon and Cuba Streets; where the former Deka Building currently stands. It is an ideal location in the heart of the student precinct.

Who would develop the site?

WeITec and Whitireia are working with property owner, Willis Bond & Co to enter into a lease agreement for a new building on this site.

Willis Bond & Co have developed a number of successful mixed use projects in Wellington that have revitalised precincts within the city including: The Chews Lane Precinct; the NZX Centre, Wellington Brewing Company, and the Free Ambulance Building on the waterfront; the heritage wedge-shaped Xero House; Grant Thornton House including office and retail on Lambton Quay; and more recently Clyde Quay Wharf and the under construction One Market Lane, a residential, retail and office project.

Willis Bond & Co has appointed Athfield Architects to develop a preliminary base build design incorporating the existing Deka building façade and extending it to six floors. Once a lease agreement has been completed, WeITec and Whitireia will appoint an architect to design the interior fit-out.

The new building will be earthquake strengthened to be fully compliant with the New Zealand Building Code.

How much would it cost and how would it be funded?

The total project is valued at around \$80M. Whitireia and WeITec will fund the fit-out (estimated at \$20M+) from existing capital expenditure budgets.

When would work on the site begin?

The building design, Council approvals and the appointment of a construction company for both the building's construction and the interior refit, will need to be decided before any work can begin. Pending approvals and contracts being signed, the project could get underway as early as 2015.

When would the Centre be open?

The proposed Centre will be operating in time for the 2018 academic year.

How many students could undertake study at the Centre?

The proposed Centre is being designed to take over 1000 fulltime students at capacity. This would represent combined growth for WeITec and Whitireia arts and creative technologies students of 15% over 5 years for domestic students, with an additional 50 international foreign fee paying students.

What are the proposed design features planned for the Centre?

The design brief tasks the architects with creating a learning environment which has the latest technology for teaching and learning and which can be converted to new technology as it develops, is vibrant and has large open learning reconfigurable spaces allowing students to interact and collaborate on projects which will encourage multi-disciplinary skill development and acquisition – a trait in high demand by today's employers.

The Centre will comprise a floor area of 9000m² including multi levels of general teaching and specialist spaces.

Along with a public gallery space and spaces for events and functions, specialist teaching spaces are being designed to house:

- dance studios and performance spaces for theatre and stage,
- control-mixing rooms for radio,
- salons for hair and beauty,
- workshops for woodwork and fabrication for creative technologies, jewellery making and sculpture;
- film photography dark rooms
- a 250 seat theatre

The workshop areas are designed as flexible teaching spaces with annexed specialist equipment alcoves and rooms and can be reconfigured depending on programme demand or remain as large open-plan fluid environments.

General teaching studios are designed to be separable using furniture solutions to manage varying cohort size and programmes.

What would the likely impact of the Centre be on the local film and creative industries?

The positioning of the campus allows for close connections to the local film and creative industry. It draws on the region's talents and resources and the flow of graduates is expected to strengthen Wellington's position as New Zealand's creative capital and student-friendly centre.

The Centre will be a hub for creativity and performance and with more than 1000 students flooding into the area will boost the vibrancy of the surrounding area adding to the fantastic Cuba Street vibe.

Public performances, exhibitions, events, shows and functions will be provided and the facilities will be available for hire. The Centre will be a drawcard for creative and talented people wanting to showcase their work.

Whitireia – www.whitireia.ac.nz

Whitireia is a leading New Zealand polytechnic, known for its high student success rate and culturally diverse student body. Established in 1986, Whitireia has grown to become a tertiary institution of choice for over 8,500 students (5,000 equivalent full time students), who now study at one of our modern campuses in Wellington, Auckland, Porirua, and Kāpiti.

In 2014, over 100 programmes of study are being offered to students, covering certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate levels. All programmes have been developed in conjunction with industry, to offer excellent applied qualifications.

Whitireia is a major national player in performing and applied arts. Whitireia operates the highly respected NZ Film and Television school, New Zealand Radio Training School and the Wellington Performing Arts Centre. Whitireia performance and dance students regularly feature in international events. Whitireia also has highly successful programmes in applied arts, music and media with strong links to relevant industry leaders.

WelTec – www.weltec.ac.nz

With almost 9000 students and campuses in Wellington, Petone and Auckland WelTec is highly regarded by employers as providing skilled graduates for a range of industries and occupations.

WelTec is a leading provider both nationally and internationally for creative technologies and their supporting industries including event management, makeup artistry and hair and beauty. Expert tutors have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are highly regarded by their industry peers. Students learn about the latest industry trends and work on major projects and events.

We are Wellington's premier creative technologies provider, teaching practical education that prepares students for careers at all levels and facets of the creative sector particularly film and television and digital media.

Our Hair and Beauty programmes are very highly regarded with current industry practices incorporated into the curriculum. Students participate in projects with WOW and Wellington Fashion along with local theatre products such as Phantom of the Opera and more recently, Annie.

Make-Up Artistry students obtain training in special effects alongside experienced, qualified make-up artists. Graduates work in TV, film, music videos, magazine shoots and more.