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**Media Release**

07 June 2017

**Palmerston North applauded for its support of the arts**

Creative New Zealand has congratulated Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) for being New Zealand’s most financially supportive council for the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS).

In their submission to PNCC’s proposed Annual Budget for 2017/18, Creative New Zealand said the Council was making steady progress on a review of its arts strategy with a well-defined process and early and meaningful engagement with the sector and the public.

The Council’s contribution at 32 percent of CCS’s total income for the city was the highest contribution of any council in New Zealand.

“Palmerston North is fortunate to have an active and diverse arts community”, says PNCC General Manager of Libraries and Community Services Debbie Duncan. “We have a strong focus on creating a vibrant city and we see the arts sector as being essential to achieving this.”

Creative New Zealand provides CCS funding to city and district councils throughout New Zealand to distribute in support of local arts projects. The scheme supports more than 1,800 projects every year through the country.

The latest round of funding applications have just been considered by Palmerston North’s Creative Communities Funding Committee, chaired by Councillor Rachel Bowen.

“We’ve again been delighted with the number of quality applications, and the range of events, activities and projects they represent,” says Cr Bowen. “It is fantastic to have funding from the Creative Communities Scheme to support our arts community. Their energy passion and creativity makes Palmerston North a more interesting place to live.”

“We know the arts make our communities more attractive places to live, work and visit. We applaud PNCC’s initiative and vision in making the arts a focus for the city’s development. It will pay dividends for residents and businesses,” said Creative New Zealand’s senior manager for planning, performance and stakeholder relations, David Pannett.

The successful applicants represent a wide range of creative and cultural projects, events or activities which continue to reflect the city’s diversity and strength of commitment to the arts.

A detailed list of the successful applications and their projects are summarised below:

**Creative Communities Scheme 2016-17 Round 2**

Total requested: $125,239.86

Total allocated: $30,973.38

* **Autalavou EFKS Youth Group** – Making of traditional Samoan art works and a performance to showcase these
* **Aziza Bellydance** – A performing arts showcase for women only entitled “Women of Africa”
* **Connected Media Charitable Trust** – Free one-day filmmaking workshop for young people
* **Hipnotize Halfa Committee** – A weekend dance festival consisting of workshops and performance opportunities
* **Craig Bradley Johnston** – Recording a music album inspired by Irish music and its links with NZ culture
* **Legacy Centre** – Performing arts workshops for young people
* **MaLGRA (Manawatu Lesbian and Gay Rights Association)** – Drag workshops and a show
* **Manawatu Supporting Families in Mental Illness** – An art exhibition based on the work of people with mental illness
* **Manawatu Theatre Inc** – Produce a season of the show “1984”
* **Midnight Switch** – Produce a high-quality rock music single and video
* **Mo'unga Kipione Youth** – Making/decorating of traditional Tongan artefacts
* **Pamanlahi Cultural Group** – Dance workshops focusing on Cordillera heritage in the Philippines
* **ReaLM (Reading and Literacy in Manawatu)** – An author tour for local schools
* **Scouting New Zealand – Manawatu Gang Show** (a variety show staged and produced entirely by the Scouts and Guides of the region)
* **Tall Poppies & Manawatu Theatre Inc** – A youth theatre performance of “Aladdin”
* **Creative Sounds Society Inc – SwampFest 2017** (Palmy’s annual local music festival)
* **WAI (Women’s Art Initiative) Collective** – Art making sessions and an exhibition for women who have experienced violence
* **Jennifer Moss – Palmy Sings!** (A series of singing events in Palmerston North coinciding with World Singing Day)

**Ends:**

For further information:

Ian Littleworth

PNCC Community Engagement Manager

ian.littleworth@pncc.govt.nz