

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

*He taura whiri kotahi mai ano te kopunga tai no i te pu au.
From the source to the mouth of the sea, all things are joined together as one.*

This collaborative community-led project emerged from conversations earlier in 2023 that led to a joint presentation to Auckland Council about their proposed 2023-24 budget¹.

Those conversations revealed that, for communities/the community sector to be strong in Tāmaki Makaurau, it is super important to know more about what matters to those working in and with communities right across the region. It is also super important to be able to communicate the value of community, community-based and driven work and to build relationships across those of us working in community in different parts of our rohe.

Three key questions came up:

- ◆ What does 'good' look like for strong communities/community sector in Tāmaki Makaurau?
- ◆ How might we get to that over the next 10 years?
- ◆ How can we demonstrate the value the community sector adds locally and regionally?

To find out more and to begin to take steps towards ensuring communities/the community sector is strong, project supporters are facilitating conversations across the rohe over the next 5 weeks and have developed [a short online survey](#). We plan to share findings in a short report and potentially co-host a joined up regional communities conversation on 5 December (TBC).

¹ This collective regional response is resourced by Inspiring Communities, Community Waitakere and ANCAD, supported by a group of organisations and individuals across Tāmaki Makaurau and coordinated by Denise Bijoux. More here: <https://inspiringcommunities.org.nz/collective-response-to-auckland-council-budget-2023-24/>



We are thinking that a regional hui could help:

- ◆ Explore opportunities for collaboration and new ways of working together as regional communities - and with Council, Local Boards, funders, central govt agencies, business etc as part of these conversations.
- ◆ Develop a mosaic of good community practice and values that underpin this
- ◆ Understand the impacts of how/where Council budget cuts will be made so that:
 - Regional communities may have an early opportunity to inform/influence 'how' these processes might happen now and for the next Council Long Term/Annual Plan
 - Everyone has the same information, has the chance to ask questions and can plan ahead individually and collectively
- ◆ Community organisations and groups strategically navigate a changing system at both local and national levels.

We would love to include your thoughts into our 10 year aspiration for communities in Tāmaki Makaurau. Your words will be kept anonymous and you will receive a draft of our summary with an opportunity to comment before the report is shared more widely.

The group would also love to know your thoughts on:

- ◆ If/how could a regional communities hui could be a first step towards achieving your aspirations from the questions above?
- ◆ What would you need from a regional hui for it to be useful to you?
- ◆ How might you be involved?

Your thoughts will inform the design and programme of the hui (including, if a hui is the most useful thing to do right now). We don't want to make assumptions!

If you would like to find out more, and be part of hosting conversations with others in your community, please contact:

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