



IHC National Office

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21 May 2024

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing this letter in support of Foto Iwi requesting funding for Fotofest 2024.

The IHC Programmes Team has worked with Shayne and Cath Jeffares since 2014 on several different projects and over the last three years, as Foto Iwi.

Fotofest provides photographers, including those with intellectual disabilities, the opportunity to have their talent recognised, their voices heard and a chance to sell their photographs.

Building on the success of the IHC Art Awards, IHC wanted to showcase the talent of New Zealanders through a different medium. In 2023, we worked with Foto Iwi and introduced IHC's first photography competition, "Capture the moment". Capture the moment's 30 finalists have exhibited their photographs at the last two Fotofest exhibitions held in Hastings City now, with photographers selling their work.

Last year's competition doubled in the number of entries received and we are expecting the number of entries to increase again this year. Our photographers have a great sense of pride seeing their photographs exhibited alongside both national and internationally recognised photographers' images. IHC's Capture the moment is now an annual competition, and again, we are exhibiting the finalists at Fotofest in September 2024.

Foto Iwi have also recently completed a series of photography and plant-based cooking workshops for people with intellectual disabilities around the North Island. These were incredibly successful and enjoyed by many people who took away some new skills. We are in the process of securing funding for Foto Iwi to facilitate further workshops.

The invaluable work that Foto Iwi contributes to their community and the lives of countless individuals, including people with intellectual disability, deserves recognition, support, and resources to ensure Foto Iwi can continue their work. I am impressed with their dedication and commitment to support all people in their local community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or require any further information.

Kind regards

Janine Stewart
General Manger, IHC Programmes

Darth Cornelius

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corneliusd80@gmail.com

Re; Fotofest Hawkes Bay

Dear Creative New Zealand, I am more than happy to support Fotofest Hawkes Bay & Foto Iwi Charitable trust's application for any funding they require for future events in 2024/2025 and beyond. Shayne and the trust have been instrumental in supporting my development as an artist since I was connected to him through a local gallery contact last year.

Their organization of last years event has lead to many opportunities for me, including having my first public exhibition in a massive space, selling my first fine-art prints, and even qualifying for funding through the creative communities scheme, which I have deployed to help me afford completion of my latest project & exhibition titled "Here Before"

My case is a single example out of many that have resulted from the efforts of Shayne & the trust, and it is my firm belief that without organisations and individuals like him keeping the wheels turning for the local photography community out in regions away from the major cities, New Zealands visual arts scene, and pool of photographic talent would loose a vital lifeline & unifier, causing it to slowly dissolve.

To conclude, I am happy to support Fotofest Hawkes Bay & Foto iwi charitable trust in their application for any funding to Creative NZ because they host vital events, support local artists, and keep photography alive in New Zealand.

Nga mihi,

Darth Cornelius

To whom it may concern,

RE- FotoFEST Hawkes Bay

I would just like share in this letter just how fantastic FotoFest HB has been in supporting me as an amateur photographer, in getting my work out into the public arena.

I have been involved with FF since the inaugural festival in 2022 when I was given the chance to exhibit at a local inner city Brewery/ Restaurant where my work was enjoyed by the owners , staff and patrons, as well as the many people roaming inner city Hastings with the FotoFest circuit map.

Last year at Fotofest 2023, I collaborated with 2 other artists and created a visual show of our work , this time in an Art Gallery , where I was thrilled to have sold my first image.

Shayne and his team have been 110% supportive and have provided an amazing platform for amateurs and professional photographers alike , to showcase our work, sell our work, and build amazing inner confidence to exhibit our work also.

With the many various workshops available , where I can sit amongst a crowd of amateurs , professionals and non photographers, it really is truly unique and enjoyable for all.

There is no other event quite like it in my opinion, and I look forward to seeing it grow year by year!

Best regards

Lee Pritchard

My name is Derek Rossiter and I'm an amateur photographer from Hawke's Bay. I've been showcasing my work at Fotofest for the last two years. My involvement with the festival was a truly inspiring experience! In my first year I was honoured to have my photo win the amateur photographer competition which gave me the prize for my first exhibition in Fotofest 2022. This motivated me to put on my own exhibition at the 2023 festival. I received so much positive feedback and gave me the chance to meet an array of amateur and professional photographers from all over NZ. It helped me develop my craft and made me even more passionate about photography than ever before! This was all due to the team at Fotofest and their incredible dedication to promoting the art of photography.

I'm confident that this festival will continue to grow and thrive, thanks to the hard work of the organisers and participants. I'm looking forward to showcasing my work and being inspired by others at the festival again this year.

Derek Rossiter

Hey Shayne,

I just wanted to offer a few thoughts on my first experience with fotofest. Last year, 2023, I not only submitted a number of my own personal photographs, but attended many educational, and entertaining workshops and viewed other photographers fine exhibitions. One thing that really impressed me was the variety of work and the varied abilities of work on show, it wasn't your normal run of the mill well known names the show contained work of many unknown photographers showing their work for the first time, folk of all ages were involved and welcomed. The whole festival ran like clockwork, everyone involved was incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, only too happy to offer advise and encouragement. In my humble opinion we live in a totally over saturated world full of digital images viewed backlit on tiny screens in the palm of our hands so it was such a pleasure to slowly browse actual printed images on actual walls with actual people walking around commenting on the fine photography on show. As an older photographer I started shooting long before the digital revolution so I know the value of the printed image, but for younger folk viewing large prints for the first time it must have been truly inspirational seeing so many images displayed as they should be. I will definitely be submitting more of my work this year I have two ideas for exhibition, I may even submit both haha. I'd like to thank you Shayne and your incredible team for putting fotofest together on a shoestring the long hours and hard graft you all put into this is appreciated. Given time and continued support I can only see fotofest going from strength to well earned strength.

Kind regards

Paul Taylor

Paul Taylor

Deputy chief photographer

Hawke's Bay Today

Hello Shayne,

We love working with you and very much appreciate your dedication to providing an activity to the people we support, that is much loved by everyone, gets them out and about with their friends and all while learning a new skill. You have a very kind and supportive approach to the people we support, and they love you for it.

Photography is a wonderful way for them to capture the world through their eyes and we can see the joy and pride in their faces when they get to show their photos to us or even to the wider community in an exhibition. Being able to share their art/photography in an exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to create a connection with people whose paths would not have crossed otherwise.

I also appreciate your energy and creativity to produce new ideas and projects, that provide a new experience for the people we support and continuous to grow them in their technical skills as well as their artistic expression.

Thank you

Bastian Kuesel | Area Manager

IDEA Services

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18/05/2024

To whom it may concern,

Prior to Shayne and the Fotofest team first starting in 2022, I hadn't ever thought about exhibiting my photographic work as I didn't believe that I had the skill set to be successful in this arena, and the whole process felt daunting!

However, with the launch of Fotofest, Shayne convinced me to give it a go, and not only went out of his way to support and champion my work, but he guided my every step. That first year I experienced a positive and successful exhibition, and his willingness to pass on his expertise meant that I had learnt a lot.

In 2023 Shayne contacted me again, this time with a new proposal, where I had the opportunity to exhibit my work along side two other photographers, but this time at the CAN in Napier. Once again Shayne facilitated the exhibition and guided me in every aspect. Again, this exhibition would not have gone ahead without Shayne and the team guiding me every step of the way.

In short, I have found Fotofest and the team invaluable in their support, knowledge and expertise, and because of Fotofest I can happily say that I am now an exhibited photographer, something I am sure I would not have experienced if not for the Fotofest team.

Regards

Jen Fugle

If calling ask for Andrea Taaffe

File Ref: Record Number

19 December 2023

Shayne Jeffares
FOTO IWI
503 Queen Street
Hastings

Dear Shayne

Letter of support for the funding application of Fotofest 2024

I am very happy to endorse any funding application that FOTO IWI Charitable Trust makes for the production of Fotofest 2024.

The success of the inaugural 2022 festival was a huge accomplishment and it was fantastic that the Hastings District Council was able to support this, Council again supported the 2023 festival through our Event and City Centre Activation funding.

The event successfully met Hastings District Councils objectives and aligned perfectly with our Toi-Tū framework strategy. Based on this it would be great for this event to continue and grow to the extent it becomes a fixture in the regional events calendar. Being able to showcase the local talent and offer mentorship opportunities in the creative sector with the projects that FOTO IWI present are exciting and innovative for our region and something the Hastings District Council supports and encourages.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me directly.

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely



Andrea Taaffe
Events and Operations Manager
Andreat@hdc.govt.nz



Edward Roberts
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Friday 17th May, 2024

Foto Fest – Grateful to be involved in such a cool event !

I wanted to share a few things I enjoyed and appreciated about being involved in the annual Foto Fest in Hawkes Bay. This year will be my third year as part of the festival and my second year as the youngest exhibitor. Having my work displayed alongside lots of well known local photographers was a really cool feeling.

I had a great experience last year in both the youth photo competition and holding my own exhibition as part of Foto Fest. It felt really good to be able to display my work and passion in such a great venue. As well as the main exhibition, my photos were also displayed at Westermans cafe which allowed me to reach an even wider audience.

The event is really well organised by Shayne and Cath who have both been a huge help in my journey as an emerging photographer. I have also met some other great people as well through their work with Happy Bay News and Foto Iwi.

I had the opportunity to attend workshops back in 2022 and now am actually helping run them ! I have learnt so much from Shayne and Cath and I am grateful for the work they do for young creatives in Hawkes Bay.

Cant wait to see how this year's Fotofest is even better !

Thanks,
Edward Roberts

Ola Roberts
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Havelock North
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Ph - 0210688033

Friday 17th May, 2024

Foto Fest – An amazing opportunity for young creatives to showcase their work

I am so pleased to write this testimonial for the annual Foto Fest in Hawkes Bay.

Since moving back to Hawkes Bay a couple of years ago, my son Edward, in Year 12 has been closely involved with the festival, both as an entrant to youth competition and last year exhibiting in his own right as part of the festival. Edward was able to share his passion for landscape photography and New Zealand's beautiful mountains in his exhibition as part of the Festival.

The festival and all the ongoing work by Shayne and Cath promoting creatives in the Bay has been such a positive and rewarding experience for Ed and for us as parents to see him flourishing as a photographer, getting exposure and recognition and meeting other photographers.

The festival draws so much interest from the local community and is also a wonderful learning opportunity with the workshops and seminars being part of it. It gets the local businesses involved and I know they enjoy being part of it. Ed's photos were at Westernmans cafe and we had some really lovely feedback from the staff. So many of our friends and family are excited to come to this year's one.

This experience has given Edward the confidence and motivation to continue with his passion and we can see him making a fulfilling career out of it.

We will be supporting Foto Fest every year and it is well placed to become a core community and creative event that attracts even more local and international photographers.

A personal Thank you to Shayne and Cath for their ongoing work developing opportunities for creatives in Hawkes Bay.

Thank you !

Ola Roberts



23/05/2024

To whom it may concern.

I would like to offer this letter of support for FOTOFEST and the team who makes it happen.

I Barry Hintz am the current president of the Hawkes Bay Photographic Society. (HBPS) we have 60 active members at all levels/stages of photography. Our membership ranges from school students to people in their 80s

I have with my fellow HBPS club members have been part of FOTOFEST since the first year, and it has become our event of choice for us to have our yearly exhibition.

We feel that FOTOFEST allows all our members to display their art in an open and welcoming environment. This allows all levels within the club to experience what most amateurs would not be able to do or know how to exhibit their photography.

Shayne and his team from the start, set out to make it about the wider photography community. I feel like he has done a good job of this. An example is the connections I have made with full time professional photographers all in different areas of the industry, Be it a commercial studio photographer, photojournalist or a Getty images photographer. I have been able to speak with and connect with this part of the community through FOTOFEST. This is of great benefit to HBPS, we have had these professionals get involved with members in HBPS and have taught, judged and inspired us. We have also gained members and grown our club not only in numbers but in quality of the photography talent.

This is why I/we continue to be involved with FOTOFEST and believe that as long as it continues to connect everyone to the wider photography community going forward it will keep growing and keep bringing people back.

Yours Sincerely,
Barry Hintz.

President HBPS
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Hastings City Business Association Inc.
Hastings HIVE, 200 Market Street North
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Hastings 4156



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Thursday 23rd May 2024

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Hastings City Business Association, I am writing in support of FotoFest and what it brings to Hastings CBD.

The celebration of artists utilises a number of vacant and public spaces in the CBD for all members of the public to interact with and enjoy. Last year saw 33 businesses opening their space for exhibitions.

Fotofest prides itself on having Hastings at its heart. We are an eclectic and diverse city and the festival harnesses this individuality and uniqueness.

The initiative allows engagement between business owners and operators, landlords and the community in a positive and uplifting way, attracting people to the area to discover what's on offer.

Our vision at the Business Association is to create a welcoming environment that attracts locals and tourists, celebrating the unique character of our city. Fotofest supports this vision, and with appropriate funding can expand and grow to raise vibrancy and all-important tourism to our area.

Kind regards,

Lucinda Perry

General Manager
Hastings City Business Association



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To Whom it May Concern

I am writing in support of Fotofest's funding application for their event in Hastings CBD.

As the owner of Thomson's Suits, I have seen firsthand how Fotofest has positively impacted our business, uplifted the community, supported the local economy, and added vibrancy to the CBD.

Fotofest drives foot traffic to our store, introduces new customers, and fosters deeper connections with our patrons. It uplifts the community by promoting art and culture, supporting local artists, and fostering unity. Additionally, Fotofest stimulates economic activity in the CBD, benefiting businesses like ours and contributing to the area's long-term sustainability.

Fotofest's colorful displays and lively atmosphere enhance the vibrancy of the CBD, making it a more attractive destination for residents and visitors alike. I urge you to consider their funding application favorably, as supporting Fotofest is an investment in our community's well-being and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Angus Thomson

Owner,

Thomson's Suits