



ŌTAUTAHI CREATIVE SPACES

ARANUI LIBRARY INTERVIEWS
JUNE 2016

AUAHATANGA • CREATIVITY

KOTAHITANGA • UNITY

MANĀKITANGA • HOSPITALITY

WHAKAWHANAUNGATANGA • RELATIONSHIPS

WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR YOU JOINING IN AT ARANUI?

“The staff are great here, the people are lovely and Ōtautahi Creative Spaces group is really, really easy to kind of come into - I feel quite safe and content.”

“I know I can come here ‘cause it’s a quieter place and hands-on and have jokes you know, people laugh.”

“We come together as community and talk and share and share each other’s work and different skills and ability.”

“I like it here ‘cause it’s little. And I like the people... the librarians and all that, they’re awesome as well - you can have jokes with them.”

“Very calming... very calming place for me.”

“I look forward to it on a Wednesday, coming here... it’s good for the community too... I just love it. I hope it keeps going.”

“It’s fun. It gets me out of the house.”

“It’s good, really good. Expansive experience really. And yeah, it has been really supportive for me.”

(artists, Aranui Library)

HOW HAS TAKING PART IN THIS CREATIVITY GROUP MADE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU?

“It has got me out of my flat and has got me to meet other people from different walks of life. **Not just artists - people like me that are just learning and like the enjoyment of it really.** I love it. Art makes me happy when I’m doing it. If I’m shitty or upset or anything, I just have to sit down and start drawing and it flips it back to being a positive.”

“I’ve got my movement back in my arms

“Huge healing” because of the artwork I do.”

“It gets me out of the house and actually motivates me more.”

“I’ve never been so enthusiastic about art!”

“For me it’s an additional holding space and this means that I can go through this process twice a week, which is really supportive. And in that way I’m also supportive to other people who are new and coming in and trying to sort of settle into Ōtautahi and what they have to offer. It’s also really, really part of being involved in community - so that you’re stepping outside your own front door as well.”

“I like it. Keeps me concentrating.

Concentrating on my artwork.”

“It helps me get rid of my frustration.”

“Good therapy!”

“It has meant a lot of things in different ways. It could be letting me be myself; letting me get paint on me, which I have quite succeeded in and done.”

(artists, Aranui Library)

WHAT CREATIVE THINGS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH HERE? AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

“I’ve done some paintings and drawing.”

“I’m always painting stuff. Doesn’t matter what it is or who it’s for... it means a heck of a lot to me.”

“My carving”

“I want to try everything.”

“The more I work with them [Alexia and Kim], the more I want to do an art course.”

“I have used the library facilities for sending some of my images to my TLC, which is The Learning Connexion ‘cause I’m a student now... so, I’m sending the images at the end of the month through using the library to actually do that using the WiFi.”

“I’d quite like to do... some more painting here.”

“I’m doing a certificate in art and on a Wednesday I use my hours, I’ve got to do fifteen hours a week, so I use this as well.”

(artists, Aranui Library)

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE STAY THE SAME?

“The space is really good... really good. It’s a beautiful space here at Aranui. It’s a really nice holding place... you know it’s sectioned off from the rest of it, but it’s still part of the library.”

“Just keep going really.”

“You know, the people they bring on board. They are very astute in choosing who they bring into Ōtautahi and I think that needs to stay the same.”

“Alexia and Kim... they’ve got more ideas than probably what we have at the moment... Yeah, basically I want them to stay the same.”

“Just the freedom to choose whatever you would like to do. They are always really supportive in helping you move forward from where you begin and what you want to do - that needs to stay the same I think... rather than putting a framework over you, because everyone has got different desires and needs and are starting from different places.”

(artists, Aranui Library)

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGED OR IMPROVED?

“When people want to work by themselves they [should] have the choice ‘cause I have days where I can’t handle people, I can’t talk to people.”

“**Maybe get some easels...** that would be really great, so that you get a different perspective ‘cause having it done on a table gives you a different perspective for drawing so, it would be really nice to have a few easels you could bring out if you’d like.”

“We come in sometimes with our own work - where do we store our gear without having to consciously keep an eye on it? ... **It would be great if we had somewhere to actually put our gear.**”

“**Having enough paints and things** as well to actually be able to function because at the moment it’s smaller pieces I guess that people are working on, so they’ve got smaller paints, but they may need to cart around massive amounts of paint or just have it on board, locked away here.”

*“I haven’t come across anything that stands out that doesn’t work, but I would feel comfortable enough to talk to **Alexia and /or Kim** if something was odd or unusual or didn’t work or was you know not healthy for myself or someone else.”*

*“well, you can always improve it without even realising - just by **getting more people here** and you know doing the art.”*

(artists, Aranui Library)

LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT AND KAUPAPA

“It’s all about being a community space isn’t it... being a community space and a useable space for a multitude of purposes really. It’s a place where people can come and act as that third space you know - it’s not work, it’s not home, it’s a safe third space where they can come and pursue any interests they’ve got or any projects they’ve got and consult us in the process. It’s happening. We have the space to use. And we’ve got you guys coming in - it’s good.”

“It’s somewhere to come learn as well without the whole situation of being a school.”

“I mean we were born out of traditional library values, but sometimes that’s not the best way to serve a community... it’s a very non-traditional library. It’s way less academic and way more community focused.”

“It’s also a really good meeting place for people, which is working really well.”

“The kids that will come in at three o’clock are all from very different schools, but then they come and hang out together and play together... it’s a really cool thing. **It’s a very neutral space.**”

“I like the fact that **we’re not passive** - that we sit here doing nothing - but what we’re doing is **we’re working hard to create this really positive space.**”

(librarians, Aranui Library)

HOW HAS THE CREATIVITY GROUP CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ENVIRONMENT AND KAUPAPA? WHAT IS ITS IMPACT?

“It [the creativity group] is providing exposure and opportunities. There was an immediate uptake when this started - immediate - and that core group is still here; they’re coming every week.”

“They [the artists] might be having a bad morning... they look forward to your group, so, it kind of changes their attitude.”

“Work[ing] week to week with your program gives us opportunities to actually connect with the people doing it and use our tools and our skills in finding resources to help them... we’re really, really happy to do that. It’s amazing. We gave someone an iPad and then told her how to search for some images and then how to print them and it was a fantastic idea because she didn’t know she could do that at the library.”

“You’re fostering community.”

“I find [artist] is a lot happier... **it’s given her a bit of purpose and a bit of - a little piece of the week to focus on.** And you can see that she’s, in her own time at home, she’s thinking about what she’s going to do and how she’s going to do it, which is a really cool thing. And sometimes it’s way beyond her ability to achieve this, but you guys are good enough to be able to make it work. **That’s huge.**”

(librarians, Aranui Library)

“They [the artists] are really proud of what they’re doing... producing something out of nothing is a really valuable thing.”

“It’s about exposure. People don’t know what’s out there until they’re exposed to it. And that’s got to be what a library is about - essentially - is exposing people to things. The only difference is we’ve taken the things out of the books and put these physical items, etc. out on the tables. Or we’re fortunate enough to have groups like you guys come in and bring things with you - items to use and tools to use and things... it sounds simplistic, but it makes a difference.”

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT? HOW COULD WE ENGAGE MORE PEOPLE?

“Walking away with something is really important for this community too. If you can give them something at the end - what you’ve done - then that’s a really valuable thing.”

“Maybe doing something large and outside could be a way to just provide exposure.”

“There’s a couple of things that we’ve done as a team as well, consciously, to help this kind of environment of exposure and activity... One of those really important ones is opening up those glass doors and creating that space as a part of the library space and not as a separate room... We open that whole space, and I think that has helped us and that has helped you too.”

“I’m pretty sure in the afternoon you would have a lot more people. And it would become a really regular thing for a lot of the kids.”

“If you did it on a Saturday or Sunday you might get bigger uptakes because frankly, like today on a Wednesday midmorning, not many people around anyway.”

“I’d love to see something really blokey take off to get some guys in here to do some stuff. Whatever form that takes, I think it’s worth trying at least to kind of fly the flag.”

“If we knew your theme... then we could value add that with our resources. We can provide you with some options for deeper learning.”

“You could potentially expand the medium... I suppose you know ‘cause there was such a high uptake when you did the full day because there were so many different things.”

(librarians, Aranui Library)

HOW DID THE CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME GO? ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE?

“The school holiday - that was good. That was amazing because it wasn't just the kids, there were the older boys there... they were having fun in there doing art.”

“Some of the kids asked me after the holidays whether you guys were coming back again ‘cause they really enjoyed that.”

“How often would kids get the opportunity to use a printing press and do carvings and things like that? The program was really, really good - spread across stuff to interest real littlies to stuff to interest teenagers.”

“They [the kids] were happy to have them [their pieces of art] up so they could show people, look this is what I did!”

“Maybe two weeks - do one each week. That would be kind of cool, wouldn't it? They were asking for that... and it wasn't just the kids asking for that.”

“It was really good having you because it's a really full on time for us.”

“There was heaps of numbers, heaps of people.”

“It was very good and it fit in really well with the rest of our programs too because we knew you guys were coming, we could actually design our stuff around you.”

“We should have identified display spaces for what was being produced because we struggled with what to do with them [the pieces of art] for a while before getting them up on the glass.”

(librarians, Aranui Library)