

Whanganui X Dundee: Textile Legacies | Project Brief

Introduction

Whanganui X Dundee: Textile Legacies is a residency programme that connects indigenous and ancestral textile practices between Whanganui, New Zealand and Dundee, Scotland to foster meaningful cultural and creative exchange. The project initiates a new connection between two UNESCO Cities of Design, supporting the development of contemporary textile design specialists through a reciprocal international residency.

Project Overview

Whanganui x Dundee: Textile Legacies will enable a textile design specialist from Whanganui to undertake a month-long residency in Dundee, and a Dundee-based specialist to undertake a reciprocal residency in Whanganui. This marks the first formal collaboration directly between the two Cities of Design and represents an important step in establishing a broader cultural dialogue between our two regions.

The project recognises the deep-rooted history of textile production in both cities, and the significance of textiles in expressing and sustaining ancestral and familial connections. It also acknowledges the vital role that the reclamation of traditional textile practices plays in cultural revitalisation in both Aotearoa New Zealand and Scotland.

The long-standing textile traditions of Whanganui and Dundee are powerful expressions of place-based cultural identity. At the same time, these histories also carry complex legacies — including the impacts of colonisation, war, and cultural suppression — which have shaped and, at times, disrupted cultural development. In the resurgence of traditional textile techniques in both cities, we see not only a reconnection to ancestral knowledge, but also a recognition of how design heritage continues to shape contemporary identities and creative practices.

We anticipate this project will spark deeper connections and we hope that long-term collaboration will emerge from this initial exchange.

Duration

The residency will last 1 month (4 weeks) across April 2026. Within 1 month of returning to Whanganui, the resident will be expected to complete an evaluation form and meet with the UNESCO City of Design Whanganui team to discuss their trip.

Stipend

The resident will be provided with a stipend of NZ\$1,297.50 per week, totalling NZ\$5,190.00 for the residency's duration. This will be paid in full, in advance of the resident travelling to Scotland by UNESCO City of Design Whanganui.

Expected Delivery

Each Resident will share their work with the host city through a public talk and, where

appropriate, a hands-on workshop. They will also take part in one-on-one meetings with selected stakeholders in the textile design sector, as well as with ancestral knowledge holders.

Each Resident will also be encouraged to deliver a public presentation or produce a blog post for their home cities. This ensures that the knowledge exchange is multi-layered, reaching audiences in both the host and home cities.

Within 1 month of returning to Dundee, the selected resident will complete an online evaluation form and meet with the UNESCO City of Design Whanganui team.

Project Partners

A number of local partners have been contacted to support the residents' visit to Dundee. These partners are available to meet the selected resident and introduce them to indigenous textiles and local working. Partners are as follows:

- **The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum**
The McManus is a magnificent Victorian, Gothic building where art, history and the environment combine to offer a fascinating insight into Dundee. It is home to Dundee's main collection spanning 400 million years and has been at the heart of art and culture in the city since 1867.
- **University of Dundee Museums**
University of Dundee Museums look after over 33,000 historical artefacts, artworks and specimens acquired during the 140+ years of their existence.
- **Dundee Heritage Trust**
The proud guardian of two of Scotland's best-loved museums: Discovery Point and Verdant Works. Together, we spark curiosity in heritage, science, and discovery.
- **National Museum of Scotland**
The National Museum of Scotland is a unique combination of world-class collections, programmes, places and people. Our multi-disciplinary collection is an important resource, which we seek to share as widely as possible through our mission to preserve, interpret and make accessible for all, the past and present of Scotland, other nations and cultures, and the natural world.
- **Knit Shop**
Knit Shop is an independent knit factory in Dundee, Scotland established by Donna Wilson, bridging the gap between design, industry and education.

Travel

A one-off travel payment of NZ\$2,500 will be provided to the recipient by UNESCO City of Design Whanganui. All travel must be booked and managed by the recipient, including

organising any relevant visas and other travel documentation. The Whanganui City of Design office can provide advice on the best methods of transport between Whanganui and Dundee.

Upon arrival, they will be met by a representative of UNESCO City of Design Dundee and accompanied to their accommodation.

Accommodation

It is proposed the selected resident will stay within the barracks at [Broughty Castle Museum](#). Built in 1496 on a rocky promontory, it has faced many sieges and battles. Today, Broughty Castle Museum houses fascinating displays on its local history, wildlife and arts. The Castle has magnificent views over the river, and is only minutes away from Broughty Ferry Beach and Esplanade. Please note the accommodation venue is subject to change.



Broughty Castle Museum and Barracks, courtesy of Leisure & Culture Dundee and Historic Environment Scotland.

Dundee, Scotland

Perched on the banks of the River Tay, Dundee (the UK's first and only UNESCO City of Design) is a dynamic city packed with culture and energy. We're also known for creating comics and video games, producing some of the country's best food & drink, and of course - our warm

and welcoming people. The best way to get to know a city is through its people and their stories. So, come and be a part of ours.

You can find out more about Dundee here: dundee.com



Dundee's skyline, Image courtesy of Visit Scotland.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to practicing designers and design specialists working within textiles and/or connected fields. Applicants must live, work or have a studio located within the Whanganui district.

Selection Panel

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel which will feature indigenous voices, sector specialists, and a representative from Dundee City of Design. Panelists are as follows:

Lizzie Day, Project Coordinator - UNESCO City of Design Dundee

Dr Emma Bugden, Focal Point - UNESCO City of Design Whanganui

Greg Donson, Senior Curator - Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui

Cecelia Kumeroa, City of Design Ambassador - Te Rūnanga o Tūpoho

Schedule

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
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Applications Open	10am NZST, Wednesday 29 October 2025
Applications Close	10am NZST, Wednesday 19 November 2025
Applications Reviewed by Panel	w/b Monday 24 November 2025
Successful Applicant Informed	Friday 28 November 2025
Resident in Dundee	April 2026 (4 Weeks)
Resident Completes Evaluation Form	May 2026

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We actively encourage applications from across all communities in our city and from a range of life experiences. In order to monitor whether we are reaching as widely as we could, we ask that you complete the Equalities Monitoring Form by using the link below. This will not be shared with the selection panel.

[Fill in Equalities form here.](#)

Questions

If you have any questions about this project or your application, please don't hesitate to contact Focal Point, Dr Emma Bugden, on emma.bugden@whanganuiandpartners.nz

Submission | How to Apply

Applications can be submitted via the form linked below:

[Submission Form](#)

Participants will be scored using the following weightings:

- Specialist expertise (please note; practitioners working within an indigenous design kaupapa will be prioritised): 40%
- Artistic achievement: 30%
- Willingness to engage and share with local communities: 30%

Note, where two applicants are shortlisted

To help you plan your submission, please find a copy of the application questions below:

1. Name and Pronouns
2. Iwi affiliations (if applicable)
3. Address, including postcode
4. Email Address
5. Phone Number
6. Website, Social Media Accounts and/or Online Portfolio
7. Please upload a copy of your CV, noting your creative career to date
(Accepted file types: PDF)

8. Please upload up to five images to represent your practice (Accepted file types: jpeg, png)
9. Tell us about your creative practice (Maximum 300 words)
10. Why are you interested in this opportunity? (Maximum 300 words)
11. How would this opportunity support your career development? (Maximum 300 words)
12. What experience have you had working directly with or engaging with communities? (Maximum 300 words)

Whanganui X Dundee: Textile Legacies is coordinated by UNESCO City of Design Dundee and UNESCO City of Design Whanganui and supported by the British Council's Connections Through Culture Programme.

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