

Long-Term Insights Briefing Focus Area:

Climate change

Fostering a more sustainable cultural sector and ecosystem and the opportunities within the sector to positively impact climate change.

What we have heard

“Drivers of change - **impact** of climate change, will make it harder to **advocate for funding** for culture and heritage but to **cope** with climate change we will need a **strong culture and heritage sector**”

“Climate change and the need to operate in a more **sustainable manner** as outlined in the **UN's SDG's** will be a significant driver over this time”

“We will need to consider how we can **create work** more **sustainably** from a climate change perspective”

“MCH will need to take more of a leadership role in **driving change across the cultural sector** as issues such as climate change and sustainability will need to be addressed by central government as well as at **local** and **personal levels**, which is likely to add **additional workloads and commitments** to MCH existing complement”

“Climate and environmental changes - **increased focus on sustainability** affecting **everything** from building maintenance, supply chains and community travel”

“The climate crisis is making **travel** and **export less viable**, and the small size of NZ market being vulnerable to **swamping by global interests**”

“Climate change - the sector can support **innovative responses, community engagement** and lead **impactful storytelling**. The sector needs **capacity development** to respond and clarification of how the sector can support the government in this”

“Changing **norms and expectations** of, and within, the sector - **greater expectations for museums** to be agents of **normative change** in areas like **climate change, biodiversity** and **indigeneity**”

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What others are saying

“The arts have a leading role to play in tackling climate change”

[Nicholas Serota, The Guardian, 20 Nov 2018](#)

“Artists have a powerful role to play in our response to plastic pollution and the climate crisis. Art connects with people on an emotional level, in ways that scientific statistics and graphs cannot – both are important ways of communicating these critical issues. This visceral response can help to create entry points that make people feel more engaged and inspired to act.” Collective Submission is made by Track Zero Trust (Track Zero) and a group of 28 prominent, individual artists and scientists from around Aotearoa in response to public consultation on proposal to ban hard to recycle and single use plastics”

trackzero.nz

“Arts organisations could be a powerful force for change, by modelling a shift to low-carbon practices, supporting climate solutions through their partnerships and supply chains while presenting inspirational art and educational projects. There’s no better time to get started than now. How 2022 will be crunch time for culture and climate”

[How 2022 will be crunch time for culture and climate, theartnewspaper.com](https://theartnewspaper.com)

“When making a design decision, the environmental impact won’t be a nice-to-have but instead something we’ll be held accountable for. Will this feature cause the customer to drive an extra mile? Will this design make someone consume more than they need? It’ll still be about providing value but with a better understanding of the cost. And acknowledging that the cost is not only financial but also environmental”

[From climate change to driverless cars, what will the designers of the future need to tackle, Nilroy Packiyarajah, uxdesignn.cc](#)

“Meeting our 2050 net-zero-carbon aspirations and addressing New Zealand’s housing crisis are among the most substantive challenges of our time. Retaining and retrofitting heritage buildings can be part of the solutions to both”

[Ground Zero, Anna Knox, Heritage New Zealand Ngahuru Autumn 2022, issuu.com](#)

“It’s not all doom and gloom - we are the ones causing the change. It’s down to us when we emit greenhouse gases and the arts can help to motivate that change. Storytelling via the arts helps connect people [to change] and I’m up for anything to help advance that conversation”

[Professor James Renwick, thebigidea.nz](https://thebigidea.nz)

Funding, investment and value: what we would like to discuss

Visioning activity:

- It is February 2040—thinking about some of the insights and studies above, what do you think the newspaper headline would be?
- What would the youngest person in your family be doing in 2040?
- You are recalling the past two decades from 2020 to 2040, what key changes do you think would have happened in the work you do?

What is happening now (in 2022) or will happen that will influence this? And when?

- What is on the horizon, what are the trends? (introduce wild cards, ideas)
- What is strengthening, weakening, wild cards, and weak signals?
- When might they happen (short term, medium term, long term?)

What might we need to do to meet these challenges / embrace opportunities, and when?