

Life in Christchurch Arts and Culture 2021

Summary Results

Survey in field: July 2021

Number of respondents: 2943

Overall, results are positive, with arts and culture being recognised as a very important part of life in Christchurch. Street art in particular is highly valued, helping to improve the appearance of public spaces. Events are also highly valued by respondents and are well attended in the city, with 80 percent of respondents having been to at least one of the events listed in the survey in the last two years.

Some respondents indicated that they are concerned that not all communities feel safe and welcome in Christchurch. Helping to address these concerns is the Council's [Multicultural Strategy](#) and the [Ōtautahi Christchurch Community Strategy 2021-31](#).

ARTS AND CREATIVITY

- The visual arts (including art galleries and film festivals) were the most popular activity that respondents had attended or participated in in the last 12 months (50%, n=1258), followed by:
 - Music (48%, n=1228)
 - Performing arts (43%, n=1091)
- The Arts Centre, the Canterbury Museum and the Art Gallery were the most popular arts facilities respondents had visited in the past 12 months.
- 80% (n=1891) think street art and public sculptures help to improve public spaces.
- The cost of attending events, exhibitions and performances is prohibitive for 45% (n=1070) of respondents, followed by access arts events and performances (37%, n=897).

A lot of creative people come from Christchurch - unfortunately not many stay. How can we create a city that makes these people want to stay?

I think the arts in Christchurch is something that people would've expect to find here but are pleasantly surprised when they see it sprinkled around the city.

I would say Chch hasn't traditionally had a reputation for being a creative city but I feel that's been changing post earthquakes.

For central city attractions, the barriers would be lack of parking.

I love the public art - the murals and sculptures that everyone can experience and enjoy. More of this please!

THE CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY

- Half of respondents (n=1259) have visited the Christchurch Art Gallery in the past 12 months.
- Respondents tend to find out about what's on at the Art Gallery through word of mouth (46%, n=581) and social media (41%, n=511).
- The main barrier preventing respondents from visiting the Art Gallery is due to not often visiting the central city for leisure (29%, n=361), and parking availability and cost (28%, n=341).

I have small (energetic) children- age 3 and 5 and dont feel the art gallery is really suited to them.

It's just a question of priorities. I've been in the past, and probably will in the future, I just haven't prioritised it this year, I've done other things instead.

CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

- 80% (n=1826) of respondents said increasing diversity makes Christchurch a better or much better place to live. The main reason for this was said to be because:
 - People from other countries and cultures make the city more vibrant and interesting (78%)
 - People from other countries and cultures add to the multi-cultural and diverse feel of the city (76%).
- When asked whether respondents thought Christchurch is a city where all communities feel safe and welcome, 45% (n=1010) of respondents disagree or strongly disagree. This is a large increase from 2018, where 30% disagreed.
 - 25 – 34 year olds are more likely than other age groups to disagree that Christchurch is safe and welcoming. This also applies to those who identify with Māori ethnicity.
 - Respondents of MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin American and African) ethnicity are more likely than others to agree that Christchurch is a safe and welcoming city.
- 43% (n=919) agree or strongly agree that the Christchurch City Council is doing enough to foster and develop cultural diversity throughout the city; 37% (n=800) neither agree nor disagree.
- 42% (n=874) neither agree nor disagree that the Council does enough to foster and celebrate language diversity.

Mixing people from different cultures creates important understanding of humanity. How different people are but also how we are the same.

racism is still evident by a small minority making life unsafe or difficult for some citizens

Unfortunately there seems to be constant media articles revealing that people of other cultures are still victimized and bullied and feel unsafe. I am not sure this is entirely CCC's responsibility to fix though.

I love how our city is evolving, I think we are doing a great job and only getting better at being more inclusive.

HERITAGE AND TAONGA

- When respondents were asked about the preservation and celebration of our heritage and taonga, there was some room for improvement. Our heritage and taonga:
 - Is accessible to all (47% n=1091 agree / strongly agree), with 27% (n=622) who neither agree nor disagree.
 - Is shared and celebrated (42% n=961 agree / strongly agree), with 32% (n=740) who neither agree nor disagree.
 - Includes, respects and celebrates the diversity of our city (33% n=763 neither agree nor disagree).
- 40% (n=839) agree or strongly agree that the Council is doing enough to protect our heritage and taonga for future generations, while 24% (n=405) think the Christchurch City Council could be doing more.

I would like to see/learn more traditional Maori games, dances, weaving etc. The Haka seems to be the main thing we see on TV, shows etc.

We need to value our heritage and stop pulling down our older buildings to make way for new

The visibility of our Māori heritage has improved greatly through the rebuild. This is awesome to see.

I think CCC does a lot on the multicultural front but more can be done to integrate multicultural events into the mainstream cultural life.

Make every effort to retain as much culture and heritage as possible

OUR IDENTITY

- The arts is an important part of our city's story and identity (72%, n=1684 agree / strongly agree) and contributes to making Christchurch a liveable city (76%, n=1790).
- Hagley Park (91%), heritage gardens and parks (87%), and street trees and gardens (80%) were the leading contributors to our 'garden city' image.
- 44% (n=972) think the Council does enough to foster and celebrate the use of Te Reo Māori in Christchurch, while 30% (n=656) neither agree nor disagree.
- There are divided opinions about whether there are enough opportunities to engage with Māori art forms in Christchurch; 39% agree or strongly agree, 31% neither agree nor disagree and 30% disagree or strongly disagree.

Is it the council task to fund arts culture and heritage, given that their finances are a mess? The city is becoming unaffordable to stay in. The constant, relentless rate increases are driving out your older people.

To be honest I think Christchurch needs a rebrand - gateway to adventure would be much better

Garden city may be a relic of our anglocentric past that needs to change. Newer arrivals don't place the same value on "gardens" and so perhaps we need to look for something more appropriate to the times we now live in

EVENTS

- The most popular events that respondents attended in the previous 2 years were:
 - Bread and Circus (40%)
 - Lazy Sundays (27%)
 - Matariki Events (24%)
- 20% (n=461) of respondents had not attended any of the events listed in the past 2 years.
- Respondents would like to see more music events (54%), food events (45%), family friendly events (41%), arts events (37%) and Māori events (31%).

we can absolutely do more to celebrate Pride

perhaps instead of making more, you can support ones that already exist - better, work in partnership with NPOs who do events.

Love to see more events/ workshops and celebrations on diversity and unity. Looking forward to it!

I love the arts here in ChCh but I have to go looking for events to see what is on in the city. Is there an easier way to get that information?

Tirama Mai was a great example of integrating Māori cultural education into an arts event - we need more of this, across a range of cultures

I would love there to be better access for disabled people to attend outdoor events.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

| Grouped Age | 24 years and under | 25 - 49 years | 50 - 64 years | 65+ years |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| % | 2% | 34% | 33% | 31% |

| Ethnicity | % | Count |
|------------------------|-----|-------|
| NZ European | 83% | 1814 |
| British & Irish | 11% | 241 |
| Other (Please specify) | 9% | 200 |
| Maori | 5% | 99 |
| Other European | 4% | 81 |
| Australian | 2% | 47 |
| American | 2% | 36 |
| Chinese | 1% | 23 |

| | | |
|---------------|----|----|
| Canadian | 1% | 23 |
| Indian | 1% | 19 |
| Latin America | 1% | 16 |
| Samoan | 1% | 12 |
| African | 1% | 11 |
| Fijian | 1% | 11 |

Note: Only includes ethnic groups with 1% or more responses.

| Where do you live? | % | Count |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| I live in Christchurch | 92% | 2022 |
| I live in Banks Peninsula | 5% | 101 |
| I live elsewhere in Canterbury (e.g. Rolleston, Lincoln, Rangiora, Kaiapoi) | 3% | 65 |
| I don't live in Christchurch or Canterbury, I live in... | 1% | 19 |

| Ward | % |
|-------------|----------|
| Burwood | 5% |
| Cashmere | 11% |
| Central | 7% |
| Coastal | 8% |
| Fendalton | 10% |
| Halswell | 9% |
| Harewood | 6% |
| Heathcote | 10% |
| Hornby | 3% |
| Innes | 4% |
| Linwood | 8% |
| Papanui | 4% |
| Riccarton | 5% |
| Spreydon | 6% |
| Waimairi | 5% |