

Artspace Aotearoa

Kaitohu Director

Kaupapa Job Description

Title Kaitohu Director

Reports to Tiaki Board

Direct reports Kaiwhakahaere Tuarua Deputy Director, Kaiāwhina Whakaaturanga Assistant Curator

Salary indication NZD 90,000–100,000

Term Fixed term for five years, full-time (37.5 hours per week)

Place of work 292 Karangahape Road, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

Start Date January, 2027

About Artspace Aotearoa

Pivotal to contemporary art in Aotearoa, Artspace Aotearoa was founded by artists and arts workers in 1987 as a public art gallery to platform contemporary art practices that were not supported in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and beyond. The organisation presents an annual programme that develops critical discourse, is a resource for artists, and connects the Aotearoa context with international conversations. While the expression of the organisation continues to evolve, as it is regularly reshaped by the fixed-term Kaitohu Director, these founding tenets remain at its core. The Tiaki Board of Trustees appoints the Kaitohu Director who shapes the programme.

Artspace Aotearoa acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi The Treaty of Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document. Artspace Aotearoa prioritises the evolving relationship of the dual constitutional heritage of Te Tiriti in its operational and programmatic approach.

Vision

Artspace Aotearoa is the call of contemporary art in Aotearoa New Zealand

Mission

Artspace Aotearoa critically explores contemporary life, led by artists.

Values

Experimentation-Partnership-Participation-Reciprocity

As the call of contemporary art in Aotearoa, we:

- Highlight and nourish diverse and timely contemporary art voices and critical discourse
- Strengthen the contemporary art community by growing resources and contributing widely to the arts ecosystem locally, nationally, and beyond
- Build meaningful relationships and grow engagement with contemporary art at many levels for artists, artworkers, supporters, and audiences locally, nationally, and beyond
- Uplift the value and visibility of contemporary art within and beyond the arts sector, within and beyond Aotearoa

About the role

The purpose of the Kaitohu Director is to lead the organisation's artistic direction, curatorial and critical vision, financial sustainability, and organisational health, working in alignment with the Tiaki Board and with a commitment to the vision, mission and values outlined in the Artspace Aotearoa strategic framework *Pūtātara*.

Relationships

Internal

The Kaitohu Director works closely with the Kaiwhakahaere Tuarua Deputy Director on financial, operational management, and strategy, and with the Kaiāwhina Whakaaturanga Assistant Curator on programmatic work. They have oversight of the Kaiwhakapā Communications Coordinator, and the Kaiwhakamahiri Pirihi Taiwhenua Curatorial Intern who report to the Deputy Director and who manage the gallery volunteers. The Kaitohu Director works with and reports to the Tiaki Board, ensuring clear communication, regular reporting, and strategic alignment, and works alongside He Manu Taiko.

External

The Kaitohu Director builds and maintains relationships with artists and practitioners, including curators, writers, and technical crew, as well as media,

students, audiences and manuhiri. They foster relationships with funders, donors and sponsors, and engage with peer arts organisations, the wider visual arts sector both nationally and internationally, Creative New Zealand, and other public agencies.

Focus area	Expectations
Artistic and Curatorial Leadership	• Lead the delivery of a bold annual programme that critically explores contemporary life, for an audience that reflects Aotearoa, and that gives form to <i>Pūtātara</i>, the strategic vision for Artspace Aotearoa • Lead the advancement of curatorial and critical discourse within contemporary art within, and beyond, Aotearoa
Living Te Tiriti o Waitangi	• Work with Tiaki to evolve the ways in which the organisation expresses its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Financial and Organisational Sustainability	• Work closely with the Deputy Director to sustain and develop the financial and operational health of the organisation • Ensure responsible stewardship of the organisation's resources • Sustain and develop the necessary fundraising and business development activities of the Gallery • Lead, develop, and manage the Gallery team, fostering a culture of collaboration, shared responsibility, and manaakitanga
Audience Development	• Provide leadership oversight for the development and maintenance of the identity of Artspace Aotearoa, acting as a spokesperson for the organisation, and ensuring the visibility of the organisation's activities • Grow and diversify engagement with contemporary art at many levels—for artists, arts workers, supporters, and audiences, locally, nationally, and beyond

Sector Leadership and Advocacy	• Lead activities that work alongside the visual arts sector to uplift the value and visibility of contemporary art within and beyond the arts sector, within and beyond Aotearoa • Maintain an understanding of sector and community needs, and act responsively to those needs • Foster strong relationships with key stakeholders
Governance and Accountability	• Maintain the organisation's relationship with the Artspace Aotearoa Tiaki Board, through clear communication, regular reporting, and ensuring strategic alignment with the organisation's vision • Ensure compliance and alignment with the organisation's constitution, strategy, values, and operational policies in all its activities

Ideal candidate will have:

- An original approach to programming, with the ability to lead the curatorial and collaborative aspects of gallery activities
- The capacity to experiment and break new ground to create lasting impact in the visual arts sector
- A creative, critical voice and a considered, future-focused vision for the organisation's direction
- A clear ability to lead, manage, and inspire staff to achieve artistic and organisational goals
- The ability to maintain or build a respected and influential presence within Aotearoa's visual arts sector
- Excellent communication and negotiation skills
- A commitment to continually evolving the organisation's expression of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Experience in fundraising and business development, including philanthropy and grant processes
- The ability to sustain and develop the organisation's resource base—financial, human, and physical—in support of long-term stability
- Experience managing external stakeholders in the cultural sector
- Ability and interest in building strong relationships with different communities and stakeholders, including artists, funders, art institutions, community partners, and the Tiaki Board

- An ability to represent and articulate the organisation's vision/identity to media, funders, and the public
- An embodiment of the values of Artspace Aotearoa and its strategic vision, with a clear vision for how this might be expressed holistically across the organisation
- A commitment to diversity and inclusion
- A strong sense of integrity and high professional standards that enhance the reputation of the organisation

How to Apply

If the above matches your skills and experience, you are warmly encouraged to apply. Please provide your CV and a supporting statement, or a short video (less than 2 minutes), for consideration. To apply or if you have any questions, please email Bridget@artspace.org.nz

Application deadline: 5pm, Thursday 1 October 2026