



# Pride Elevates 2025

## Expression of Interest

We are excited to announce our Expressions of Interest, to invite artists to apply for our Pride Elevates programme. This innovative initiative is designed to empower three distinct groups of artists, offering them the opportunity to further explore and express their artistic development during the 2025 Auckland Pride Festival within their practice and communities.

### Overview

In a world defined by intricate relationships and interconnected experiences, Pride Elevates seeks to illuminate how these complexities shape artistic expression and contribute to our shared narratives. We welcome all forms of creative expression and are excited to provide a platform for artists to reflect on the multifaceted nature of identity, connection, and resilience.

It is important to note that this programme requires artists who have the necessary experience and skills to develop, refine, and stage a work within the context of a festival—and to do so within a four-month timeframe. We're looking for artists who are ready to engage deeply with their craft, bringing a high level of professionalism and dedication to the creative process and our festival.

Pride Elevates is dedicated to providing artists with extensive support to ensure the success and longevity of their work. While Auckland Pride will financially contribute, we also offer a wealth of resources designed to enhance both the creative process and the visibility of your project.

Pride Elevates allows a journey that will challenge you to delve into a deeper understanding of how your practice resonates within and beyond our communities. If you have the experience and the passion to meet this challenge, we want to hear from you.

### What you'll get as an Auckland Pride Elevates Artist

- Full venue hire for a 5 night season
- A dedicated Production Manager and Venue Technician who will oversee your entire season
- Artistic development opportunities such as wānanga, workshops, and regular wellbeing check-ins. We expect full engagement in this collaborative process. This is an opportunity to refine your practice within a supportive environment that fosters creative growth, mutual respect, and the sharing of ideas and experiences.
- Full publicity and marketing package
- \$10,000 towards artist fees, production and material cost support

## Who Can Apply

Pride Elevates is designed to uplift and amplify the voices of our diverse creatives. This programme aims to create a vibrant rich tapestry of performances that truly inspire, speak to and resonate with our audiences. We invite applications from a wide range of individuals and groups who are passionate about their art and looking to make a meaningful impact through creativity. We specifically seek applicants who have prior experience in staging their chosen show or a show to a similar scale. Below are the categories of applicants eligible to apply:

1. Collectives
2. Individuals
3. Community Groups
4. Established Performance Groups

### Your application will be considered ineligible if:

1. **Unstaged Performances:** Individuals or Groups who have not previously staged performances or creative projects of a similar scope.
2. **Incomplete Applications:** Individuals or groups that submit applications that do not meet the required criteria or complete the application form.
3. **Misaligned:** Individuals will be deemed ineligible for the programme if their principles, beliefs, and actions do not align with Auckland Pride's [vision, mission and values](#).

## Selection Criteria

The Pride Elevates Programme offers a unique opportunity for artists to explore and express themes and ideas around connection and reciprocity. We seek to support those who can deliver compelling, intimate performances within this framework.

### 1. Cast and Crew Composition:

- **Size and Scope:** We are exclusively seeking performances featuring no more than four cast members, in alignment with the artist fees and intimate setting of the Theatre. Productions must be tightly focused, whether they are solo performances or two-handers. Larger ensembles, more than 4 cast members, or complex stage productions will not be considered due to venue size, budget constraints, and capacity within 4 months of delivery.
- **Representation:** It is essential that a majority of the cast and crew, particularly those in leading or audience-facing roles, identify as part of Kāhui Takatāpui and Rainbow Communities. We celebrate and expect diversity in representation, drawing from a wide range of identities, experiences, and backgrounds that reflect the richness of our community.

## 2. Dedicated Producer:

- **Role:** Each production must have a dedicated Producer who will be responsible for all logistical elements, including budget management, coordination with Auckland Pride's Executive Producer, and communication with Theatre staff. The Producer must be a seasoned professional with a deep understanding of the unique needs and dynamics of queer artistic practices.
- **Experience:** We require a Producer with a proven track record in arts production or a closely related field. Their role is crucial in ensuring that the artistic vision is realised to its fullest potential, and they must share our commitment to supporting and nurturing queer talent within the performing arts.

## 3. Dedicated Stage Manager:

- **Role:** Each production must have a dedicated Stage Manager who plays the crucial role in its successful execution by overseeing all aspects of stage operations and ensuring a seamless flow of events during the performance. The stage manager is responsible for maintaining a safe and organised environment, ensuring that all technical elements, such as cues, props, and set changes are executed flawlessly. The Stage Manager serves as a central point of contact during live performances, making any quick decisions to address any challenges that may arise.
- **Experience:** The ideal Stage Manager will have a proven track record of experience, showcasing a strong understanding of stagecraft or in a closely related field. This multifaceted role is essential for creating a smooth and enjoyable experience for both the cast and audience.

## 4. Artistic Vision:

As Auckland Pride's new leadership team, we've been reflecting on how to build deeper, reciprocal connections with each other and our communities. We recognise that **we exist because we relate**, and are exploring key ideas from Karen Barad, Moana Jackson, Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Tui Atua Tupua Tamaesse. Their theories help guide our understanding as Auckland Pride, in how we can be in good relation with each other—learning from nature, Indigenous knowledge systems, and scientific phenomena to strengthen our collective wellbeing.

While we do not expect you to read all of the following theories, we have found these resources particularly helpful in building our own understanding of **connection** and **reciprocity** as an artist run organisation:

- [Karen Barad's Meeting the Universe Halfway](#),
- [Moana Jackson's 10 Ethics of Indigenous Research](#),
- [Linda Tuhiwai Smith's 25 Indigenous Projects](#),
- [Kimberlé Crenshaw's Intersectionality](#),
- [Alexis Pauline Gumb's Undrowned](#)
- [Jose Esteban Muñoz Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity](#)
- [Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese's In Search of Peace and Harmony](#)

We know that our lived experience as individuals informs how we relate to one another and each other. Within Pride Elevates 2025 we are excited to learn from our artists and are keen to understand how **connection** and **reciprocity** shows up within different creative practices through diverse research methodologies and creative exploration.

### 5. Learnings and Reflection:

- **Openness to Feedback:** We value artists who are committed to ongoing learning and reflection. Your cast and crew must be open to constructive feedback throughout the programme, participating actively in discussions and embracing opportunities for growth and adaptation.
- **Active Participation:** We seek professionals who are not only talented but also dedicated to their craft. An active, engaged approach to the learning process is essential, as we work together to push the boundaries of what queer art can achieve.

### 7. Additional Funding:

- **Selection:** We seek collectives, individuals, community groups or established performance groups who have sourced other forms of funding. While securing additional funding sources is encouraged and helps ensure Auckland Pride's confidence in the affordability of presenting your work, it is not a requirement for consideration.

## Notification Timeline

- Once you submit your application it will be reviewed by our panel.
- You may be asked for additional details in which we will contact you for an online meeting within one week.
- Notifications will be sent out two weeks after the closing date.

## Submission Requirements:

1. **Collective Artist Statement:**  
Please provide a brief artist statement that reflects your collective's artistic vision, whakapapa, and creative practice. (Maximum 150 words)
2. **Connection and Reciprocity:**  
We invite you to share a project description that reflects on your work and explores key themes of connection and reciprocity. How does your project respond to the affirmation: **we exist because we relate** (300 words maximum)
3. **Community Impact:**  
What impact do you hope to have on the communities the work speaks to? (300 words maximum)

4. **Key Learnings:**

Where have you previously staged this show or a work of a similar scope - what key learnings did you take away from this delivery (200 words maximum)

5. **Documentation:**

Please provide us with documentation from your work. This could include:

- Images (JPEG or PNG format)
- Video links (YouTube or Vimeo) for time based works
- An external written review
- Any relevant audio or digital media files.

6. **Budget and Funding:**

When preparing your budget please use our [Pride Elevates Budget Template Example](#). **NOTE: THIS IS A SHARED TEMPLATE DO NOT EDIT - PLEASE CLICK FILE >MAKE A COPY**. This will help us understand more about the scope of your project. You are not limited to this, please include any other items you predict your project may require.

7. **Logistical Questions:**

We require all questions within the [Expressions of Interest - Pride Elevates 2025](#) form to be filled out.

## Information Sessions

As a part of our Artist Experience we would like to offer an Information Sessions designed to guide you or your collective through this application process. While we will not be brainstorming or developing ideas for your projects, these sessions will provide essential insights into the Pride kaupapa and theme that underpin Pride Elevates.

Together, we'll explore the key components of the application process, clarify any questions you might have and ensure you have a solid understanding of what we're looking for. This is an opportunity to gain valuable guidance on the application criteria and to connect with others within the creative community.

Both these sessions will be covering the same content so you do not need to attend both but please do if you have further questions. Looking forward to connecting with you then.

**Information Session 1 Pride Elevates:**

Monday 30th September

5.30PM - 6.30PM

Register link: <https://forms.gle/cs4KwoBcZXhq3QH89>

**Information Session 2 Pride Elevates:**

Monday 14th October

5.30PM - 6.30PM

Register link:

<https://forms.gle/N5FduGCaiWtFgmyF9>

We're looking forward to connecting with you then!

If you cannot make these sessions and would still like to connect please contact us at:

[kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz](mailto:kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz)

## Ready to submit your application?

### Option 1: Written form submission

<https://forms.gle/4Xyv9Yvmp9zZgg9YA>

### Option 2 Accessible: Online video or phone call submission

If you find the submission form a barrier, we still want to hear from you. We can have an online meeting to talk through your submission. The conversation will be centred around the same seven requirements listed above. Please make a booking when you're ready to submit here: <https://calendar.app.google/2UR9KTxvLXe5k6mg9>

### Option 3 Accessible: Video submission

If either of the above options do not suit your needs, we have the option to submit your application via video.

Requirements:

- Your video must be no longer than 8 minutes
- You must answer every question in the written form
- Your answers must be within the maximum word limit

When you're ready to submit your video upload it here:

<https://forms.gle/Rjrhw1zdYvWu4mMH9>

## Submission Deadline

All submissions must be received by **Sunday 27th October 11:59PM**. Late submissions will not be considered unless organised prior.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on the submission requirements, please attend one of our workshops or email us at: [kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz](mailto:kiaora@aucklandpride.org.nz)

## Previous Pride Elevates Shows

[The Bloom](#) - Dance work by Jessie McCall made in collaboration with creative production studio RDYSTDY, and performers Sofia McIntyre, Raven Afoa-Purcell & Sasha Matsumoto.

[The Butterfly Who Flew Into The Rave](#) - Creator, choreographer, and performer: Oli Mathiesen, Choreographer and performer: Lucy Lynch and Sharvon Mortimer. Produced by Abbie Rogers, production assistant: Lulu Qiu 邱詩露 and Hero Photography by Matt Hurley.

[Club Waack](#) - Prowl Productions and “The Dolls.”

[Show Ponies](#) - Same Same But Different. The PRIDE edition of Show Ponies featured Freya Daly Sadgrove, Dan Goodwin, Emma Barnes, Vanessa Mei Crofskey, Sam Duckor-Jones, Rebecca Hawkes, essa may ranapiri, Ruby Solly and our 2023 Honoured Writer Chris Tse.

[Concerning the UFO Sighting Outside Mt.Roskill, Auckland](#) - Created and performed by Reon Bell and Directed by Sean Rivera.

[Cxnt Vol 1](#) - Directed and choreographed by Logan Collis, performed by Cyprus Afakasi, Lyncia Muller, Peni Fakua, Nathan Gacusan, and Jonjon Cowley Lupo. Produced by Lucia Diamantis and Overall performance mentor & dramaturg, Moe Laga.

## Wrap-Up Report Requirements

A wrap-up report is due within six weeks of your kaupapa's conclusion. This report should cover how the funding was spent, its impact on your kaupapa, reflections on your partnership with Auckland Pride, and any feedback or learnings for their consideration.

Failure to submit this report may affect future funding eligibility. Reports can be submitted in various formats, including written, presentation, video, or through a discussion with the Auckland Pride team. A written template is available upon request.

## Feedback on EOI Process

As Auckland Pride continues to grow and evolve, we're excited to share that we've made some changes to our Expression of Interest (EOI) process for Pride Elevates and Pride Empowerment applications this year.

Your insights and experiences are invaluable, and they help us ensure that our initiatives truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

### How You Can Help:

- [Provide Feedback](#): We've created a short form to capture your thoughts on the new EOI process. Please take a few moments to share your feedback with us. Your input is crucial in helping us improve and tailor our processes to better serve you.

- [Become a Member](#): If you're not already a member of Auckland Pride, we warmly invite you to join us. As a member, you'll be able to play an even more active role in shaping our work and the future of Auckland Pride. Your membership not only supports our kaupapa but also ensures your voice is heard in key decisions.

**Why It Matters:**

Your feedback and membership are not just important to us—they're essential. They inform our decisions and ensure that Auckland Pride remains a vibrant, responsive, and inclusive celebration of our community. By participating, you help us create a festival that truly represents and uplifts all of us.