

Aroha Art Project

PROCESS



We're inviting you to participate in the creation of a collaborative artwork with Auckland Arts Festival, on the theme of aroha. The work will be assembled and proudly displayed in Aotea Square at the heart of the city and the Festival.

We'll be putting up a huge net in the form of a wave to express Tāmaki's place between two harbours, into which we want to weave your expressions of aroha as a symbol of the special nature of all the people and communities in Auckland being woven together in unity.

THINKING ABOUT AROHA

What is aroha?

What does it look like?

How does it feel?

Who and what do you care about?

How can you express aroha through making together?

We have three threads of aroha weaving through the Festival Programme:

AROHA KI NGĀ KŌRERO

Respect for our stories

AROHA KI TE TANGATA

Show kindness, compassion, goodwill towards people

AROHA KI TE TAIAO

Caring for our natural environment - air, land, water

Discuss these ideas with your group. Do you have collective ideas about aroha? Does your group or community have special rituals or symbols related to aroha? Do you want to express aroha for a particular aspect of community, environment, stories?

Pick a theme or story that you want to explore.

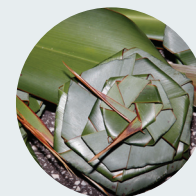


PLAN YOUR MAKING AND GATHER MATERIALS

Think about what to make with what you can find. We are challenging you NOT to spend lots of money on new materials – but rather to consider, **what is already around you?** Look for materials to include that might otherwise go into the waste stream, things you've been hoarding for a 'someday' project, durable natural materials from your environment – or ask your local op-shop what they have that they can't sell.

Materials

Be creative, try things out! Here are just a few suggestions:



- Harakeke/flax
- Wood, sticks, driftwood
- Dried seed pods and seeds
- Plastic containers & bottles
- Plastic bags & food packaging
- Fabric offcuts
- Unwanted clothing or other textiles.

• Buttons, zips, fastenings from old clothes

• Beads and old jewellery

• Shells

• Wire, cables

• Ribbon, string, rope

• Bottle tops

• Old CDs

• Rubber inner-tube



Ensure your materials are durable enough to hold up to three weeks in the weather – sun, rain, wind. Please, no paper, card or water-soluble glue or paint. If you are binding/stitching/tying materials together, ensure the connections are strong enough to withstand wind and rain.

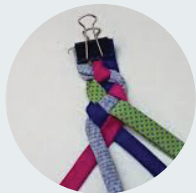
Technique

Explore amongst your community, or online, and choose a technique/s that resonates with your group. Consider your access to materials, and the skills of your group. Alternatively, you might have a maker/artist amongst you who could lead a making workshop, and share skills to others.

Use a combination of techniques – or just one! Let your materials guide you, but be adventurous, be playful, be prepared to make a few false starts, and imperfect examples.



- Stitch and sew
- Cut shapes
- Cut strips
- Weave
- Bind/tie



- Glue (make sure it's really strong)
- Draw (marker pens/Sharpies will hold up in the weather)



- Paint (make sure it won't dissolve if it gets wet)
- Crochet
- Knit
- Print
- Plait/braid/twist

MAKE WITH YOUR GROUP

Make with aroha and have fun!

You might be weaving, plaiting or otherwise combining threads and strips, you might be making small items to be attached to a bigger thread to create a kind of bunting or garland. Think about how pieces might move in the wind or catch the light. Remember the net is double sided so think about how it will look from each side. Work out how each member of your group can contribute in some way, even if just with ideas.

Make sure you label your work!

Make a tag (e.g. from flat wood or plastic), write the name of your whānau, group, community or class, and attach to the end of your thread so we can identify your work.

Dimensions

Make your strands no longer than 200cm and 10cm wide for ease of handling. If your class/group want to make more than one strand this is fine! If you have pieces hanging off your thread, keep these to around 20cm.

We want you to be creative! If you have other ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to contact our team to ensure it can be attached to the net.

DELIVER YOUR FINISHED WORK

Deliver your threads and garlands to Auckland Arts Festival by 26 February. Contact artproject@aaf.co.nz to arrange delivery.

If you haven't already registered, please do so via our website aaf.co.nz/event/aroha-art-project so we know the story of your work.

SHARE AND VISIT!

We would love to share what you're working on with our wider community on social media. Please be sure to tag **@Aklfestival** and use **#AAF2021 on Instagram** for a chance to be shared onto our Instastory or **@Aklfestival and #AAF2021 on Twitter** for a chance to be retweeted. We can't wait to see your creativity flourish!

Join us for our opening event **Te Timatanga on Thursday 4 March, 6.00pm at Aotea Square** as we reveal the installed work, and visit throughout the Festival 4–21 March to see the work evolve as more threads are added.

Bring whānau and friends to our **making sessions on Sunday 7 March & Sunday 14 March, 11.00am–3.00pm.**



**TE AHUREI
TOI O TĀMAKI**
4—21 MĀEHE 2021

**AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL**
4—21 MARCH 2021

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