

01 June 2022

Official information request No. 8140010257
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Josh Van Veen

By email: josh@taxpayers.org.nz

Tēnā koe Josh

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: City of Colour

Thank you for your email of 6 May 2022 in relation to the City of Colour installation. Your specific request and our response are set out below.

- 1. The total cost incurred by Auckland Council for the installation, maintenance, and promotion of lighting and artwork.*
- 2. Which Department/Unit/Team was responsible for developing “City of Colour”?*
- 3. Who was the decision-maker when it came to approving expenditure for “City of Colour”?*
- 4. What role, if any, did elected members have in the decision-making process for “City of Colour”?*
- 5. An explanation of the role played by Heart of the City in developing and funding “City of Colour”?*
- 6. Correspondence and minutes of meetings between Auckland Council and Heart of the City in relation to the development and funding of “City of Colour”.*

1. The total cost incurred by Auckland Council for the installation, maintenance, and promotion of lighting and artwork.

The city centre has experienced a significant economic shock as a result of COVID-19. A key element of the recovery plan is a forward programme of creative activations and events to attract people to visit including City of Colour, Matariki Festival in June/July, and Elemental AKL in July.

In accordance with usual practice in the city centre, Auckland Council collaborated with other organisations to deliver and promote the City of Colour programme. Auckland Council covered the cost for production, installation and maintenance of artworks and lighting installations in public spaces.

The final costs have not yet been tallied because the programme is still underway, however forecasting shows a likely total investment of \$319,491 against a budget of \$320,000.

2. Which Department/Unit/Team was responsible for developing “City of Colour”?

City of Colour was produced by the City Centre Programmes team in Auckland Council’s Development Programme Office, as part of the city centre targeted rate-funded activation programme.

3. Who was the decision-maker when it came to approving expenditure for “City of Colour”?

The decision-makers who approved expenditure were the City Centre Programmes team and unit managers in accordance with their delegated financial authority. In this instance, they were the Manager of Development Response and the Head of City Centre Programmes.

4. What role, if any, did elected members have in the decision-making process for “City of Colour”?

Elected members were not involved in the decision-making process for City of Colour nor the activation programme generally; the programme was organised by staff in accordance with existing work programmes and approved budgets.

5. An explanation of the role played by Heart of the City in developing and funding “City of Colour”?

City of Colour is a collaboration between Auckland Council and Heart of the City, with support from other city centre partners including Sky City, Viaduct Harbour Holdings, Britomart Group, Precinct Properties, Eke Panuku, and Auckland Live.

As the business improvement district for a large portion of the city centre, Heart of the City promote the area as a destination, promoting events, hospitality, retail, arts and more. For City of Colour, Heart of the City covered the costs of promotional activity and additional artworks/installations. No additional funding was issued to Heart of the City for this programme.

6. Correspondence and minutes of meetings between Auckland Council and Heart of the City in relation to the development and funding of “City of Colour.”

Because this is a common model for collaboration between Auckland Council and Heart of the City and no funds were transferred between organisations, there is no formal agreement in place for this specific programme. Correspondence between staff of the two organisations therefore is largely related to the operational details of organising the event.

Correspondence specific to the development and funding of the programme is attached for your reference.

Under Section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 some information has been withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Decisions relating to the information that is being released to you were made by **John Dunshea General Manager Development Programme Office.**

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries, please contact me on 09 301 0101 quoting official information request number 8140010257.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Hare', with a stylized, cursive script.

Angela Hare
Senior Privacy & LGOIMA Business Partner
Governance Services