

Call for expressions of interest

Café operator/partner at Te Tuhi art gallery, Pakuranga



Small Fry Café at Te Tuhi by Ruby White

Te Tuhi is seeking expressions of interest for a new operator for the café space at its gallery in Pakuranga.

Following the award-winning 2017–18 café project by artist Ruby White, we are seeking a highly creative and innovative operator who can bring a unique vision to this space. Situated within one of New Zealand’s leading contemporary art galleries and a community hub that sees over 170,000 visitors a year, this is an exciting opportunity for both young entrepreneurs and established business owners.

We don’t believe there is any single way to create a wonderful café at Te Tuhi and are keen that the expression-of-interest process encourages creative and innovative approaches. We would like to use the opportunity to build a sustainable partnership together.

Proposals will need to include a plan for day-to-day operation of the café, including stock, staff and financial management, but the business ownership model is flexible.

If you have a great concept for a café business at Te Tuhi, get in contact with Hiraani Himona, Executive Director, to discuss the options.

Deadline: 19 November 2018

The Café

The Te Tuhi café area is located within the gallery foyer and as such is part of a shared space used by the gallery, class students, independent groups and public visitors.

With street frontage on busy Reeves Road, the café is ideally placed to become both a drawcard destination and a key venue for locals. There is an opportunity to enhance walk-in custom with signage and branding. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the building.

Core gallery opening hours are 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week, and ideally the café would be open during those hours to serve Te Tuhi visitors. Minimum opening hours will be from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Saturday. Opportunities also exist for extended hours – an early-morning breakfast offer, an evening restaurant service – or for evening opening that caters to classes, parties and events. There are also opportunities to operate a bar for private evening events.

The building and its fixtures and fittings are the property of Te Tuhi. The kitchen is fitted with major kitchen equipment, and the seating area with tables and chairs. The current arrangement provides approximately 40 covers indoors with an additional 20 covers in an enclosed outdoor seating area. There are opportunities to work together to change the décor and look of the space.

The café should offer excellent coffee alongside high-quality food, catering to visitors of all ages and dietary requirements.

About Te Tuhi

Opened in 1974, Te Tuhi is one of New Zealand's foremost contemporary art spaces and a leader in supporting experimental practice. Te Tuhi is committed to contemporary art that is locally engaged, regionally responsive and internationally ambitious. Te Tuhi's primary focus is on commissioning ambitious new works, acting as a catalyst for new ways of thinking and engaging with communities. Te Tuhi has a growing international reputation for its innovative programme, one characterised by risk-taking with a strong awareness of social, political and environmental issues.

Te Tuhi is an independent charitable trust, receiving approximately 45% of its funding from Auckland Council and proactively raising the remainder from grants, donations and commercial activities.

Activity and Visitation

Te Tuhi has a vibrant and diverse community, with annual visitation of more than 170,000 at its building in Pakuranga.

Te Tuhi presents 4 seasons of exhibitions each year alongside occasional public programmes, attracting different audiences and driving repeat visits to the gallery. Te Tuhi also runs a range of art and design classes throughout the week during term time, providing a core café patronage from almost 300 weekly students.

In addition Te Tuhi hosts independent groups throughout the week on a weekly, monthly or occasional basis. These include music and dance groups, cultural and social groups, and a variety of tuition and classes, attracting audiences of all ages. Te Tuhi also has a thriving venue hire business, accommodating private parties and events.