

Call for expressions of interest - new café at Te Tuhi



Te Tuhi is seeking a new partner to operate the café space at its gallery in Pakuranga.

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 160,000 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.

The Cafe

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 a destination café and a key venue for locals. There is an opportunity to enhance walk-ins 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. There is the opportunity for extended hours, to cater for an early morning breakfast offer, or for evening opening to cater for classes, parties, and events, or to operate a restaurant service. 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 outdoor enclosed seating area. There are opportunities to work together to change the décor and look of the space.

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

The Offer

Te Tuhi is seeking someone to run its cafe as an integrated facility, in a collaborative working partnership with the gallery. You will be a significant part of the visitor experience at Te Tuhi, providing excellent customer care and a service that enhances visitors' experiences.

Options for a licence to occupy on a rental and/or a turnover share arrangement mean that this is a rare opportunity to grow your business and establish your reputation with minimal up-front costs.

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

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

Te Tuhi 13 Reeves Road, Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand | 09 577 0138 | hiraani@tetuhi.org.nz