

GLASS CEILING ARTS COLLECTIVE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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## Glass Ceiling Arts Collective Limited

Registered Charity No.CC57865  
NZ Business No.9429047866294  
Company No.7862757

Glass Ceiling Arts Collective is a registered charitable organisation operating as a limited liability company under the governance of a Board of Directors.

Website: [www.glassceilingartscollective.com](http://www.glassceilingartscollective.com)

Chairperson: Brylee Mills  
General Manager: Michael Eaglesome  
Artistic Director: Charlotte Nightingale

# WELCOME

We are delighted to present the 2023 annual report of Glass Ceiling Arts Collective, encapsulating a year marked by creativity, resilience, and community empowerment. As we embark on this reflective journey, we extend our deepest gratitude to all funders and supporters whose generosity and belief in our mission have fueled our endeavours.

Special appreciation goes to our primary funders and supporters including Manatū Taonga - The Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Freemasons New Zealand, Creative New Zealand, Foundation North, Arts Access Aotearoa and Auckland Council. Their unwavering commitment to the arts has provided vital resources and support, enabling us to amplify marginalised voices and foster inclusivity within the cultural landscape.

Additionally, we express heartfelt thanks to the class participants, families and our tutors across New Zealand who contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our community. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering support make Glass Ceiling Arts Collective a beacon of creativity and social cohesion. Together, we celebrate the transformative power of the arts in building connections, driving positive change, and creating a more equitable and inclusive society. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the arts.



Ministry  
for Culture  
& Heritage



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

Proudly supported by

**Auckland  
Council**

Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau



**FOUNDATION  
NORTH**

*Pūtea Hāpai Oranga*

*Funding to Enhance Lives*



# CHAIR REPORT

As Chair of Glass Ceiling Arts Collective, I am thrilled to present our annual report for the year 2023. Over the past four years, our collective has grown from strength to strength, and I am proud to announce that we now have classes running from Whangarei to Christchurch, spanning the length of New Zealand. This expansion underscores our commitment to making the arts accessible to individuals from all walks of life and across diverse communities.

One of the highlights of our endeavours this year has been our groundbreaking work in multisensory theatre for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Through immersive experiences that engage all the senses, we have been able to create meaningful connections and enrich the lives of those who often face barriers to participation in traditional artistic spaces. This initiative reflects our core values of inclusivity and diversity, as we strive to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to engage with and enjoy the arts.

As we reflect on the past year's achievements, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and passion of our members, volunteers, supporters, and partners. Together, we have continued to push the boundaries of creativity, challenge societal norms, and create positive change through artistic expression. Looking ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for Glass Ceiling Arts Collective as we continue to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and advocate for a more inclusive and equitable artistic landscape for all

Ngā mihi  
Brylee Mills  
Board Chair



## Our Board

Thank you to our volunteer board for their support over the last year.



**BRYLEE MILLS  
(CHAIR)**



**JO SUTTON**



**MATTHEW  
HANLEY**



**CHARLOTTE  
NIGHTINGALE**



**MICHAEL  
EAGLESOME**



# OUR WHY



## Purpose

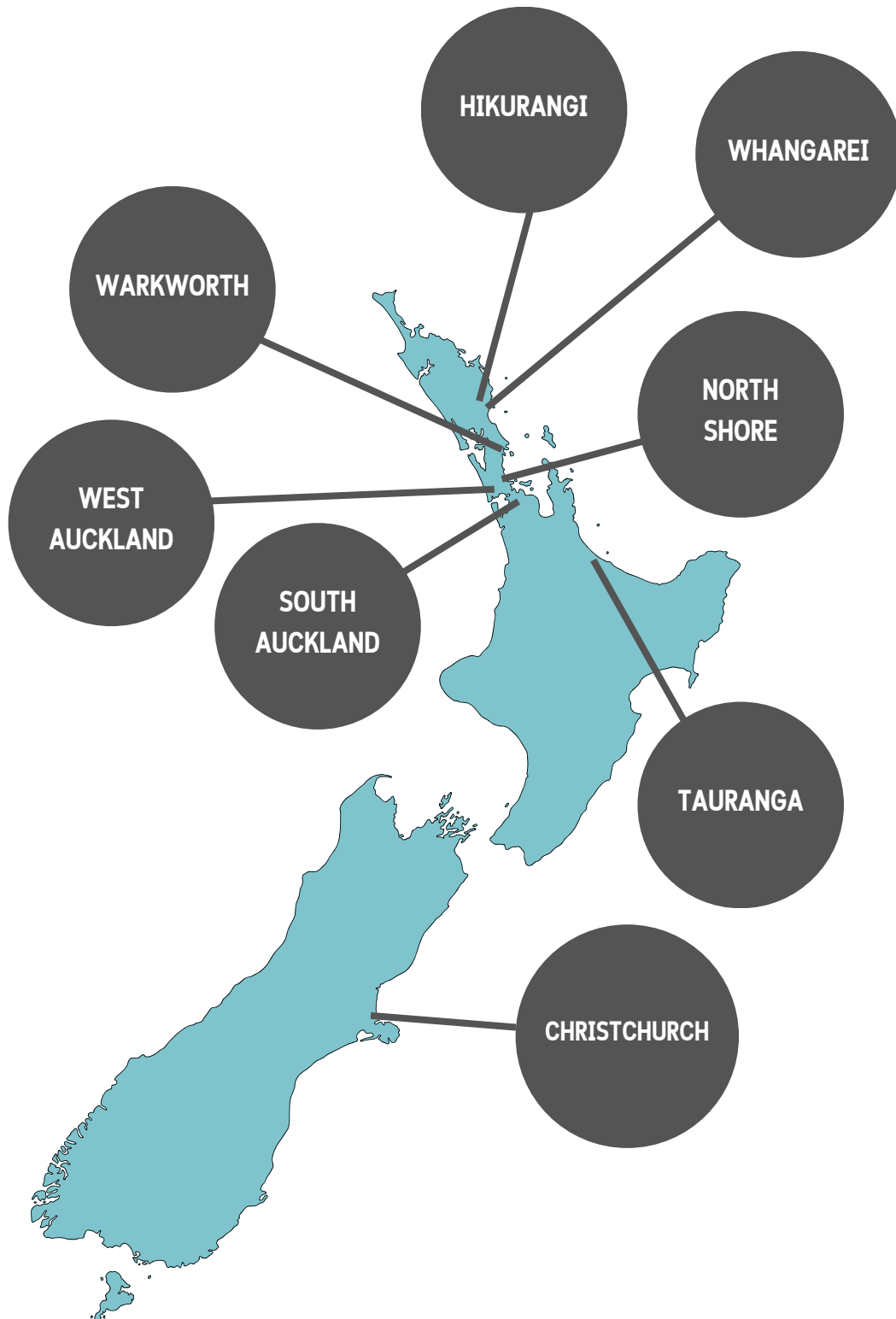
Our mission is to promote and encourage the personal development of marginalised people and people from minority communities (including, without limitation, people with a disability, people from the LGBTQI+ community and children and young people from these communities) through access to the Arts (including performance, digital and visual art), thereby assisting them to grow, develop and live with pride, dignity and respect.

## Values

Our kaupapa is informed by the government's Enabling Good Lives initiative, which suggests that it is to the benefit of all New Zealanders that we build inclusive communities, and that disabled people are supported to live an everyday life in everyday places; and are regarded as citizens with opportunities for learning, employment, having a home and family, and social participation - like others at similar stages of life.

# INCLUSIVE YOUTH THEATRE

2023



Growth: from 2 classes in 2022 to 10 classes (in 8 locations) in 2023, with funding through Manatū Taonga Creative Arts Recovery and Employment (CARE) Fund

# INCLUSIVE YOUTH THEATRE

2023

## Musicals

- Cats Young Actors Edition, Warkworth, 5/23
- Madagascar Jr, Tauranga, 6/23
- Grease Young@Part, West Auckland, 7/23
- The Lion King Jr. Whangarei, 7/23
- Finding Nemo Jr, South Auckland, 9/23
- School of Rock The Musical, North Shore, 10/23

# 3500

A combined audience of over 3500 people from throughout New Zealand enjoyed our inclusive performances presented by young Kiwi performers in 2023.

*"I love that my daughter is learning about different disabilities and how she can support and help others. This whole experience has taught her to appreciate the strengths in people and value their differences."*

- Parent of child without a disability

## Short Films

Throughout 2023 all the classes made their own short film which then premiered in our 2023 "Through the Roof" Youth Arts Festival.

The short films are devised by the young people and filmed in collaboration with our amazing group of young professionals: graduates from Yoobee College.





# INCLUSIVE YOUTH THEATRE

2023

*In our community there is little to no awareness of my child she often gets looked at like she is out of place, she doesn't notice but I do. She has been through horrible bullying so I home school her so I am very protective over her. If I am approached by a stranger asking me why is she screaming or laughing loud, I tell them she is on the spectrum of Autism disorder to which the reply usually is "oh she doesn't look autistic", 🙄🙄🙄 so being included in Glass ceiling arts is very special to my darling and I. She learnt how to talk through Disney movies at 4, now at 11 y.o she is very fixated on being a movie star and creating movies. As my darling daughter is home schooled, this is her chance to have the social side of life that she doesn't have being home. She is learning about conversation and listening but it is a little hard for her so I stay to help her along. This is the best thing I have found for my daughter. We are so grateful.*

- the parent of a young Glass Ceiling Arts Collective member





# THROUGH THE ROOF

2023

Our Annual Inclusive Youth Arts Festival

In 2023, we presented our second annual “Through the Roof” Youth Arts Festival in the Aotea Centre in Auckland, on Saturday 2nd December to acknowledge the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

Whanau from our Hikurangi class and two Whangārei classes travelled down to Auckland for the day, to join in with our 4 Auckland classes.

The experience of sharing live performance and their short films with whanau and large public audiences in a grand space like the Aotea Centre instills a sense of pride and improves self-worth in young kiwis; many of whom face significant challenges in their day-to-day lives.



AUCKLAND LIVE



It was a day full of performance, film and strutting down the red carpet. An absolute highlight of the year for our young people and their whānau.



## Highlights

- Michael Eaglesome represented Glass Ceiling Arts Collective at the International Multisensory Theatre Symposium in the UK in May.
- Charlotte Nightingale awarded Whakahoā Kaitoi Te Puna Toi Creative New Zealand Arts For All Fellowship, through Arts Access Aotearoa, to support the development of a new work called Spark.
- Development of Spark multi-sensory experience (as both a film and live performance)
- Sellout performances in community theatres throughout Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland in August 2023.

Funding support from Creative NZ, Arts Access Aotearoa, Foundation North, IHC Foundation and Auckland Council (Audience Development grant).

Spark LIVE tells the story of a teenage girl, with a heart condition isolated from the world during a pandemic as her mother tries to keep her from getting ill. Kate and her mum struggle to navigate their new normal as Kate longs to be reunited with her friends and most of all her beloved horses.

This production includes a rich multisensory storyscape with things to touch, taste, hear, see and smell. Combining film, live music, bold staging, original songs and NZSL, this event is highly accessible so that audiences can connect to the story in their own individual way.





A GLASS CEILING ARTS COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION

JACKIE  
**CLARKE**

LILY MAE  
**IVATT-OAKLEY**



FOR HEARTS THAT GALLOP

# SPARK

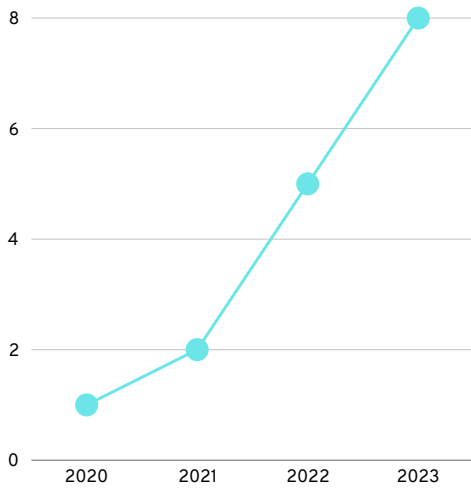


MULTI-  
SENSORY  
SCREENING

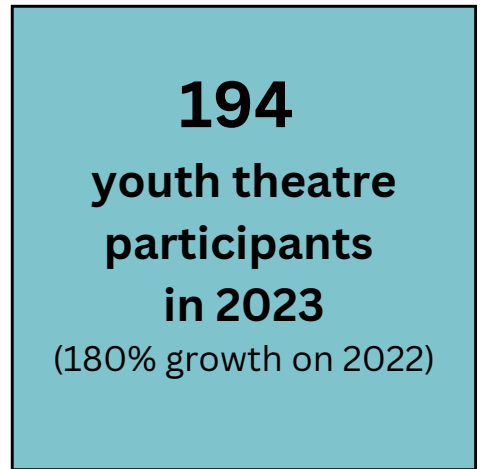
[Click to watch our Introduction to Spark](#)

# INSIGHTS

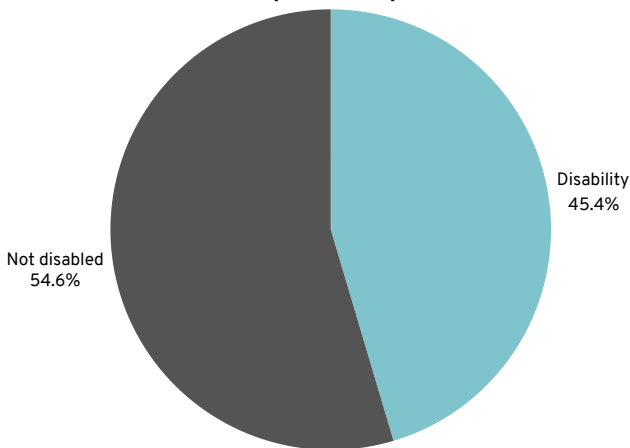
## Number of Classes



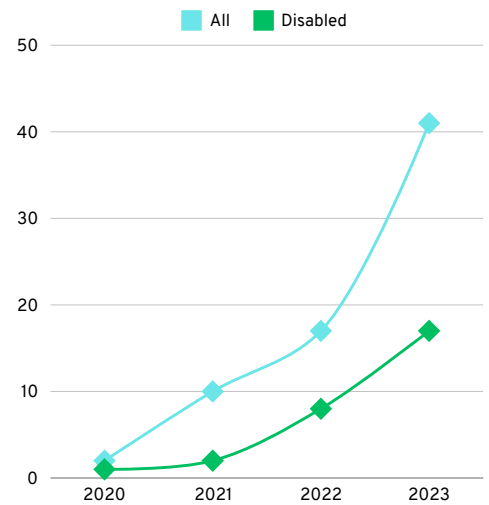
## Participation



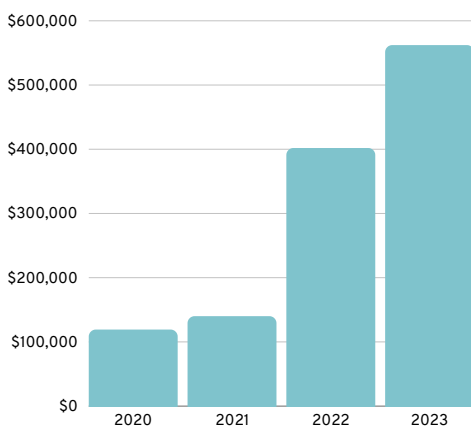
## Disability (class participation)



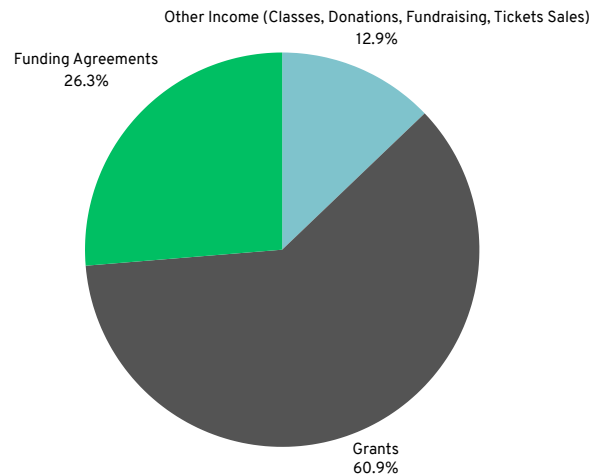
## Employment



## Income



## Income Split



# COLLABORATION

Glass Ceiling Arts Collective enjoys collaborative relationships with organisations throughout the Health/Disability sector, the Arts and Events sectors including:

## Local

Auckland Council, AucklandLIVE, TAPAC, The Rose Centre, Yoobee College South Seas Film & Television School, Wilson School, Auckland Whanau Special Needs Support Group Inc. and Circability Trust

## Regional

JOLT Dance (Christchurch), Creative Northland, Creative BoP, Wright Rohde Theatre, StageAntics

## National

Creative Spaces Network, Arts Access Aotearoa, Creative New Zealand, Musical Theatre New Zealand (MTNZ)

## International

Frozen Light (multi-sensory theatre)  
ChickenShed (youth theatre)





# FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and fundraisers who generously supported us during this financial year. We are proud to be working alongside you as we continue to enrich the lives of New Zealanders living with disabilities.

The following represents just a small portion of the many amazing supporters, donors and funders of Glass Ceiling Arts Collective throughout 2023.

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage, Foundation North, Arts Access Aotearoa, Creative New Zealand, Lottery Grants Board, Freemasons New Zealand, Auckland Council, Tauranga Western Bay Community Event Fund, Tauranga City Council, Rehabilitation Welfare Trust, Whangarei District Council, Mayor of Whangarei Vince Cocurullo, Rātā Foundation, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Pub Charity Ltd, Four Winds, The Trusts Community Foundation, ONE Foundation, Lion Foundation, Milestone Foundation, The North & South Trust, Youthtown Inc. BlueSky Community Trust, Yoobee College Southseas Film School, IHC Foundation, AucklandLIVE, Devonport-Takapuna Local Board, Papakura Local Board, Harrisons Carpet, Marsden Woods Inskip Smith, Holy Trinity Op Shop Devonport.





Be bold, be an advocate, be an ally and let  
the kaupapa of Glass Ceiling Arts Collective  
continue to spread its goodness across  
Aotearoa.

Lisa Thompson, parent, Glass Ceiling Arts Collective, 2023