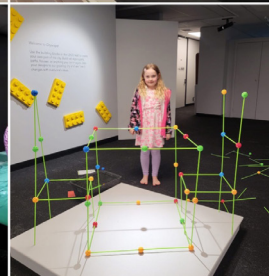


INVERCARGILL  
PUBLIC ART  
GALLERY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025



INVERCARGILL PUBLIC ART GALLERY INC.  
BOARD MEMBERS 2024 - 2025

PRESIDENT	Lynley Irvine
VICE PRESIDENT	David Kennedy
SECRETARY	Bex Pilley
TREASURER	Graham Fletcher
BOARD	Barbara Wilson
	Sarah Templer
	Graham Lewis
	Anna Ford
	Cathy Peters
	Rebecca Sheppard
MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE	Cr Steve Broad
ICC REPRESENTATIVES	Cr Lesley Soper
	Cr Trish Boyle

## President's Report

During this year, the Board has continued to oversee the development and delivery of exhibitions and programming that complement key activities in the community. Highlights have included the ILT Murihiku Art Awards, the Heirloom exhibition during Heritage Month, and most recently, the fourth iteration of Play. At the same time, the Board has committed to strengthening its own infrastructure and performance.

The first step focused on building capacity within the Board of Directors. We have welcomed new board members Cathy Peters, Rebecca Sheppard, and Anna Ford. These new members have brought fresh thinking and new ideas, and I thank them for putting their hands up and offering their service. They complement the work of our long-standing Board Members, including Barbara Wilson, Graham Lewis, Sarah Templer, Bex Pilley (Secretary), Graham Fletcher (Treasurer), and Dave Kennedy in his very supportive role as Deputy Chairperson (President). Our Mayoral representative, Steve Broad, and City Council representatives, Lesley Soper and Trish Boyle, are ever-supportive and active members of the Board.

The next priority has been to continue building relationships with City Council management and wider arts sector organisations. We thank Eloise Wallace, Director of Te Unua Museum of Southland, and Rex Capil, General Manager of Community Spaces and Places. Both Eloise and Rex have maintained an open-door policy for the Board and staff, and have shown a willingness to support the work of IPAG.

The third aspect of the Board's developmental work has been embedding financial reporting, with the support of our Treasurer, Graham Fletcher. This has helped ensure transparency and a full understanding of our financial position to improve planning and ensure the best use of allocated funding for the benefit of the community.

Our final piece of infrastructure development has been revising the Board's rules, which have substantially remained in place for many years. These updates bring them into a contemporary format that meets the requirements of the Charities Commission for Incorporated Societies. The updated rules will be presented to the membership at the AGM for consideration and approval.

All of these projects position us well for the next phase in the future of the visual arts and the Invercargill Public Art Gallery. We are excited to be a critical stakeholder as the community decides its next direction. This work began in earnest during 2025 and will continue to develop.

A Board cannot function or deliver any of its goals without a skilled and dedicated staff to carry out the governance decisions made. We acknowledge Sarah Brown for her leadership, management skills, and her ability to attract high-quality staff and contractors who deliver the work we all enjoy.

Lynley Irvine

President

## Manager's Report

As we close out another year, I've been reflecting on what we've achieved - both within the gallery and out in the community. The Invercargill Public Art Gallery, based at He Waka Tuia, has delivered a thoughtful and ambitious programme, while continuing to nurture the relationships that guide our direction.

At the centre of this mahi is our team. The services we provide simply wouldn't be possible without the dedication, creativity, and skill of the people I'm privileged to lead.

This year we were thrilled to welcome back Gemma McDonald in the newly developed role of Senior Curator: Exhibitions. Her curatorial talent is widely recognised, and it's been a joy to have her return to the team, alongside celebrating the arrival of her daughter, Margot.

Our Public Engagement team, Diane and Kevin, with support from Donna, continues to ensure every visitor feels welcomed and at home. The Kids Create programme has gone from strength to strength, becoming a much-loved fixture in our school term calendar.

We also welcomed Senga White as our Learning Designer. In a short time, Senga has become an essential link between our mahi and the wider community, strengthening relationships with local schools and expanding our educational offering.

Our caretaker Peter, who not only keeps the space looking sharp but also steps in to support events and the team whenever needed, you are an essential part of the team.

### Exhibitions and Programming

This year's exhibitions were grounded in collaboration and a belief that strong storytelling can connect people to their place. A few highlights:

#### ILT Murihiku Art Awards (October 2024)

The inaugural combined Art Awards, developed in partnership with the Southland Art Society, was a milestone event. With over 200 entries, the exhibition captured a wide range of creative practice across Aotearoa. Guest judge Jane Wallace brought a sharp and generous perspective to the final selection, resulting in a high calibre exhibition that exceeded expectations.

#### Heirloom (Heritage Month 2025)

This exhibition explored the emotional weight and cultural value of objects passed through generations. From family Bibles to jewellery and hand-worn tools, Heirloom told intimate stories of whānau, migration, and memory. Local museums and private lenders helped bring together a collection that reflected Southland's diverse histories.

#### PLAY 4 (June 2025)

Now in its fourth iteration, PLAY remains a cornerstone of our public-facing programme. This year's version featured interactive works by Jenny Zhong and a successful partnership with design studio Paku. The result was a tactile, engaging experience centred on tamariki and

whānau - one of our most loved and accessible exhibitions to date.

These exhibitions were complemented by a full calendar of events, school programmes, and hands-on workshops - providing multiple ways for the community to engage with our work.

### **Collection Growth**

As the city's public art gallery, we've continued to care for and grow our collection. Over the past 12 months, we've made 10 substantial acquisitions that add depth and diversity to the collection. We also completed our digitisation project with Heritage Studios, opening the door to greater digital access and future possibilities.

### **Relationship with Invercargill City Council**

Our relationship with Invercargill City Council remains a core part of our operations. My thanks to Rex Capil and Eloise Wallace for their ongoing support, guidance, and open-door approach.

While this year has included broader conversations around the future of arts and culture in the city, we've valued the honest dialogue and shared recognition of the arts as vital to a thriving civic life.

### **Board**

Our board continues to provide the strong support and governance needed to do this work well. I'd especially like to thank Chair Lynley Irvine for her considered leadership.

This year we welcomed Cathy Peters, Rebecca Sheppard, and Anna Ford to the board. They join David Kennedy (Vice-Chair), Bex Pilley (Secretary), Graham Fletcher (Treasurer), Graham Lewis, Sarah Templer, and ICC representatives Cr Lesley Soper, Cr Trish Boyle, and Cr Steve Broad. Thank you all for your time, insights, and hands-on engagement with the work we do.

### **Looking Ahead**

The year ahead is shaping up to be a busy and exciting one. We have a full exhibition calendar and a number of new collaborations underway. Our focus will remain on telling meaningful stories, listening to our community, and finding new ways to connect people with the work we do.

We'll also continue long-term planning around collection growth and access, future partnerships, and the infrastructure IPAG will need in the years to come.

To everyone who has supported us throughout 2024 - 25 - whether through funding, advice, governance, volunteering, collaboration, or simply showing up - thank you.

Sarah Brown  
Manager  
Invercargill Public Art Gallery / He Waka Tuia

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