

Re- imagining _toi pōneke

**Online survey
results summary**

**Aho Tini
2030**

**_toi
pōneke**
arts centre

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Research information

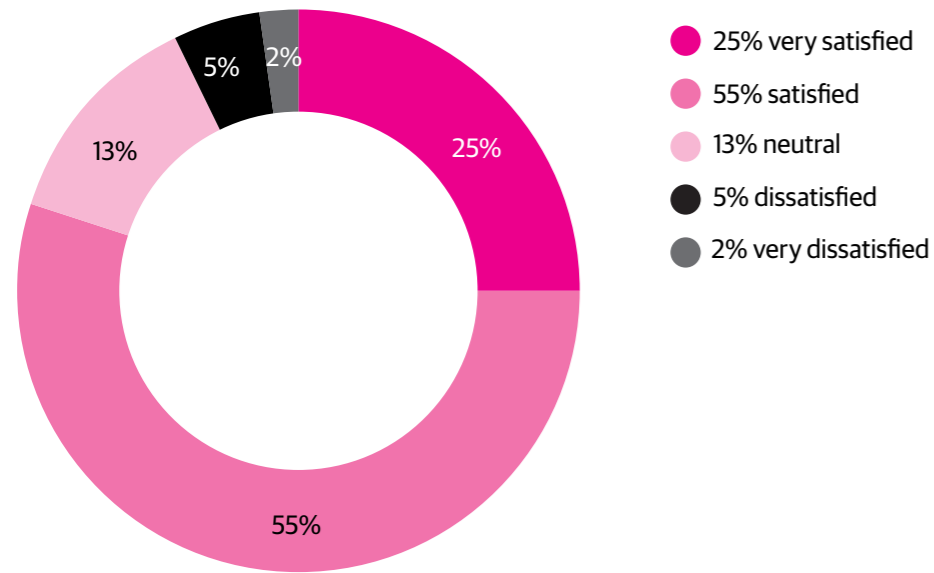
We received 104 responses to the Re-imagining Toi Pōneke online survey, which was sent to 1,677 staff, residents, and users of Toi Pōneke Arts Centre.



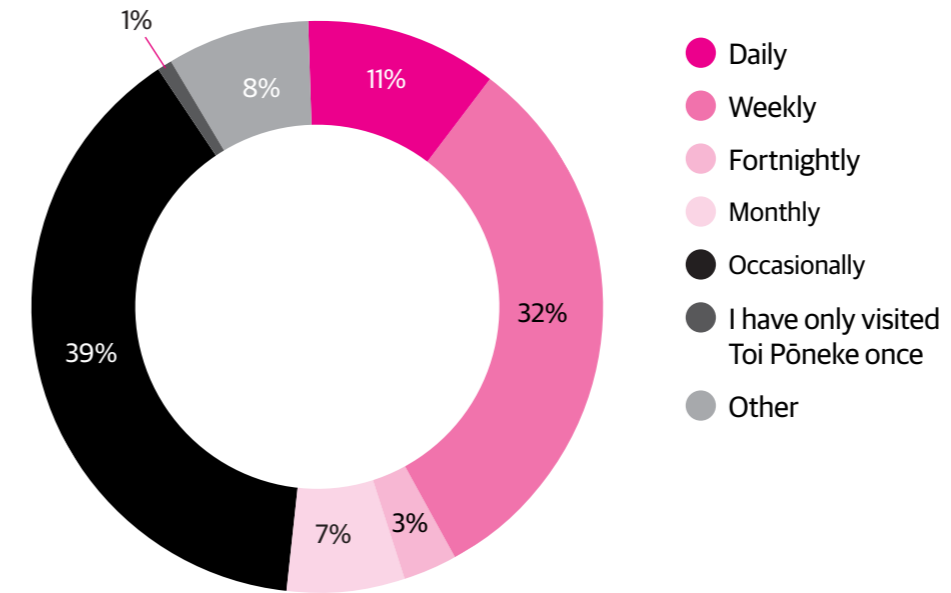
Survey results summary

Overall satisfaction

How satisfied are you with Toi Pōneke services and facilities overall?

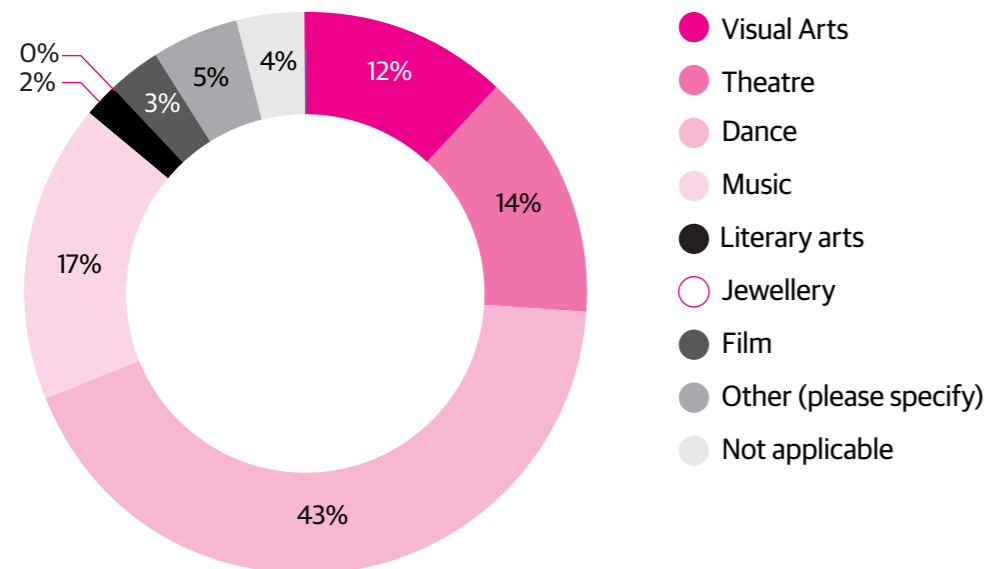


How often do you usually spend time at Toi Pōneke?



Use of Toi Pōneke

What field of arts or business is your primary specialisation?



What are the main reasons you spend time at Toi Pōneke?

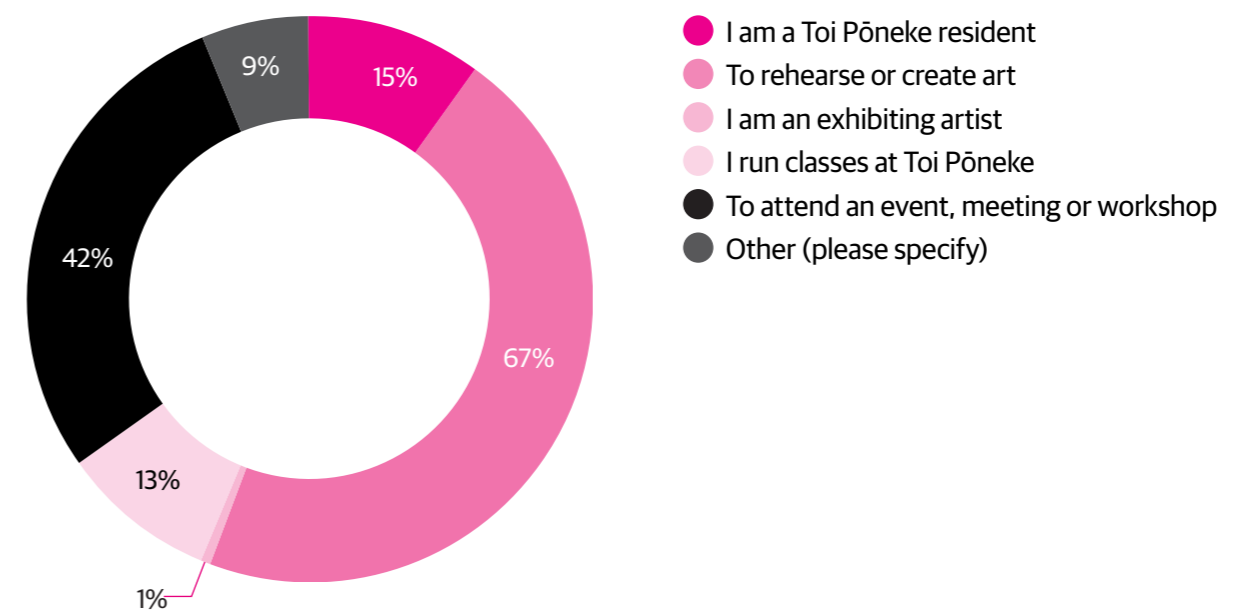




Photo: Hollywood Fun Downstairs practising in one of the smaller music studios

Perceptions of Toi Pōneke

Summary of frequent themes in comments.

What do you like best about Toi Pōneke's services and facilities?

- Affordable, low cost to hire space
- Variety of spaces
- Chance to connect with other artists
- Central location
- Friendly staff

What would you like to improve?

- **Renovation work required**
Buildings seen as old and not always fit for purpose.
- **Layout, accessibility issues**
Improved accessibility for people with disabilities and other access needs. Better accessibility of bathrooms and showers.
- **More spaces and larger spaces, especially for dance and music**
Dance studio well used; some would like a second studio.
Two of the music studios are small, some would like more space, also a place to perform live music.
- **More equipment**
Eg new drumkit, sound system.
- **More frequent cleaning**
- **More parking, free parking**
Eg for musicians or other artists who carry a lot of equipment.

Other areas for improvement included:

- Wifi access
- A reliable elevator
- Soundproofing between rooms
- Online booking and payment system
- Discounts on last minute bookings for unoccupied rooms
- Coworking space
- A space to use power tools
- Having other music gear in addition to the drumkit
- Support to help artists promote their work
- Creating a bridge for recent arts graduates into their profession
- More supported residencies
- A gallery space with street visibility
- Café attached to the building
- More social gatherings, eg monthly Friday drinks.

What is the most important thing you would like in a future Arts Centre?

- **Space**
Physical space to practice, create and perform art.
- **Affordability**
Cost is an important factor for many. Some suggested a sliding scale for hire and rental fees,
- **Physically accessible**
- **Inclusive for diverse artists**
- **Fosters a sense of community**

additional support for young and/or financially constrained artists, and offering some free services and space hire.

Other areas included:

- Involvement of artists in decision making
- Open communication from staff to artists
- Workshop space to build theatre sets
- A 'set library' to recycle and house theatre set components
- Space to host all ages gigs – WCC community facilities could be used except they lack the audio equipment needed for live music
- Support to sell art
- Paid residencies
- Promotion of events
- Equipment, eg music gear
- Heating and ventilation
- Soundproofing
- Car parking
- More rentable storage space/lockers
- Improved communal office space, as currently meetings by TP staff can make the Hub less inviting.

What is the best way Council can support you as an artist?

- **Funding**
Via providing low-cost or free spaces, but also financial support to individual artists, paid residencies, stable and predictable funding streams, funded exhibitions, funding opportunities for emerging artists.
- **Supporting artist development**
Eg opportunities for disabled artists, networking opportunities, support for exhibitions, mentoring for artists, workshops on funding applications, budgeting and exhibition proposals.
- **Promoting Wellington as an arts-friendly city**
Eg support and promote local arts and festivals.
- **Providing affordable, accessible spaces**
For rehearsals and performances as a priority, but also for teaching, workshops and research. Having suitable sound and/or lighting equipment included.



Photo: Kerry Scott

What difference has Toi Pōneke made to your work as an artist?

• **Highly valued space**

Contributes to artistic practice and fills a gap in Wellington, with few or no other similar facilities available in the different art genres. A space to rehearse, develop skills, attend classes and workshops. Described as 'invaluable', 'irreplaceable' and 'vital' for the arts scene in Wellington. Although many appreciate the low cost of hiring space, for some it is too expensive to use as often as they would like.

'Without a place to rehearse I wouldn't be able to do any shows. Toi Pōneke is essential for arts in Wellington. Bats Theatre couldn't live without it - maybe you could co-lab somehow.'

• **Supports career development**

Some respondents say Toi Pōneke helps them progress in their careers eg by allowing them to continue their craft, having space to create art, or connect with others to collaborate or gain support.

'Toi Pōneke means that I can create better theatre by having a proper rehearsal space, although we still can't afford to have all of our rehearsals there it vastly improves the product and takes the burden off the creators.'

• **Fosters connections with other artists**

Some respondents say Toi Pōneke helps connect them with other artists, which is seen as beneficial personally and professionally. Arts organisations also appreciate being able to work alongside each other and individual artists.

'I feel less isolated and more connected in general working amongst a hub of arts people in the city.'

Thank you to those of you who responded to this survey. The results, along with the feedback from our staff and resident interviews and drop-in sessions, will help us re-imagine Toi Pōneke over the coming months and years.



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