

17 November 2017

Marco Zeeman  
Chair  
Whale Song Charitable Trust  
PO Box 756  
Paraparaumu 5254

*the Arts*

Dear Marco,

I have been following your proposal to establish a set of sculptures next to the new Kapiti Expressway with interest. Congratulations on the progress you have made to date.

There is an increasing amount of interest in public sculpture in New Zealand and around the world. All modern cities and towns are developing projects like yours or progressing a strategy to make sculpture part of the experience of a place. I am sure you are aware of the social and economic benefits from public sculpture.

For me the most powerful impact from a sculpture is on the individual. Each of us have a relationship with a public work of art. It forms part of our identity. It helps us locate ourselves in a place and becomes an integral part of our story as a citizen or a visitor.

I have observed over a number of years public reaction to sculpture. When a project is proposed, it is never universally supported. However, after only a few months the people that are against a new work are often transformed by its presence into supporters. The same people that would stop a sculpture from being built will chain themselves to it to protect it only a few months later. Controversy around a sculpture is a good thing and should be welcomed by decision makers. Those same decision makers can have confidence that, in time, the sculpture will be well and truly loved by the majority.

The Arts Foundation is excited about your project, the inspirational design, the artist, and the benefits for the community. I also share the confidence of others in your ability to complete a project of this scale to a very high standard.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Bowden  
Executive Director

**The Arts Foundation**

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