

MAHI NGĀTAHI

Navigating Cultural Engagement in the Arts
A Toi Ōtautahi 2026 Arts Workshop with Juanita Hepi

ISMS' & POSITIONALITY



INTERROGATING, NAVIGATING, CRITIQUING, LEADING

This interactive workshop, led by multidisciplinary creative Juanita Hepi (Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngātiwai, Ngāpuhi), provides practical guidance on how to **respectfully engage** with *mana whenua* and *tangata whenua* in creative practices and projects. The session explores processes of engagement, emphasising **whanaukataka (relationship building)** and **manaakitaka (mutual respect)**, and what meaningful engagement under Te Tiriti o Waitangi can look like within the arts and creative sector.

Areas covered span **Story Sovereignty**, *approaches* to collaboration, working **ETHICALLY** and **RELATIONALLY** with others, and why, when, and how to seek cultural guidance and advice.

Providing a supportive environment that uses real scenarios and the opportunity to ask questions, the workshop aims to strengthen participants' confidence in fostering respectful, informed and enduring relationships.

NOT QUITE A 'STUFF' QUIZ



SHIT! AUNTY TOLD ME OFF & FEELINGS



POWER WHO HAS IT?



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BAD HABITS



MY PRACTICE

Choose one recent or imagined project and answer these five questions:

- Who decided what this project was before anyone was consulted?
- Who was brought in late?
- Who would be blamed if the cultural part went wrong?
- Where is the money sitting?
- What would we actually have to change to make this a real relationship rather than a transaction?

WHAT YOU SAID & THEMES

- Fear of getting it wrong (see slide 4)
- Avoiding Appropriation / Tokenism
- Who to approach
- Rūnanga capacity / overburdening mana whenua
- Curatorial/gallery practice
- Listening posture

MAHI ATU - GETTIN IT DONE!



COMMITMENTS

WHAT ARE 3 THINGS YOU ARE GOING TO DO:

IN THE NEXT WEEK...

OVER THE NEXT 6 MONTHS...

OVER THE NEXT 1 YEARS...

OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS...

