

# The Dust Palace - Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy

*Dated 2nd January 2022*

The Dust Palace, being a leading organisation within circus in Aotearoa has a responsibility to engage with iwi and Māori to give effect to and realise the promise of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Achieving this will require time, openness to listening and adaptation in our thinking.

Understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in order to embed it into our practices and daily lives will be a process of study, self-reflection and behavioural change for The Dust Palace as an organisation and the Dust Palace staff and contractors as individuals.

The Dust Palace recognises the commitment required to exist as a circus organisation in Aotearoa and this policy outlines the steps The Dust Palace will commit to going forward. This policy will be reviewed yearly for amendments.

## **Formation**

This policy was first developed by The Dust Palace founder Eve Gordon using resources provided by the Aotearoa New Zealand Circus Association - ANZCA. Additional acknowledgement goes to Kahurangi Bronson-George for his kind mahi and time.

The document was then brought to the Board of the Dust Palace Charitable Trust; Mike Edward, Tainui Tukiwaho, Edward Peni, Frana Divich, Elena Mananova and Lisa Paterson, for reflection and consultation.

This is a working statement of policy and may be adapted, updated and improved as may be required support the purposes of The Dust Palace Charitable Trust. It will therefore be subject to periodic review at the discretion of the Board.

## **Acknowledgement**

The Dust Palace respects that Māori are tangata whenua in Aotearoa and actively commits to engagement with and acknowledgement of the iwi/Māori and mana whenua of the area where major meetings and events are to take place. The Dust Palace understands that recognising

iwi/Māori and mana whenua creates important mutual, collective humility and responsibility.

## Purposes of The Dust Palace Charitable Trust

In January 2021 The Dust Palace Charitable Trust added two purposes to our charitable purposes.

These are as follows;

*Ensure Te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld in all actions and relationships*

- Be an exemplary organisation within the circus sector in leadership, process and embodiment of cultural practice, protocol and safety.

*Empower indigenous people and people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds within Tāmaki Makaurau to become a substantial presence in the future of circus.*

- Developing access, inclusion and pathways for indigenous people and people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds of Tāmaki Makaurau within circus.
- Develop and advocate for an intersectional approach to all aspects of circus culture in Tāmaki Makaurau.

## Ngā Mātāpono o Te Tiriti / The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

The following principles, derived from the acknowledged principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, provide guidance on ways we will operate going forward.

Below are written ways in which The Dust Palace will activate these principles.

**Tino Rangatiratanga / Self-Determination:** The second Article of the Treaty guarantees to iwi Māori the control and enjoyment of resources and taonga that it is their wish to retain. This provides for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake. The Dust Palace seeks to work in a way that acknowledges this principle in the exercise of our policies and actions.

The Dust Palace will;

- Acknowledge iwi/Māori and mana whenua for significant meetings and events.
  - Provide written acknowledgment of Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua (Mana

- Whenua) at the Dust Palace training space
- Acknowledge Mana Whenua verbally prior to performances
- Acknowledge Mana Whenua in the program of performances
- Consultation within the development of artistic content, resources, policies, programs, projects or advertising which speak of, reference, or include tikanga Māori or any type of taonga Māori.

**Mana Taurite / Equity:** The third Article of the Treaty constitutes a guarantee of legal equality between Māori and other citizens of New Zealand. This Article has implicit assurance that social rights would be enjoyed equally by Māori with all New Zealand citizens of whatever origin. The principle of equity invites The Dust Palace to commit to achieving equitable access, pathways and outcomes for Māori within circus arts.

The Dust Palace will;

- In alignment with the purposes of the trust The Dust Palace Scholarship Program actively seeks and awards scholarships to rangatahi
- The Dust Palace commits to facilitating the work of Māori circus artists
  - Assisting in the development of Māori circus students/artists
  - Casting of Māori circus artists in performance work
  - Assisting Māori circus artists or shows with production skills, funding or development of any kind.

**Pātuitanga / Partnership or Cooperation:** This Article understands that with two peoples in one country both duality and unity are significant. Duality implies distinctive cultural development and unity implies common purpose and community. The relationship between community and distinctive development is governed by the requirement of cooperation which is an obligation placed on both parties by the Treaty. Reasonable cooperation can only take place if there is consultation on major issues of common concern and if good faith, balance, and common sense are shown on all sides. The outcome of reasonable cooperation will be partnership. The principle of partnership invites The Dust Palace and iwi/Māori to work with each other in a strong and enduring relationship.

The Dust Palace will;

- Engaging in regular discussion with Māori around what are the common areas of concern are within circus and the arts

- In all relationships with Māori lead organisations or groups, The Dust Palace will listen and be lead in process and methodology

**Whakamarumarutia / Active Protection:** The principle of protection is about actively protecting Māori knowledge, interests, values, and other taonga. Identity, language, and culture are important expressions of what it means to be a culturally located practitioner. In order to practise Active Protection The Dust Palace should be sufficiently informed in Te Ao Māori, Māori culture, tikanga Māori, Māori performance arts and the practice of cultural safety.

The Dust Palace will;

- Providing wānanga for core Dust Palace staff to learn about Te Ao Māori, specifically in the areas of;
  - pronunciation of Māori place names and common words
  - tikanga Māori around events, both Māori-led and non-Māori-led
- Assisting the cultural growth of all staff by;
  - Ensuring further resources are available for staff to gain an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Trust's purposes, intersectional awareness, Te Ao Māori
- Should The Dust Palace become aware of any instance of appropriation of Māori culture by any member of the circus community, we commit to addressing it with that member.
- The Dust Palace commits to practicing and actively promoting best environmental practice and supporting Māori in kaitiakitanga

**Kōwhiringa / Options:** The principle of kōwhiringa acknowledges Māori rights to pursue their own personal direction, whether that be in accordance with tikanga Māori or not. The principle of options expects The Dust Palace to ensure their services are provided in culturally appropriate manners that recognise and support the expression of te ao Māori.

The Dust Palace will;

- Actively support the Reo Māori renaissance by usage of Te Reo Māori within The Dust Palace's practice on our website, on our social media pages, spoken by tutors to students, and include signage at the school.
- Encouraging the use of Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori at all Dust Palace held spaces and/or events