

# Arts and culture – sustaining people and place in a changing world

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Life is full of surprises, twists and turns that trip us up or enable growth and new opportunity. Our response to these challenges, as individuals and communities, is as varied as the context in which they occur. And you can be sure that the context is complex and forever changing. The challenge of knowing and growing resilience is a vital task of future thinking.

Since the earliest times of recorded history there is evidence of the power of sharing stories through word, music, image and dance. Through story we have formed emotional and political connections, shared experiences, warned of danger and shared the management of interconnected social-ecological systems.

The arts support us to share the unspeakable, process our experiences and plan for the future. Creativity finds solutions to what is seen to be impossible and opens new perspectives in the face of new challenges.

The Creative Recovery Network works to harness the creative thinking and skills of artists and the arts sector. The arts bring adaptive skills, diverse experience and unlimited potential for influencing the way we work with and in preparedness, response and recovery. Supporting the arts means sharing and celebrating individual and collective wisdom, beliefs and values, and healing through connectedness and understanding. We see pursuing true participation and collaboration at large as the only path to shared and sustainable outcomes.

Through our network we work together to create and achieve locally owned visions and goals, putting local voices in the lead, building on local strengths and collaborating across sectors. This relationship focus is intentional and adaptable and works to achieve systemic change focused on self-determination and resilience building.