



Papakura Marae: Citizenship Ceremony 2024

Tahua Marae Hāpai Ora **Cultural Initiatives Fund -Marae**

Guidelines for the 2025-2027 contestable funding round



Contents

Introduction	3
On a page.....	4
Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae.....	5
Background	5
Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027 Māori Outcomes Strategy.....	6
Eligibility.....	7
Who can apply to the Fund?.....	7
Not eligible for this Fund.....	7
What the Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae funds.....	8
What we won't fund.....	8
1. Governance and Management Support.....	10
2. Marae Activations	11
3. Non-Fixed Assets	12
4. Digital infrastructure and Digital innovation	13
5. Energy Efficiency.....	14
6. Development Support for New Marae.....	15
7. Other Expression of Interest Priorities	16
How to apply to the Fund.....	17
Expression of Interest – Initial application	17
Progressing to a Full Application.....	18
Submitting a Full Application.....	18
Documentation requirements – Full Applications.....	18
Assessing applications and funding decisions	19
Investment principles of the Māori Outcomes Fund	20
Cultural Initiative Fund – Marae priority indicators	21
Timelines for funding.....	23
Reporting requirements	23
Getting in touch.....	24

Introduction

This guide explains how to apply to Tahua Marae Hāpai Ora | Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae for the 2025–2027 contestable funding round.

The Fund supports Marae Ora (marae vitality) in Tāmaki Makaurau, helping marae to strengthen cultural life, whānau and community connection, and resilience. It complements the Marae Infrastructure Programme, which focuses on core buildings, by funding initiatives that are not related to physical infrastructure.

Auckland Council's Māori Outcomes Fund underpins this programme. The fund advances Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments, prioritises equity, and partners with mana whenua (tribes with authority in place) and mātāwaka (Māori who live in the region but are not mana whenua) to deliver outcomes set out in Tāmaki Ora 2025–2027. It also aligns with the Auckland Plan 2050, Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities, and Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri | Auckland's Climate Plan.

These guidelines are for mana whenua and mātāwaka marae in Tāmaki Makaurau that Auckland Council works with. They set out what the Fund supports, who is eligible, how applications are assessed, and what evidence is needed. The process is in two stages: an initial Expression of Interest (EOI), followed by a Full Application if the EOI meets the criteria. Council marae advisors are available to help you at each step.

For 2025–2027 the Fund offers seven options that marae can apply for separately, or in combination: governance and management support, marae activations, non-fixed assets, digital infrastructure and innovation, energy efficiency, development support for new marae, and other EOI-led priorities considered case-by-case.

Applications are assessed on alignment to Marae Ora, impact and reach, partnership and co-investment, equity, how Council's investment contributes to the financial sustainability of the marae, and the achievability of the initiative within available budgets. The next page has a high-level summary of how the Fund works. Then read the detailed criteria for each option, the investment principles, and the indicators before submitting an EOI through SmartyGrants.

Timing and budgets in this guide reflect current settings and may be updated as annual plans and committee schedules are confirmed. If anything is unclear, please contact a council marae advisor for guidance.

On a page

Tahua Marae Hāpai Ora

Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae

The Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae facilitates projects of importance to marae in Tāmaki Makaurau, that are not related to physical infrastructure, and that meet the Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027 goal of Marae Ora - Marae vitality:

“Marae are vibrant, resilient centres of Māori life – anchoring whānau, hapū, and iwi, enabling papakāinga, and supporting wider community connection, care, and resilience.

Funding  Total fund \$1.2 million annually	Offers a range of funding options: 1. Governance & management capacity (up to \$50k) 2. Marae activations (up to \$50k) 3. Non-fixed assets (up to \$50k) 4. Energy efficiency (up to \$50k) 5. Digital Innovation (up to \$50k) 6. Development support for new marae (conditions apply) 7. Other Expression of Interest priorities (case-by-case) There are two external funding rounds for CIF Marae per year; a summer round, and a winter round if funding is available).
Eligibility	Eligible applicants must be a mana whenua or mātāwaka marae in Tāmaki Makaurau supported by council. Check on our grants page. This fund is not available to: • Individuals, or groups with no formal legal structure. • Institutional marae specifically associated with a local school, tertiary institution, church, branch of the armed forces, social service provider, or other institution.
Process	• Submit a simple Expression of Interest (EOI)¹ • An EOI can seek funding for one or more of the options • Where EOIs meet Council’s criteria, applicants will be invited to submit a Full Application. • Applications are assessed and decisions made about the level of funding awarded, based on criteria being met, total funds available, and number of applications in the round.

¹ You can seek assistance from a marae cultural advisor to complete the form. See page 23

Tahua Marae Hapai Ora

Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae

Background

The Cultural Initiatives Fund (CIF) has been refreshed to offer better support for Marae Ora – one of the key outcome areas of [Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027 Māori Outcomes Strategy](#)

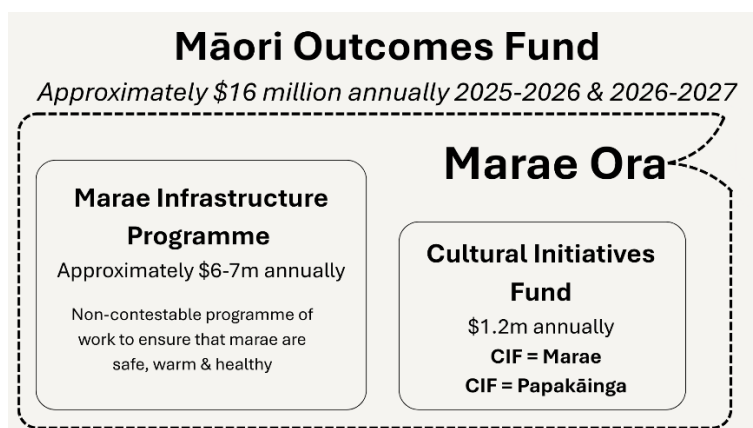
Marae Ora - Marae vitality

Marae are vibrant, resilient centres of Māori life – anchoring whānau, hapū, and iwi, enabling papakāinga, and supporting wider community connection, care, and resilience

The Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae is a complementary fund to the Marae Infrastructure Programme (MIP) which upgrades core marae infrastructure so that marae are safe, healthy, and warm. Both funds are allocated through the Māori Outcomes Fund of Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau. The Māori Outcomes Fund was established in 2018 to advance Māori identity and wellbeing in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The Māori Outcomes Fund is dedicated to activities that directly contribute to the Māori identity and wellbeing outcome and other sections of the Auckland Plan 2050. It complements other funding in council, including operational budgets, as well as funds available through central government and philanthropic entities.

The Māori Outcomes Fund is used to partner with Māori, mātāwaka and mana whenua entities to achieve goals that Council shares. Council seeks to use the Māori Outcomes Fund to co-invest with applicants in solutions.



A significant proportion of Māori Outcomes funding is dedicated to Marae in recognition of the important role of marae as vital cultural and community hubs that uphold Māori identity, tikanga (customs), and whanaungatanga (relationships), while also supporting social, environmental, and economic wellbeing across the region.

Since its establishment in 2016, the CIF has allocated more than \$8.5m to provide support for marae and papakāinga.

Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027 Māori Outcomes Strategy

[Tāmaki Ora](#) is Auckland Council’s refreshed Māori outcomes strategy. It sets the direction for how we support Māori wellbeing and achieve meaningful outcomes with and for Māori across Tāmaki Makaurau and builds on the foundation of Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau (the Council’s Māori Outcomes Framework from 2020-2025).

Tāmaki Ora includes seven pou or Ora Outcomes, representing the key areas of wellbeing that have been shared as mattering most to Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Each pou reflects a different aspect of collective ora (wellbeing), grounded in te ao Māori and shaped by iwi and mātāwaka priorities.

While Council overall delivers Tāmaki Ora through its normal business and budgets, the **Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae** provides funding to specifically support **Marae Ora**.

						
MARAE ORA	TUAKIRI ORA	TE HAPORI ORA	IWI ORA	TE TAI AO ORA	HUATAU ORA	WHAI RAWA ORA
MARAE VITALITY	CULTURAL IDENTITY WELLBEING	WHĀNAU & COMMUNITY WELLBEING	IWI WELLBEING	ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING	FUTURE WELLBEING	ECONOMIC WELLBEING

In addition to Marae Ora, there may other outcomes areas of Tāmaki Ora that marae look to progress with funding through the Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae, that contribute to the social, cultural, economic wellbeing of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Looking at the bigger picture, Tāmaki Ora works hand-in-hand with two other important strategies from Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau: [Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities 2022-2032](#) and [Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Plan 2020](#) Together, these strategies aim to support the wellbeing of Māori and the wider Tāmaki Makaurau community. That’s why the Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae is aligned with these strategies and is also shaped by their shared goals.

Eligibility

The Cultural Initiatives Fund – Marae facilitates projects of importance to Marae, that are not related to physical infrastructure, and that meet the goal of **Marae Ora – Marae vitality**.

Who can apply to the Fund?

To be eligible, the applicant must be a mana whenua or mātāwaka marae in Tāmaki Makaurau. Council currently works with 33 established marae and *eight new marae (a new marae is one that is proposed or in development.)

Check the list on our [grants page](#) to see if your marae is supported by council, and therefore eligible to apply.

Applicants must

- Be a trust, or authority, or other formally recognised body, or be a Māori Reservation.
- Have appropriate governance and management, policies, and processes. (e.g. a charter/ Terms of Reference; governance and management membership; frequency of meetings, evidence of appropriate financial management processes and minutes).

*New mana whenua or mātāwaka marae in Tāmaki Makaurau that are not on council's current list of eight new marae may also apply to the Fund. However, there is a high threshold for accepting an application for a new marae.

Not eligible for this Fund

This Fund is not available to:

- Individuals.
- Groups with no formal legal structure.
- Institutional marae specifically associated with a local school, tertiary institution, church, branch of the armed forces, social service provider, or other institution.

For clarity, if a marae has a commercial component², grant funding will be considered if:

- the applicant can demonstrate that the marae is serving the wider community
- the applicant can demonstrate that the Council's funding will benefit the wider community
- the proposal aligns to the investment principles (p22) and priority indicators (p23) of the Māori Outcomes Fund.

² An example of a 'commercial component' is where the marae generates an income stream to support its financial sustainability through hiring bookable rooms to the community or running an on-site cafe.

*What the Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae funds

The Fund facilitates priority projects of importance to marae, that are not physical infrastructure related.

Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae funding options	
	Seven funding options: 1. Governance & management capacity (up to \$50k) 2. Marae activations (up to \$50k) 3. Non-fixed assets (up to \$50k) 4. Energy efficiency (up to \$50k) 5. Digital Innovation (up to \$50k) 6. Development support for new marae (conditions apply) 7. Other Expression of Interest priorities (case-by-case) One or more options can be applied for. Note that new marae can apply for the ‘Development Support for New Marae’ option only.

What we won’t fund

- Operating costs (including maintenance)
- Permanent staffing
- Physical infrastructure
- Non-marae activities
- Requests outside the criteria

Marae may also be eligible to apply for the **Cultural Initiatives Fund- Papakāinga on Marae and Māori Housing Development Fund**

This Fund provides funding to support mana whenua, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations to:

- prepare required plans, technical reports and feasibility studies
- meet development planning costs associated with council regulatory processes.

The fund does not fund capital works to construct papakāinga or Māori housing, or development on land in general title.

A maximum grant of \$170k per applicant per year is available.

More information can be found here [Cultural Initiatives Fund- Papakāinga on Marae and Māori Housing Development Fund](#)

Detailed criteria

The following section provides the detailed criteria for the seven funding options offered by the Fund.

We encourage co-funding, and welcome applications for funding for projects where you may be receiving support from other sources, such as through funds and programmes provided by agencies and partners such as Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE), Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), Foundation North or other departments or agencies or other external organisations.

1. Governance and Management Support

This option is available to help build the capacity and capability of marae to achieve operational and financial sustainability.

Funding:

The funding is intended to support initiatives such as:

- Professional development to strengthen marae in the areas of governance, administration, operations, and finance
- The development of finance and administration systems
- Consultancy fees to support the development of plans and systems
- Purchase and installation of software (such as financial management systems)
- Development and succession planning including growing the involvement of rangatahi
- First year of audited accounts (in limited circumstances)
- The development of strategic plans; business plans; operational plans and succession planning
- The development of funding strategies / plans to help operate and govern the marae.

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that council works with are eligible

Amount funded:

Up to \$50k per annum

2. Marae Activations

This option provides funding for marae-based activations to support cultural vitality, revitalise mātauranga, and build cultural identity and wellbeing. Marae can determine their own priorities and areas of focus to best support their communities to thrive.

Marae are encouraged to consider activations that achieve the outcomes of the [Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities 2022-2032](#): manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kotahitanga and kaitiakitanga- for all who live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

Funding:

The funding for Marae Activations can support marae-based activities, programmes, wānanga, noho marae, participation opportunities, celebrations, and events activity such as:

- Celebrating mana whenua identity, pūrākau and hītori (narratives and history)
- Supporting mātāwaka marae collaboration with mana whenua where a Mātāwaka Marae is located within a particular tribal region.
- Cultural preservation initiatives
- Te reo Māori programmes
- Sustainability initiatives
- Kai sovereignty
- Developing rangatahi leadership and engagement
- Community empowerment and community connection
- Diversity and inclusiveness programmes
- Educational programmes and services serving relevant generational needs
- Civics education and programmes that support and increase Māori participation in elections.

Requirements:

The activation/s must take place on the marae.

The activations must demonstrate inclusion and wider community engagement where relevant.

The marae must demonstrate how the proposed activation/s will contribute towards achieving their marae vision.

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible

Amount funded:

Up to \$50k per annum

3. Non-Fixed Assets

This option supports the purchase of equipment, or repair of permanent marae taonga, to enable the marae to meet its social and cultural obligations, and function as a thriving, resilient marae.

Funding:

This option includes funding for non-fixed assets physically located on the marae:

- Furniture
- Kitchen equipment
- Equipment/equipment hire to support maintenance
- Equipment/equipment hire to support economic sustainability
- The preservation of permanent taonga, for example, carvings, panels and pou
- Emergency management equipment such as generators
- Addressing health and safety concerns
- Other marae related non-fixed asset costs (describe what your requirement is.)

Requirements:

The marae needs to demonstrate how the funding will support it to achieve its vision.

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible

Amount funded:

Up to \$50k per annum

4. Digital infrastructure and Digital innovation

This option supports marae to be digitally connected to whānau, hapu, iwi, and the wider community; and to utilise digital innovation to support marae cultural aspirations.

Funding:

This option includes funding to:

- Support digital connectivity and infrastructure for marae
- Support marae to use digital technologies to support cultural aspirations and share mātauranga
- Promote digital sovereignty (information content and ownership)
- Enable rangatahi to lead, promote and develop digital approaches
- Build Māori participation in and use of digital technologies.

Requirements:

The project must be marae-based.

Funds the installation of equipment, services, and programmes on marae; excludes personal devices.

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible

Funding:

Up to \$50k per annum

5. Energy Efficiency

This option focuses on efficient energy solutions and renewable energy systems for marae and supports aspirations for energy sovereignty.

Funding:

This option includes funding to:

- Install renewable and efficient energy solutions
- Install alternative energy and water sources to prepare the marae in the event of extreme weather events
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy technologies
- Support more efficient water storage and use
- Support more efficient heating and cooling in the marae.

Eligibility: All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible.

Requirements:

If applying for this funding option, the marae will provide evidence of having consulted a specialist to confirm:

- that the proposed equipment is suitable
- that any pre-installation requirements (including any consents) have been identified and that they can be addressed by the marae
- that the equipment can be installed and operated with the existing infrastructure, and
- what the maintenance costs are, to allow the marae to budget for these.

Amount Funded:

Up to \$50k per annum

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible

6. Development Support for New Marae

This option provides funding to support the development of new marae. The focus of the funding and the level of funding considered will be on a case-by-case basis. Examples include funding for technical reports, design and business planning, costs associated with resource consents, and financial and investment planning.

If a new marae meets the eligibility criteria, council will meet with you to understand your situation and discuss your requirements. The process will include being assigned a key council relationship holder (kaikōkiri) to support the process.

Eligibility criteria:

- New mana whenua and mātāwaka marae in Tāmaki Makaurau are eligible
- Council currently recognises [eight new marae](#) however, new marae that are not currently on council's list are also eligible to put forward an Expression of Interest.
 - Any new marae not on the list will need to clearly express the community need for a new marae, and its feasibility; and demonstrate how it will work in partnership with Auckland Council and mana whenua. (Note there is no obligation for Auckland Council to accept an application for a new marae that is not listed. As part of the assessment process, Auckland Council may approach mana whenua directly to discuss the application.)
- Council supports mana whenua and mātāwaka marae only (not institutional or marae that are exclusively commercial³.)
- The new marae must have a formal legal structure and founding documents to be eligible.

Requirements:

For new mātāwaka marae, there are several conditions which must be met before proceeding with an application. New mātāwaka marae must:

- provide evidence of active engagement with mana whenua about the establishment of a new marae
- provide a letter from mana whenua indicating their support and / or their perspective on the proposed marae
- provide a letter of support from the Local Board if the marae is on council land and
- provide evidence of working towards having a stable lease arrangement in place for the marae if on council land or land not owned by the applicant.

New mātāwaka marae that have been granted CIF funding in previous years will not be eligible for further funding until the above requirements have been met.

³ See page 8 for examples of acceptable commercial activities

What factors are considered for ‘case by case’ applications?

We will consider the following before progressing an EOI:

- Governance arrangements
- Financial contribution to and planning for the new marae
- Community engagement
- Services the marae intends to deliver to the wider community
- Previous Council funding received, and the associated outcomes
- Achievability and timeframes.

Funding: Case by case basis, conditions apply

7. Other Expression of Interest Priorities

This option exists to allow marae to share an Expression of Interest for funding support in areas not outlined in the above options.

Expressions of Interest may be considered for requests where the proposed priority aligns with the Council’s outcome area of **Marae Ora** as outlined in Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027 Māori Outcomes Strategy:

‘Marae are vibrant, resilient centres of Māori life – anchoring whānau, hapū, and iwi, enabling papakāinga, and supporting wider community connection, care, and resilience.’

Eligibility:

All 33 established marae that the council works with are eligible

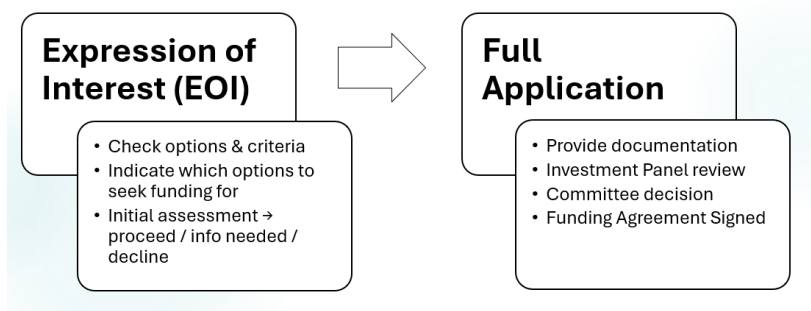
Funding:

Case-by-case

How to apply to the Fund

Applying for funding is a two-stage process involving an initial Expression of Interest application, followed by a Full Application if criteria are met.

The Two-Stage Process



Expression of Interest – Initial application

The Expression of Interest (EOI) initial application is where you signal the project/s you are interested in seeking funding for. Minimal documentation is required at this stage.

All Expression of Interest information is submitted through SmartyGrants – council’s online grants portal. Links to the application forms are available on the [CIF webpage on the council website](#).

The initial EOI application can be completed independently online, or you can discuss your Expression of Interest with one of council’s marae advisors and receive assistance to complete the initial EOI application.

Before applying,

- Check our [grants page](#) to see if you are one of the eligible marae
- Check that your request matches the criteria for the option/s you are applying for (pages 10-16)
- Check if you align with the MOF Investment principles (page 20)
- Check your alignment with the Priority indicators (page 21-22)

Apply here - [Expression of Interest Form](#)

Progressing to a Full Application

The Expression of Interest will be assessed against the criteria, investment principles and priority indicators in these guidelines.

You will be informed within two-six weeks if your submission meets the criteria and be invited to submit a Full Application.

Submitting a Full Application

A Full Application is a more detailed online form where you describe your project/s and/or funding requests in more detail.

You will include quotes for costings, and upload documentation relevant to your requests. You will outline how the project or funding will achieve the goals of Marae Ora; or Tāmaki Ora more broadly.

Note: Submitting a Full Application does not guarantee that you will receive the funding.

You will know the outcome of your Full Application in approximately eight weeks.

Documentation requirements – Full Applications

To support advance planning, below is a list of the documentation requirements for Full Applications.

All Full Applications require the following documents:

- Evidence of legal entity
- Registration certificate
- Trustee registration (current trustees)
- Evidence if GST registered.
- Current bank statement
- Audited accounts
- Insurance documentation
- Maintenance schedules.

Each separate funding request in the Full Application must include a:

- Project budget.

Most funding requests require:

- Quotes from suppliers (more than one quote may be required)
- Project plan detailing:
 - Objectives, activities, milestones
 - How the benefits will be measured and reported.
- Project lead CV / bio

Depending on the EOI request, you may also need to provide:

- Relevant consents / feasibility documents

Assessing applications and funding decisions

Each application for funding will be considered on its individual merits.

It will be assessed against:

- The eligibility and criteria for each funding option (pages 9-15)
- The MOF Investment Principles (page 19); and
- The CIF- Marae priorities indicators (page 20)

Investment panel

- Full Applications will be reviewed by an Investment Panel (supported by Council staff with expertise and knowledge of marae)
- Depending on the complexity of the proposed project and the funding sought, applicants may need to meet with council staff to clarify the project, its process, and its intended aims.
- The final recommendations of the Investment Panel are then presented to a political Committee for final funding allocation decisions.

Funding decisions

The Policy & Planning Committee (or the relevant committee with responsibility) makes the final decision about which applications are funded.

Decisions about the level of funding awarded are based on:

- The extent to which criteria, principles and indicators outlined in these guidelines are met
- Total funds available
- The number of applications received in the round.

Investment principles of the Māori Outcomes Fund

Applicants should be familiar with these principles prior to applying.

The Māori Outcomes Fund operates under the following investment principles. These principles echo those of Thriving Communities Strategy Ngā Hapori Momoho and Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan as well as Tāmaki Ora.

Equity

- Council invests in activities which fulfil our Te Tiriti obligation to ensure that Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau enjoy the same wellbeing outcomes as other Aucklanders
- Investment supports an equity in outcomes for Māori communities, by acknowledging a baseline or starting point (rather than necessarily providing equal funding).
- Council investment supports communities with the greatest need. Refer to [Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities 2022-2032](#) for a description.

Partnering

- The Māori Outcomes Fund is used to partner with Māori, iwi, mataawaka and mana whenua to achieve goals that Council shares.
- The Māori Outcomes Fund enables Mana Māori Motuhake by investing in by-Māori-for-Māori solutions.
- Māori-led design, governance, or delivery; or a formal partnership with a mana whenua or mātāwaka entity is integral to any initiative.
- The Māori Outcomes Fund is used to attract (where possible), third-party and / or iwi investment.

Initiatives are outcome focused

- Projects / initiatives must demonstrate measurable benefits to Māori communities, and they demonstrate wide whānau or rohe impact
- Initiatives that have the potential to be scalable and create long-term systemic change will be prioritised
- Council's investment aligns with Auckland Council's strategic goals, including the Auckland Plan 2050 and one or more outcomes in Tāmaki Ora.

Cultural Initiative Fund – Marae priority indicators

To be successful, applications will need to align with multiple high-priority indicators within the table below.

Matrix	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Strategic Alignment	Reactive The project is in response to the available funds only, and it does not align to Marae Ora. It only aligns to the marae's vision	Some strategic alignment The project seeks to address some aspects of Marae Ora and the Marae vision	Strong strategic alignment The project clearly aligns with Marae Ora and supports the strategic vision of the marae. It may also demonstrate alignment to one or more Ora Outcomes of Tāmaki Ora
Reliance on Council grants / financial Sustainability	Poor evidence of financial sustainability There is no evidence that the marae is working towards financial sustainability / independence from council's grants	Some evidence of sustainability There is some evidence that the marae is working towards financial sustainability / independence from council's grants	Strong evidence of financial sustainability There is clear evidence that the marae is working towards financial sustainability / independence from council's grants
Impact potential	No specific benefit The project does not demonstrate how it will enable the marae to benefit the wider community	Moderate benefit to marae The project will enable the marae to provide some tangible benefit for the wider community	Significant benefit to marae The project will provide significant benefit to the marae
	Impact for marae only The project solely benefits the marae and does not deliver benefit for the wider community	Impact for wider community The project can demonstrate some measurable benefits for the wider community	Significant impact for wider community The project will provide significant measurable benefit for the wider community
Equity and reach	No link to Iwi Ora The project is of benefit to the mātāwaka marae community only	Some recognition of Iwi Ora The project is run by mātāwaka marae and involves mana whenua	Project promotes Iwi Ora by providing direct benefit to mana whenua marae, or involves mana whenua directly
	Marae communities of least need The project serves a marae community that can readily access social and economic resources and opportunities	Marae communities of moderate need The project serves a marae community that can access some social and economic resources and opportunities	Marae communities of greatest need The project serves a marae community that has limited capability to access social and economic resources and opportunities

Cont. overleaf

Matrix	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Partnering	No partnership arrangements The project is funded solely by Auckland Council	Partnership explored An application for project funding is in progress with a non-Council funder	Partnership confirmed \$1 for \$1 funding has been secured from a non-council funder (e.g. MBE, TPK, Foundation North)
	No financial contribution The project is funded solely by Auckland Council	Some investment Marae can provide some investment into the project, including in-kind contributions	Matched investment Marae can match \$1 for \$1 investment OR provide in-kind provision
Achievability	Not achievable The project is not well defined, there is limited capacity to deliver, or it is not feasible within timeframe or budget	Possible There is a good likelihood that the project will be achieved within budget and timeframe, although some adjustments may be needed	Achievable There is a high likelihood that the project will be achieved within budget and timeframe

Timelines for funding

The intention is that there are two external funding rounds for Cultural Initiatives Fund - Marae per year.

Expressions of Interest (Initial applications) can be submitted throughout the year.

Expressions of Interest are reviewed as soon as possible (within six weeks) at which stage the applicant is informed that they can proceed to a Full Application, or that their application does not meet criteria.

Stage	Date
Expressions of Interest EOIs can be submitted throughout the year	Open all year
Summer round	
Full applications close	27 February 2026
Investment Panel reviews applications and makes recommendations	March 2026
Political Committee decision	April 2026*
- Successful applicants notified - Unsuccessful applicants informed	April 2026*
Funding agreements developed with grant recipients	April 2026*
Winter round (This second round may be open if funds are available)	
Expressions of Interest open (marae will be notified in May if the winter round is open)	Notification May 2026

*Note – As of 28 October 2025, the dates for Council committee meetings have not been set. Applicants will be notified of any changes to the timings above.

Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will need to adhere to the following reporting requirements as part of the funding agreement:

- A six-month progress report
- A final Outcomes Report detailing the outcomes achieved by the project and appropriate evidence of how the grant was spent
- Any additional reporting required, based on the extent or focus of the funding.

Entities will be able to submit a new Expression of Interest on completion of their Outcomes Report.

Getting in touch

Contact mof@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz to discuss your proposal with the Māori Outcomes Fund team

Contact a marae advisor directly ani.makea@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

