

Mural artist brief – September 2026

Overview

KiwiRail is seeking Expressions of Interest from local artists interested in delivering murals and public artwork across the Wellington Metro rail network during the 2026/27 summer period.

We are looking to establish a panel of local artists to deliver murals and public artwork across a number of sites throughout the Wellington Metro rail network. Multiple artists may be selected, with work allocated based on artistic style, site suitability, availability, and project requirements.

The artworks should brighten up the area and reflect the local community. We're looking to celebrate:

- Community identity and local heritage
- Wellington's diverse cultures and people
- Rail history and transport connections
- Environmental sustainability and biodiversity
- Innovation, movement, and future-focused transport.

Key stakeholders are the local community, rail neighbours, rail passengers, KiwiRail staff, Greater Wellington (Metlink), Transdev, local MPs and Councils.

Project background

KiwiRail is committed to contributing to the beauty of our region through artwork in the rail corridor.

Across the Wellington Metro network there are several sites with good visibility to passengers and the community.

Some of these are graffiti hot-spots, and in our experience commissioning local artists to paint murals works as a long-term deterrent, while significantly improving the aesthetic of the area.

Who should apply

We welcome interest from local:

- Emerging and established artists
- Mural artists
- Artists with experience in medium to large-scale public artworks.

Experience working in industrial, infrastructure, or public-facing environments is advantageous but not essential. KiwiRail will work collaboratively with successful artists to ensure they understand the requirements of working safely within the rail network.

Artwork objectives

- To design a mural for the rail corridor that reduces graffiti – no large blank or clear spaces.
- Vibrant, large-scale pieces that are highly visible to passengers and the community.
- Reflect and enhance the local area.



Submission Requirements

Please provide:

- A brief artist biography (up to 300 words)
- Examples of previous work (images, website, or portfolio links)
- A short statement outlining your artistic style and areas of interest
- Any experience delivering public art or large-scale mural projects
- Costs associated with your work – hourly rate, typical costs for producing artwork
- Contact information.

Selection Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against:

- Artistic quality and creativity
- Relevance to community and place
- Experience delivering public artworks
- Ability to work within project timeframes and site requirements
- Commitment to health, safety, and collaboration.

The selected artists will need to:

- Produce design concept overview, sketches and colour schemes for review and approval
- Provide a budget that includes labour and materials
- Provide information on the artwork for any external communication / stories
- Produce and install the artworks, ensuring that all health and safety protocols are adhered to.

Audiences

- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Families and children
- Stakeholders
- Wellington Metro rail passengers

Design considerations

- The material/s proposed for the artworks must be appropriate for outdoor use and be as durable as possible
- The artwork is safe to install and maintain
- The artwork will need to be coated with graffiti guard by the artist.

Programme delivery period

Artwork delivery is expected to occur progressively between November 2026 and April 2027.

Due to operational requirements, rail access constraints, and safety considerations, projects will be delivered through a series of staged access windows. Artists should be aware that not all sites will be available simultaneously and individual projects may be scheduled at different times throughout the programme. Individual project delivery dates will be agreed with each artist following site allocation and access planning.



KiwiRail will work closely with successful artists to coordinate site access, safety requirements, and delivery schedules.

Working safely in the rail environment

Many of the proposed artwork locations are situated within or adjacent to the live rail corridor and operational KiwiRail facilities. As a result, safety will be a critical consideration for all projects.

Artists should be aware that delivering artwork in these locations requires adherence to KiwiRail's health, safety, and operational requirements. Successful applicants must be willing to work in accordance with KiwiRail rules, standards, and site access protocols to ensure all work is completed safely.

Depending on the location and scope of the project, artists may be required to:

- Undertake KiwiRail safety inductions and briefings
- Comply with all site-specific health and safety requirements
- Work alongside KiwiRail representatives and approved contractors
- Use approved access methods, equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Follow KiwiRail's rail safety, security, and environmental standards.

Timeline

Expressions of interest due by: 30 September 2026.

Design concepts due: this will be likely staged over Nov 2026 to Jan 2027. Details tbc in discussion with artists.

Artist/s selected: approximately October / November.

Artwork to be installed by: This will be staged over several months in discussion with the artist.

Contact

Please email your expression of interest to murals@kiwirail.co.nz

