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Waikato Regional Theatre Governance Panel appointed

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Momentum Waikato Community Foundation today announced they have appointed the Waikato Regional Theatre Governance Panel.

The Governance Panel is responsible for appointing and managing a team of experts who will create a concept design, masterplan and business case for the new Waikato Regional Theatre.

The appointment of the Governance Panel follows an agreement by Momentum Waikato and Hamilton City Council in August to work together to scope the solution for a new theatre to replace Founders Theatre, which was closed in March due to safety concerns around the theatre's flying system.

The Panel is chaired by Dr Julian Elder, former CEO of WEL Networks and members include:

Sean Murray - Venues, Major Events and Tourism Hamilton City Council

Margi Moore - Head of Media Arts, Wintec and Chairperson Creative Waikato

Glenn Holmes - Legacy Project Leader Hamilton Gardens Development Trust

Graeme Ward - Director, Infrastructure and Assets, Wintec

Leonard Gardner, Chair of Momentum Waikato, said, "The Governance Panel appointed from the Waikato Community are building a coalition of experts to offer expert planning advice, manage the project and deliver a new theatre that will serve as a legacy for generations to come.

"In a similar way members of this community contributed capital to build Founder's Theatre fifty-four years ago, it is our intention that the community, through Momentum Waikato, take responsibility of project delivery for a world-class theatre leveraging Council's planned expenditure to build a truly iconic theatre."

In July Momentum Waikato announced that it would convene \$25 million of generous donor funds toward the creation of a new regional theatre. Momentum Waikato's offer is contingent upon the Hamilton City Council also contributing \$30 million toward a new build.

"Appointing the Governance Panel is a great first step toward having a new-build solution for the community's consideration," said Mr Gardner.

Hamilton City Council Chief Executive Richard Briggs said, "This is an exciting opportunity and great to have this level of expertise on board."

"It will be great to see what the community think when we take proposals out to the community for their feedback."

Momentum Waikato and Hamilton City Council have each secured \$100,000 to fund the process being undertaken by the Governance Panel.

Momentum Waikato's role is to convene, connect and align generous people in the Waikato to create a better Waikato for everyone, forever.

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