

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position Title: Associate Curator Māori</b> <b>Directorate: Collections and Research</b> <b>Job Status: Permanent - Full time</b>	<b>Reports To: Curatorial Support Manager, Human History Department</b> <b>Direct Reports: Nil</b> <b>Date: Sept 2022</b>
<b>Job Purpose:</b>	
<p>The Associate Curator Māori is a pivotal role in unlocking the potential of Auckland Museum's taonga Māori collection, under the leadership of the Curator Taonga Māori and Pou Ārahi Curator Māori. The role provides curatorial expertise to support the development of Auckland Museum's taonga Māori collection, enrich the content of the collection, promote collection access, answer public enquiries, contribute to the development of exhibitions, public programmes and digital content, and support research activities related to the taonga Māori collection. It is expected that the Associate Curator will bring strength in research areas that are complementary to the existing curatorial team.</p> <p>Managed by the Curatorial Support Manager in the Human History Department, at a day-to-day level this role will work closely with the wider Māori Collections team comprised of Curator Taonga Māori, Pou Ārahi Curator Māori and Collection Manager Taonga Māori. The role will also work closely with the wider Human History and Documentary Heritage teams and have the ability to contribute to, liaise and work effectively with teams across the Museum.</p> <p>Matters relating to cultural knowledge, mana, language, description and tikanga that need to be considered when working with collections, will be brought to bear, to ensure appropriate visibility and access in the research environment.</p>	
<b>Job Context:</b>	
<p>This position is part of the wider Collections &amp; Research Directorate and sits within the Human History team. The role and contribution of this team are at the heart of many of the Museum's aspirations as expressed in its <i>Future Museum</i> strategy (2012-2032) the organisations high-level strategic and capital investment plan. This spans all the dimensions that the museum works in – onsite, offsite and online. Together with the <i>Five-year Strategic Plan</i> (2017-2022) (due for refreshment in 2023) guides work across all departments at the Museum. Associate Curators are key members of staff contributing to the achievement and success of these plans, along with delivering to the objectives of the Museum's Research Strategy and Collection Development Policy. The collections and knowledge about them are often the essential basis for Museum researcher visits, exhibitions, programmes and events.</p> <p>Associate Curators are respected roles and their performance and behaviour influence the perception of integrity and expertise within the Museum and externally; their manner is expected to be proactive, professional and positive. A collaborative approach and superior interpersonal skills will be essential in dealing with diverse groups including the public, relevant communities, academic peers, Museum project teams and across all tiers of the Museum.</p>	

Relationships
<p><b>External Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iwi, Hapū, Whānau,</li> <li>• Researchers</li> <li>• Students</li> <li>• Artists / Makers</li> <li>• Museums, galleries and other collecting institutions</li> <li>• Community groups, educational organisations &amp; visitors</li> </ul> <p><b>Internal Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Human History</li> <li>• Curatorial Support Manager</li> <li>• Curator Taonga Māori</li> <li>• Pou Ārahi Curator Māori</li> <li>• Collection Manager Taonga Māori</li> <li>• Wider Human History team including, Senior Collection Manager, Loans Officer, other Curators and Collection Managers</li> <li>• Other teams within the Collections and Research Directorate e.g. Collection Care, Natural Sciences, Documentary Heritage, Collection Information and Access</li> <li>• Teams across the Museum e.g. Public Experience, Māori and Pacific Development, Marketing and Communications etc</li> </ul>
Key Tasks and Expected Results
<p><b>Collection Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the guidance of the Curator Taonga Māori and Pou Ārahi Curator Māori support the strategic development of the taonga Māori collection through collection development opportunities, in line with the Collection Development Plan (2020-2025) and the Annual Collecting Plan.</li> <li>• Work closely with Collection Managers and Collection Care staff in the overall management and care of the taonga Māori collection, identifying and helping to develop priority improvement projects.</li> <li>• Enhance content and context of the existing taonga Māori collection including data improvements, providing comprehensive information and development of electronic collections records.</li> <li>• Contribute to the development of the Collection Development Plan and the Annual Collecting Plan for the taonga Māori collection, including assessment of objects for deaccessioning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Access and Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a key point of contact for internal and external enquiries on the Māori collection within Human History and Documentary Heritage and provide prompt and accurate information to public and professional enquiries, including photographic requests.</li> <li>• Provide expert advice and registration services as required under the Protected Objects Act 1975.</li> <li>• Alongside the Collection Manager Taonga Māori facilitate access to and interaction with collections for iwi, hapū, whānau, students and researchers.</li> <li>• Provide curatorial support for Māori loan requests in conjunction with the Loans Officer and</li> </ul>

other staff.

- Provide curatorial input, research, advice and information in the development of temporary and long-term exhibitions, and gallery redevelopments. Alongside the Pou Ārahi Curator Māori, Curator Taonga Māori, and Collection Manager Taonga Māori, embed a kotahitanga model that enhances gallery improvements through Kaupapa Māori initiatives.
- Communicate to diverse audiences including specialists and the broader community through the museum's public programmes, exhibitions, online services and other media including off-site engagement.
- Facilitate and supervise volunteers working with the taonga Māori collection on agreed projects.
- With the relevant Collection Managers within the Collections and Research Directorate, contribute to the resolution of historic issues with access including appropriate iwi permissions, where required.
- Advise on appropriate descriptive practices, language or vocabulary, where required.

### **Research and Scholarship**

- Undertake innovative research related to the taonga Māori collection that adds knowledge of the collection, contributes to research outputs, and enhances the museum's national and international profile.
- Contribute to communicating research outputs through exhibitions as well as other published forms such as peer reviewed journals, popular print, conferences, presentations to internal and external audiences and through digital channels.
- Provide oversight to staff, iwi, hapū and whānau groups, students, artists, practitioners and volunteers undertaking research on the taonga Māori collection.

### **Professional Collaborations**

- Develop and maintain collaborations with Māori communities, artists and practitioners, museums, galleries, universities and other stakeholders.
- Alongside the Curator Taonga Māori and Pou Ārahi Curator Māori identify subject specialists with significant knowledge and expertise related to the taonga Māori collection that encourages new collaborations regionally, nationally and internationally to enrich collections knowledge.

## **Our Expectations of our People**

### **Cultural awareness**

- Proactive awareness and engagement with a wide range of cultures and associated protocol and traditions within Auckland, with particular reference to the Māori Dimension (He Kōrahi Māori) and Pacific Dimension (Teu le Vā).
- Understands and demonstrates the principles and application of the Treaty of Waitangi and the implications for the work of the Museum.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the Museum's specific obligations in Auckland's cultural landscape and actively contributes to its evolution from a colonial institution to a future museum.

<p><b>Ensure a healthy and safe work environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes reasonable care of their own health and safety and ensures that their actions don't cause harm to themselves or others.</li> <li>• Complies with any reasonable instructions, policies or procedures on how to work in a safe and healthy way.</li> <li>• Understands and adheres to emergency and evacuation procedures.</li> <li>• Speaks up about health and safety matters that could affect them or their workmates.</li> <li>• Actively participates in hazard identification and reporting.</li> <li>• Makes suggestions on how to improve health and safety at work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Capability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost every role at the Museum depends upon technology to fulfil its purpose, we also use technology to create, store, protect, use, and share our digital assets. All Museum workers are responsible for the appropriate use of technology, compliance with all cybersecurity instructions, and the wellbeing of our digital assets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop self for current and future employment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and skills are developed and maintained for competent performance of current position.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other Duties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other duties not specifically mentioned in this document will be required to meet institutional objectives, but these will be within the capacity and experience normally expected from persons occupying a position at this classification level.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills, Knowledge and Competencies</b></p>
<p><b>Essential Knowledge &amp; Experience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant postgraduate qualifications or equivalent experience in a relevant field.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience and knowledge of taonga Māori collections.</li> <li>• Demonstrated knowledge of best practice in collection care and development relating to taonga Māori collections.</li> <li>• Demonstrated understanding and commitment to taonga Māori and their interpretive value, and as a core resource for museum activities.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in contributing to the development of, and provision of accurate content for, public exhibitions.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in contributing to the development of public programmes.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience/aptitude in digital storytelling.</li> <li>• Understanding of the principles and practice of the Treaty of Waitangi, and the implications of this for the work of the museum.</li> <li>• Evidence of strong networks with the Māori community at local and national levels.</li> <li>• Experience managing volunteers working in a collection environment in a museum.</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in and commitment to ethical and safe work practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>Competencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga.</li> <li>• Proactive awareness and engagement with a wide range of cultures and associated protocol</li> </ul>

and traditions within Auckland, with particular reference to the Māori Dimension (He Kōrahi Māori) and Pacific Dimension (Teu le Vā)

- Written and oral Te Reo fluency preferred or at least intermediate proficiency.
- Must have outstanding verbal and written communication skills, and strong analytical, planning and time management skills.
- A collaborative approach and excellent interpersonal skills will be essential in dealing with diverse groups including iwi and whanau, community groups, the public, , museum project teams, and across all tiers of the museum.

**Personal Attributes:**

- A responsive, professional, open and enthusiastic manner.
- Self-motivation, organisation, an ability to cope well under stress.
- Evidence of ability to work collaboratively and in cross-functional teams.
- Must be able to work flexible hours, including evenings, holidays and/or weekends.