

OUR VISION

Open windows, share worlds and discover common threads between diverse communities through the transformative power of storytelling.

OUR MISSION

WORD Christchurch curates and presents a dynamic festival and series of events each year centred around words, stories and ideas.

We spark connections between writers and readers, ideas and action, communities and cultures across Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury to create a space where people meet, deepen understanding and collectively explore the power of stories.

We bring together community, creativity, ideas and conversation to present meaningful events. We are facilitators of experiences: feeding minds, shifting perspectives, and bridging the stories that shape us and the worlds we're yet to imagine.

OUR VALUES

Our values guide how we work, and how we engage with our people, partners and communities. As an overarching principle, WORD Christchurch is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the impact and relevance of the bicultural relationship between Māori and tauwiwi. We are dedicated to reflecting and contributing to the vibrant multicultural society of Ōtautahi Christchurch, Waitaha Canterbury and Aotearoa New Zealand. We strive to embed principles of partnership, inclusion and cultural respect in all we do.

HONONGA: PROFOUND AND MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS



We foster meaningful connections and community collaboration, from the audience experience to organisational partnerships. Our programming is designed to connect ideas, art forms, writers, artists and audiences.

MANAAKITANGA: GENEROSITY AND CARE

We create an environment where people feel welcomed, supported and enabled to thrive whether they are an artist, audience member, staff, volunteer, or partner. We hold space for others with respect, humility, kindness and authenticity.

MĀIA: BOLDNESS AND BRAVERY

Being bold means being smart, innovative and resourceful in all we do. We push creative and conceptual boundaries, take initiative, testing new ideas and developing new possibilities for our writers, artists, audiences and supporters. We lead cultural conversations in our rohe and our nation.

2026 – 2028 STRATEGIC DRIVERS:

IN THESE COMING YEARS FIVE PRIORITIES WILL GUIDE US



- 1.** To showcase and celebrate words in all their forms, championing writers and the wider arts ecosystem
- 2.** To have a positive impact on our city and region's audiences and communities
- 3.** To maintain our reputation as a trusted partner of choice
- 4.** To attract and inspire a growing and diverse audience of all generations
- 5.** To maintain organisational health to ensure WORD's ongoing sustainability.