



BLAKE AITKEN

ARTIST RESUME

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Education

Bachelor of Architectural
Studies, The University of
Auckland, 2021-2023

Selected media

- Stuff (100 Cones), 2025
- The Breeze 93.4FM (100 Cones), 2025
- The Spinoff (100 Cones), 2025

WORKS

2. *Chalk Walk*

3. *Cost of Passage | Utu o te Haerenga*

4. *How Many Times Have You Walked Past Me?*

5. *You've Walked Past Me So Many Times*

6. *90 Minutes in Te Komititanga Square*

My practice follows an iterative, research-driven approach where each project, regardless of outcome, informs the next. This cumulative methodology creates art that functions as civic infrastructure, sparking dialogue, enabling participation, and materialising empathy in public space.

Chalk Walk

Participatory Sculpture Proposal



Status: Competition entry (Sculpture in the Gardens)

Location: Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa

Submitted: January 2026

Conceptualised: October 2025

A **participatory sculpture proposal** for Auckland Botanic Gardens that turns a garden path edge into a **shared, temporary mural**. A **chalk-dispensing form** sits just off the main route, making participation explicitly welcome. Visitors take a colour and draw as they pass, creating a canvas that **layers, fades, and resets** through rain and foot traffic.

The sculpture is deliberately minimal and robust: a powder-coated steel column with a domed crown holding **8 to 12 large chalk sticks** and a **tray that collects used stubs**. The chalk becomes a visible **barometer of participation** over time, and remnants are reclaimed through donation, recycling, or crushed into “chalk seeds” for simple chalk paint.



Cost of Passage | Utu o te Haerenga

Public Sculpture & Social Ritual



Status: Commissioned for Installation
Location: Karangahape Road, Auckland
Commissioned by: Karangahape Road Business Association (November 2025)
Installation: 2026 | **Conceptualised:** April 2025
Key Supporters: Auckland Transport

This project transforms standard sign poles into permanent, elegant vessels for solidarity, evolving from a personal pilot into a mature civic system on Karangahape Road. **Activated in partnership with 9 Auckland charities, including Auckland City Mission, Lifewise, Endometriosis NZ, Fix Up Look Sharp, and Nurturing Families**, it repurposes urban furniture to create anonymous points of connection and direct support, embedding a **semi-permanent, low-friction ritual of empathy and direct giving** into the heart of the city.



Cost of Passage | Utu o te Haerenga
 Karang-a-Hape 2026



Cost of Passage | Utu o te Haerenga
 Karang-a-Hape 2025



You've Walked Past Me So Many Times

Aotearoa's Largest Public Art Installation



Status: Completed

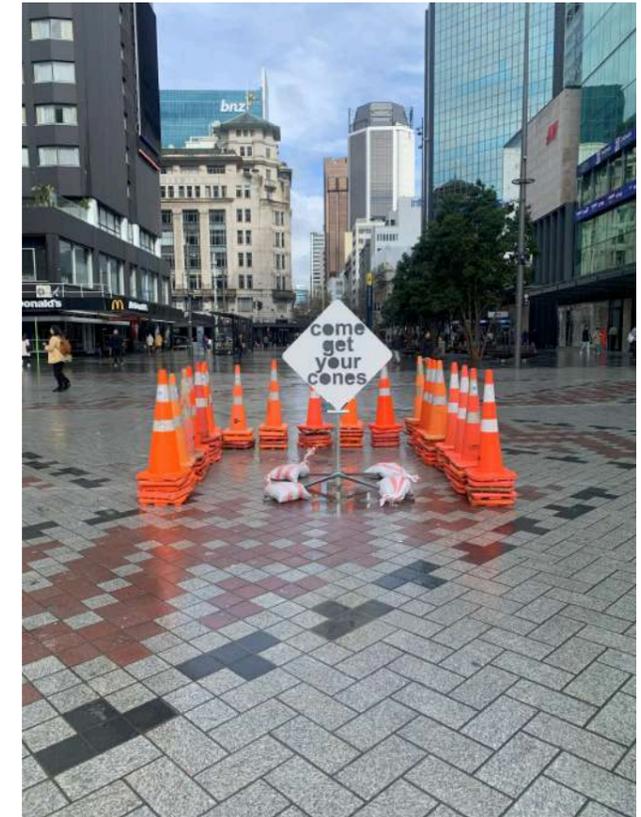
Type: Guerrilla Installation & Digital Platform

Location: Te Komititanga Square, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Commissioned/Self-Funded: Self-funded with equipment sponsorship from Hireace.

Date: 18 August 2025

This guerrilla intervention placed 100 abandoned traffic cones in a precise grid, each tagged with a QR code linking to a real-time tracking platform. **It achieved 126,000+ impressions and 2,500+ QR engagements**, with feature coverage on **Stuff and The Breeze 93.4FM**. The work critiqued bureaucracy while demonstrating a community-driven alternative, culminating in an 18-hour installation and **9-hour unintended collaboration with council workers** that proved the public's appetite for interventions that reimagine shared space and accountability.



How Many Times Have You Walked Past Me?

Civic-Scale Social Impact Platform & Installation



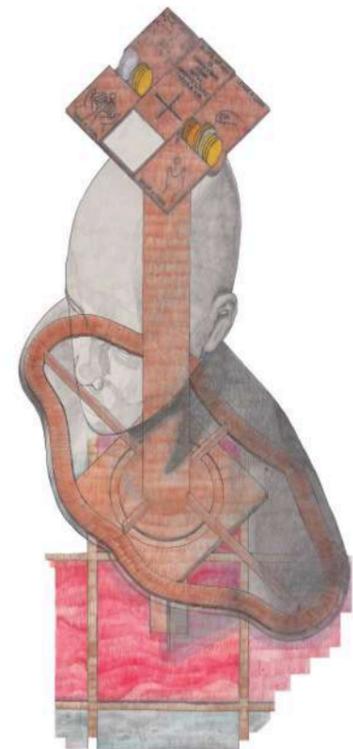
Status: In Active Development

Location: Te Komititanga Square, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Conceptualised: January 2025 | **Development:** Ongoing

Key Supporters: Lifewise, Auckland City Mission

This project transforms public space into a **system of care** and **civic memory**. It will install **100 portrait busts** of people experiencing homelessness, each **co-created as a paid collaborator**, in the heart of Auckland. **Designed to generate \$4,000,000 in structured, trust-managed support** for **100 participants**, the work creates a **temporary ritual of encounter** and a **permanent legacy** through 100 bronze plaques embedded in the square. Each bust functions as a **donation vessel**, a **monument**, and a **direct pathway** to housing, training, and wellbeing, with transactions documented through an NFT lifecycle. The project is built on an **open ethical framework** being developed with Lifewise and Auckland City Mission, ensuring **dignity and agency** at every stage. We are now seeking founding corporate partners to launch the first phase of this landmark civic intervention, a **replicable model for art that builds empathy, infrastructure, and legacy**.



90 Minutes in Te Komititanga Square

Limited Edition Digital-Physical Artwork



Status: Completed

Location: Te Komititanga Square, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Date: April 2025

Edition: 10 unique editions, hand-delivered to key civic figures.

A ten-edition project that captured the square's spirit through LiDAR scans, delivered as hand-embossed prints and NFTs to ten influential Aucklanders. **It reached over 500,000+ impressions** through strategic dissemination and served as a successful bootstrapping project, generating crucial early momentum and technical knowledge. It pioneered a **"claim-at-any-price" model** to acknowledge non-monetary support, building the conceptual and partnership framework for subsequent large-scale civic projects.

Mayor Wayne Brown
Mayor of Auckland
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Graeme Harl
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