

# Mina McKenzie Scholarship 2014

## Background

The former Museums Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (MAANZ) established a fund in memory of the long standing and significant contribution of the late Mina McKenzie to the museum profession, particularly in encouraging Kaitiaki Maori and empowering young museum people in their work.

In 2001, the Organising Committee for the ICOM-CECA 2000 Conference sought to establish a fund from surplus income generated by the Conference to provide educational opportunities for the museum profession. The Committee became a foundation contributor to support the long term educational goals, aims and aspirations of the Scholarship.

The entire fund was vested in Museums Aotearoa as the successor to MAANZ. The fund is to be used to provide funding assistance to enable museum workers to undertake education, training or development that will directly benefit their museum career.

The Scholarship has a pool of up to \$4,000 available for one or more recipients in 2014. Scholarship funds may be used towards fees and/or other expenses such as living or travel allowance.

The awarding of the Mina McKenzie Scholarship will be made by the Board of Museums Aotearoa, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee according to criteria and conditions determined from time to time.

Mina McKenzie (1930 – 1997)

### **Ngāti Hauiti, Rangitāne, Ngāti Raukawa, Ati Haunui-a-Paparangi**

Mina McKenzie, or “Aunty Mina” as she was known to many both within and outside the museum sector, was the inaugural director of the Manawatu Museum. For seventeen years she led the institution with a vision which ultimately saw the establishment of The Science Centre, Manawatu Museum & Manawatu Art Gallery, now known as “Te Manawa”.

As one of the few early women directors, Mina also holds a special place as the first Māori director of a New Zealand institution. Likewise Mina held the role as the first Māori President of the former Art Galleries and Museums Association of New Zealand, which later became MAANZ. It was Mina who is credited with the development (and subsequent implementation) of equal Māori representation for the Association and called together the inaugural Kaitiaki hui at Rata Marae.

Working with special interest groups and iwi, Mina’s support was invaluable in protecting waahi tapu, traditional buildings and moveable taonga. Her work with the Cultural Conservation Advisory Committee in the 1990s helped pave the way for Kaitiaki Māori to obtain advanced conservation training.

As a mentor to many young people within the sector, Mina aided in the establishment of the Museum Studies course as a degree at Massey University. She often talked about “building bridges” and was a leader in all circles.

Mina's participation on the exhibition committee for Te Māori brought with it the opportunity to bring a group of international museum curators to New Zealand for a Taonga Māori Conference and marae tour. It was a trip that transformed our international colleagues' understanding of the taonga Māori they care for within their own collections.

Mina left a lasting impression on the New Zealand museum sector. She brought with her a fresh approach to traditional opinions. She was a supporter and mentor of many young people in their museum work and particularly encouraged and empowered Kaitiaki Māori in their work within institutions throughout New Zealand. Following her death in 1997, members of the former Museums Association of Aotearoa New Zealand established a fund in memory of her long-standing and significant contribution to the museum profession.

**Applications for 2014 are due by 5pm on Thursday 20 March 2014**

**Details are available from Museums Aotearoa.**

**Contact**

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