

WEARABLE ART MANAGER



ABOUT WORLD OF WEARABLEART (WOW)

At the heart of WOW is an internationally renowned wearable art competition which attracts entries from around the globe each year. The astonishing works of wearable art created by designers and then selected by the judges go on to take the stage in the annual WOW Show, which attracts an audience of close to 60,000 people. WOW also has the privilege to house and care for an incredible collection of past garments which are showcased through exhibitions, live events, and other activations.

LOCATION:	Based in Wellington.	
PURPOSE:	As a member of the Senior Leadership Team, this role provides strategic oversight and thought leadership for WOW’s wearable art collection. The position ensures that WOW’s globally recognised designer works are cared for, preserved, and celebrated in alignment with our organisational vision and cultural values.	
REPORTS TO:	Chief Executive	
DIRECT REPORTS:	Wardrobe Manager, Operations and Logistics Coordinator	
KEY RELATIONSHIPS:	<p>Internal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Executive Head of Competition and Senior Leadership Team Show Producer Show Director and Executive Creative Director Wearable Art Specialist & Head of Wardrobe Wardrobe Team WOW Team 	<p>External</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designers WOW customers, stakeholders and sponsors Third-party suppliers

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Strategic Oversight

- Contribute to the continual review of the WOW strategic plans to adapt to new opportunities, industry changes and future thinking.
- Oversee the successful relocation of WOW assets (the Collection) and Collection and Wardrobe operations to Wellington.
- Lead, adapt and design processes and ways of working in response to the relocation, seeking advice from Wearable Art Specialist and other team members as required.
- Act as a key liaison with future premises and project team.
- Provide ongoing site management responsibility to ensure a well-run Wearable Art department, supported by Head of Finance and Business Services and with admin support from Operations and Logistics Coordinator
- Work closely with Head of Competition to ensure the Wardrobe and Collection programme of work aligns with and supports and optimises the competition cycle
- Ensure the collection content aligns with WOW strategic goals.
- Oversee Logistics Coordinator to ensure timely and safe receipt of garments being shipped for competition and activations
- Oversee Wardrobe Manager and garment technician team
- Oversees the development and integration of the new CRM system to support the Wearable Art function

Inspirational Leadership

- Develop and manage a high performing team, in particular cultivate a pool of skilled contractors to bring in at relevant parts of the cycle
- Align the team to develop and embed an overall strong culture that supports the underlying values, beliefs and passion of WOW.
- Develop, coach and mentor direct reports to bring out the best in them and achieve their full potential, taking action early to address any potential concerns.
- Preserves and perpetuates WOW institutional knowledge with sustainability and succession in mind
- Successfully manages all aspects of any direct report's employment journey ranging from recruitment through to exit and including training and accountable performance evaluations.
- Deliver all operational and logistical aspects of the Wearable Art team including planning and budgeting

Operational excellence

- Responsible for planning and budgeting for Wearable Art department activities.
- Collaborates with SLT and other WOW team members / contractors to identify suitable garments for special events, exhibitions, and projects.
- Play a key role in improving and streamlining garment data across WOW systems such as Designer Database and SharePoint.

Collection oversight and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets the vision and strategic direction for garment preservation, technical care, activation, performance and exhibition readiness, ensuring alignment with organisational priorities and SLT objectives. • Provides oversight of collection garment storage, preservation handling, maintenance including annual cataloguing, loan, acquisition and de-acquisition processing • Oversees technical operations for annual Competition Selection and Judging processes • Oversight of finalist garment care during Show • Oversight of installation and exhibitions activity including mannequin management. Dependent on scale, sometimes leading and delivering this work directly (eg Show and Wellington installs), and other times developing, approving and overseeing plans for project teams to deliver (eg WOW Lab) • Champions innovation and continuous improvement in garment care practices, technical standards, and operational processes.
Expert advisory and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as the organisation’s principal authority on garment assessment and technical integrity, offering specialist advice and high-level decision-making on management, maintenance, reconstruction, health and safety, and electrical compliance. • Establishes and enforces SOPs for garment preservation, technical installations, and risk management.
Collection Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs the development and implementation of appropriate preservation practices for the collection, embedding best practice standards. • Oversees inventory management, cataloguing, and storage protocols, including record-keeping, reference photography, pest management, and audit activities. • Oversees garment loan and returns processes, ensuring contractual and conservation standards are met.
Show Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Tr</u> Troubleshooting and liaising with the Head of Wardrobe, Head of Competition, choreographers, and show director, where applicable • Troubleshooting and liaising with Head of Wardrobe and tech team regarding garment to model fitting and movement • Providing garment insight and troubleshooting with Head of Competition, Head of Wardrobe and Show Director on fitting weekend • Work in partnership with Head of Competition and Head of Wardrobe to communicate any issue with garments and to facilitate communications with designers • Ensuring garments are adapted as required to remain functional during Show in line with Competition Terms and Conditions

Relationship Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurtures and manages communication and relationships with Collection designers regarding garment care, use and logistics. • Ensures all designer communication is shared with competition team and recorded in CRM • In conjunction with the Head of Competition and Partnerships and Development Manager, works to maintain strategic partnerships, in particular with Mainfreight
Policies and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides executive oversight to ensure all key Collection management processes are clearly documented, regularly reviewed, and embedded across the organisation. • Plays a key role in improving and streamlining garment data across WOW systems such as Designer Database and SharePoint. • Drives a culture of operational excellence and continuous improvement through robust process management. • Proactively researches, anticipates, and evaluates emerging trends and best practices in collection management, garment technology and sustainability. • Leverages this intelligence to inform WOW's strategic direction, ensuring policies and practices remain at the forefront of the industry.
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides visible leadership for health, safety, and wellbeing within the Wardrobe function and sets the strategic direction for safety planning, monitoring, and reporting. • Champions a culture of safety and wellbeing, ensuring all initiatives are actively supported and that compliance with policies, procedures, and reporting requirements (including Auditz or equivalent systems) is maintained at the highest level
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From time to time, support with other duties as reasonably required.

EXPERIENCE	
Education, Experience and Person Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven senior level experience in leading functions • Proven experience in leadership of a high performance team in a creative industry • Proven experience in leading and delivering on strategic initiatives and project management • Relevant technical experience in wearable art or costume / art world / art department including with a range of materials and media (preferable to have) • Experience in building and maintaining external relationships • Understanding of intellectual property requirements in an artistic industry and experience with practical application • A tertiary qualification in a relevant discipline is desirable but not essential

Attributes

- High level strategic thinker and problem solver.
- Skilled at planning and delivering to an extremely high standard.
- Solutions-focused and highly adaptable.
- Able to work with complexity and navigate uncertainty.
- Resilient nature and able to work effectively under pressure.
- Genuine passion for the arts and strong critical eye.
- Basic cultural competency in Te Ao Māori (Māori world) or openness to learn

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose is why we exist, why we come into work, and what we provide to people and the world.

“To create awe-inspiring encounters with a world of WearableArt”

OUR VALUES

Our values are a set of guiding principles and beliefs that help us function together as a company with shared intention.

We do awe

We're in the business of emotion. We evoke wonder, excitement, curiosity, and collective effervescence. We push the boundaries of what's possible and create a platform for others who do the same.

Collaborate with care

We match high expectations with high support, lifting each other up, as well as those we encounter. We're open to others' points of view by default, and challenge with respect. We grow together and consider the collective.

Champions for creativity

We're here for the makers of the world, and the people they inspire. We don't just celebrate creativity; we advocate for it. We believe the world needs makers and creators, and are passionate about bringing art off the wall and onto the body – and presenting this in mind bending ways.

Honing our craft

We aim to attract, develop and be the best in our field. We take immense pride in what we do, and the platform we provide for the artists of the world. We're constantly curious and hungry for better, trying new things, solving problems, and discovering opportunities.

Good ancestors

We aspire to leave the world a little better than we found it. We do this through lifting up human creativity, respecting the mana of all cultures, and by reducing our negative impact on the planet. We're proud to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.