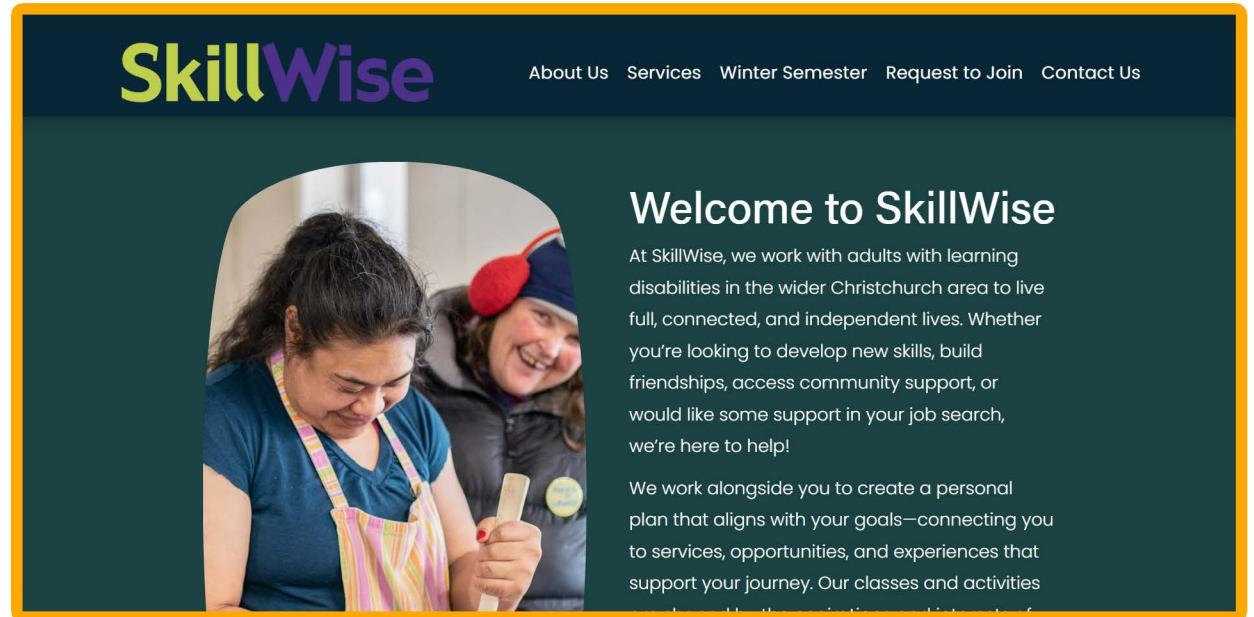


SkillWise Final Web Accessibility Report

WWW.SKILLWISE.ORG.NZ



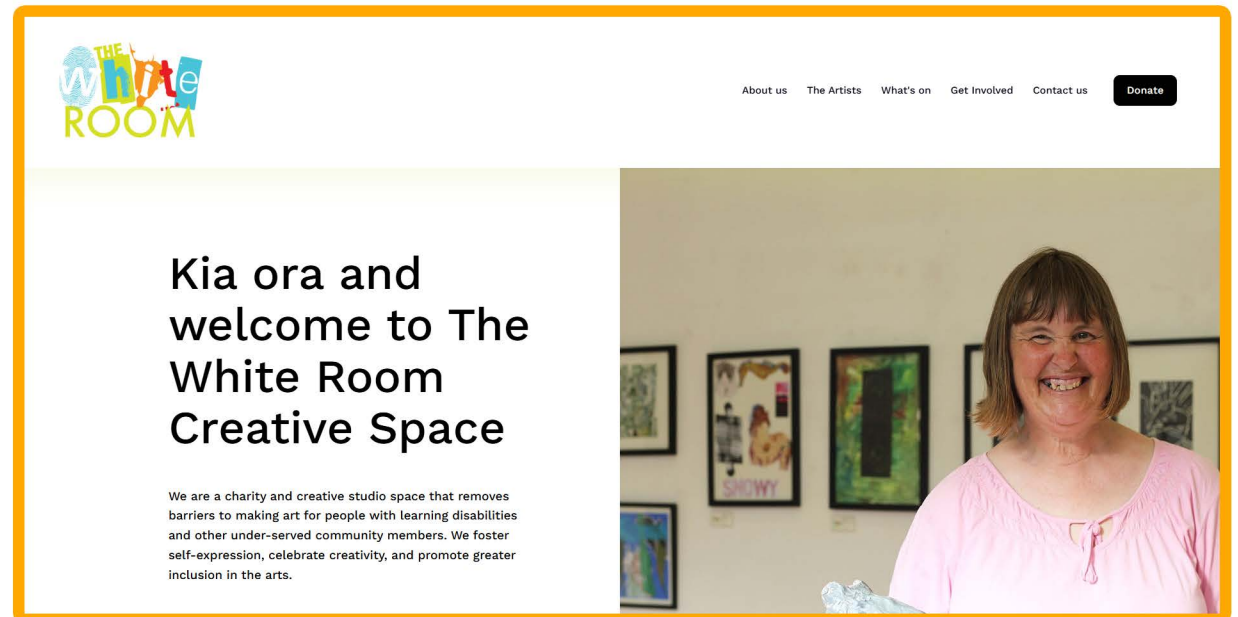
The screenshot shows the SkillWise website homepage. The header features the SkillWise logo in green and purple, with navigation links for 'About Us', 'Services', 'Winter Semester', 'Request to Join', and 'Contact Us'. The main content area has a dark green background. On the left, there is a photograph of two women, one wearing a colorful apron and the other a red hat, both smiling. To the right of the photo, the heading 'Welcome to SkillWise' is displayed in white. Below the heading, there are two paragraphs of white text. The first paragraph describes the organization's mission to help adults with learning disabilities live full, connected, and independent lives. The second paragraph explains how they work alongside users to create personal plans that align with their goals, connecting them to services, opportunities, and experiences.

Welcome to SkillWise

At SkillWise, we work with adults with learning disabilities in the wider Christchurch area to live full, connected, and independent lives. Whether you're looking to develop new skills, build friendships, access community support, or would like some support in your job search, we're here to help!

We work alongside you to create a personal plan that aligns with your goals—connecting you to services, opportunities, and experiences that support your journey. Our classes and activities

WWW.WHITEROOM.ORG.NZ



The screenshot shows the White Room Creative Space website homepage. The header features the 'The White Room' logo in a colorful, stylized font, with navigation links for 'About us', 'The Artists', 'What's on', 'Get Involved', 'Contact us', and a 'Donate' button. The main content area has a white background. On the left, there is a heading 'Kia ora and welcome to The White Room Creative Space' in black. Below the heading, there is a paragraph of black text. On the right, there is a photograph of a smiling woman with short brown hair, wearing a pink top, standing in a room with several framed artworks on the wall.

Kia ora and welcome to The White Room Creative Space

We are a charity and creative studio space that removes barriers to making art for people with learning disabilities and other under-served community members. We foster self-expression, celebrate creativity, and promote greater inclusion in the arts.

The old SkillWise website

[Home](#)
[Grants & Donations](#)
[Media](#)
[Request To Join](#)
[What's Happening?](#)
[Contact](#)



[Personalised Support](#)
[Employment Support](#)
[Training & Education](#)
[Creativity](#)
[Current Vacancies](#)

Live the life you want.

Through training, new experiences and connecting with people, we play a role in people living the life they want. We focus on the individual and how they might connect to a wide range of possibilities and the community as a whole.

We facilitate options for people in training, the arts, volunteering, employment and recreation. And we receive enquiries with an intellectual disability between the age of 16-64 years to join in. We also encourage friends and whānau to participate in much of what we do.

[Request to join](#)

About SkillWise

Having a range of skills and access to the right opportunities gives people the power of personal choice, a sense of identity and the ability to form meaningful connections and create lasting relationships.

The SkillWise team, from group coordination to community facilitators, have the training, community awareness and resilience to assist in

[Home](#)
[Grants & Donations](#)
[Media](#)
[Request To Join](#)
[What's Happening?](#)
[Contact](#)

[Personalised Support](#)
[Employment Support](#)
[Training & Education](#)
[Creativity](#)
[Current Vacancies](#)

Current Vacancies

Please find details of our current vacancies below.

Click on the links to download more information about our available positions and how to apply.

Community Facilitator – Relief – permanent part time, variable hours

About us:
SkillWise is a dynamic and vibrant community organisation passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Based in the central city, no two days are ever the same as we work alongside adults with learning disabilities supporting them to fully live the life they want. Collaborating with tāngata whānau, their families and whānau, we assist in creating a life where people are valued as full participating citizens through work, education and having fun!

About the role:
Working as part of the wider SkillWise team, Community Facilitator – Relief will facilitate, support and deliver recreation, work and education opportunities for people with an intellectual disability both in the wider community and/or at our premises. This includes group support and individual community-based support. Work is rotated weekly and can include a mix of regular support and covering for staff who are away – hours are negotiated between the employee and SkillWise. The role works in close collaboration with the Community Facilitators providing group support, community support and the Employer.

We are looking for people who are energetic, enthusiastic and a committed team player. Key skills and attributes for the role: A commitment to making a positive difference. Excellent communication skills and the ability to network with a wide range of people. Good facilitation skills. Previous experience of working with adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues in a community environment would be helpful, although not essential. Excellent computer skills – a laptop/phone are provided. We use Microsoft Teams + our own information management database. A clear driver's license and have access to a reliable car (mileage reimbursed). We welcome applicants with lived experience of disability.

Pay rate is determined by MSD Pay Equity schedule and is currently \$22.70 and \$28.25 per hour dependent on relevant health & wellbeing qualification. We have regular supervision and EAP available. Training opportunities are frequent.

A clear police vet is required for this role.

Apply now:
Download the [job description here](#). Complete the [application form](#) and email this, along with a copy of your CV and covering letter to info@skillwise.org.nz. We invite applications at any time.

[Home](#)
[Grants & Donations](#)
[Media](#)
[Request To Join](#)
[What's Happening?](#)
[Contact](#)

[Personalised Support](#)
[Employment Support](#)
[Training & Education](#)
[Creativity](#)
[Current Vacancies](#)

Current Vacancies

Please find details of our current vacancies below.

Click on the links to download more information about our available positions and how to apply.

Community Facilitator – Relief – permanent part time, variable hours

About us:
SkillWise is a dynamic and vibrant community organisation passionate about making a difference in people's lives. Based in the central city, no two days are ever the same as we work alongside adults with learning disabilities supporting them to fully live the life they want. Collaborating with tāngata whānau, their families and whānau, we assist in creating a life where people are valued as full participating citizens through work, education and having fun!

About the role:
Working as part of the wider SkillWise team, Community Facilitator – Relief will facilitate, support and deliver recreation, work and education opportunities for people with an intellectual disability both in the wider community and/or at our premises. This includes group support and individual community-based support. Work is rotated weekly and can include a mix of regular support and covering for staff who are away – hours are negotiated between the employee and SkillWise. The role works in close collaboration with the Community Facilitators providing group support, community support and the Employer.

We are looking for people who are energetic, enthusiastic and a committed team player. Key skills and attributes for the role: A commitment to making a positive difference. Excellent communication skills and the ability to network with a wide range of people. Good facilitation skills. Previous experience of working with adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues in a community environment would be helpful, although not essential. Excellent computer skills – a laptop/phone are provided. We use Microsoft Teams + our own information management database. A clear driver's license and have access to a reliable car (mileage reimbursed). We welcome applicants with lived experience of disability.

Pay rate is determined by MSD Pay Equity schedule and is currently \$22.70 and \$28.25 per hour dependent on relevant health & wellbeing qualification. We have regular supervision and EAP available. Training opportunities are frequent.

A clear police vet is required for this role.


Apply now:
Download the [job description here](#). Complete the [application form](#) and email this, along with a copy of your CV and covering letter to info@skillwise.org.nz. We invite applications at any time.

[Home](#)
[Grants & Donations](#)
[Media](#)
[Request To Join](#)
[What's Happening?](#)
[Contact](#)

[Personalised Support](#)
[Employment Support](#)
[Training & Education](#)
[Creativity](#)
[Current Vacancies](#)

Training and Adult Community Education

SkillWise is committed to supporting people in training and education to increase knowledge, gain new skills, increase community involvement or find employment. There are a number of ways in which we do this including connecting people with existing courses as well as a range of in-house options. This includes our Training and Adult Community Education programme which is supported with Adult Community Education funding.

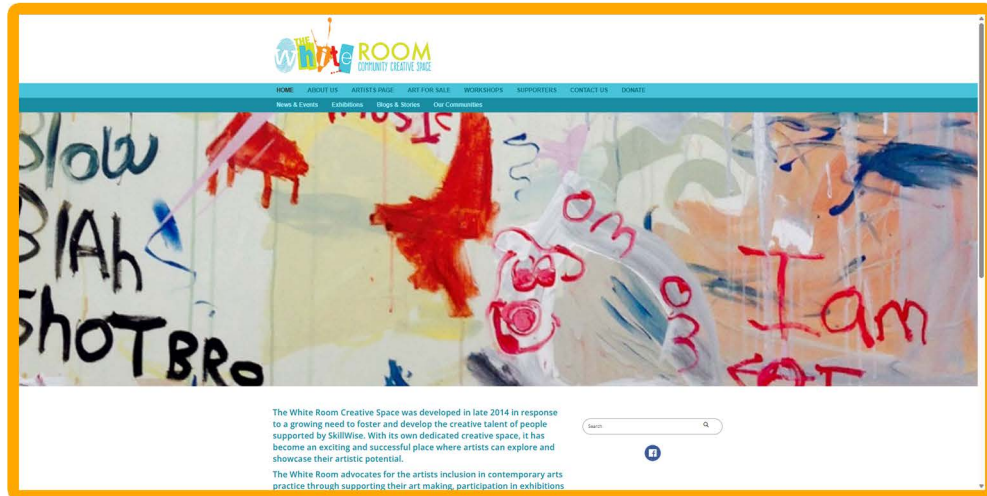


Training and Adult Community Education is a personal development programme that provides a framework of activities designed to develop personal, social and work-related skills and promote independence and social inclusion. Towards Independence covers six key areas:

- 1 Creative Studies - this includes modules such as Performing Arts, Pottery & Ceramics and Photography & Multimedia.
- 2 Cultural - this includes modules such as Current Affairs, Popular Culture, The World Around Us and Environment.
- 3 Independent Living Skills - this includes modules such as Meal Preparation, Money, Using Transport, and Working Towards Self-Sufficiency.
- 4 Leisure/Recreation/Sport - this includes modules such as Sports Studies, Water Skills and Animal Care.

Other training and education Organisations we work with:
 Hagley Community College
 Learning Connections
 Ara Polytechnic
 Creativeforce
 Open Polytechnic

The old White Room website



The White Room Community Creative Space

HOME ABOUT US ARTISTS PAGE ART FOR SALE WORKSHOPS SUPPORTERS CONTACT US DONATE

News & Events Exhibitions Blogs & Stories Our Communities

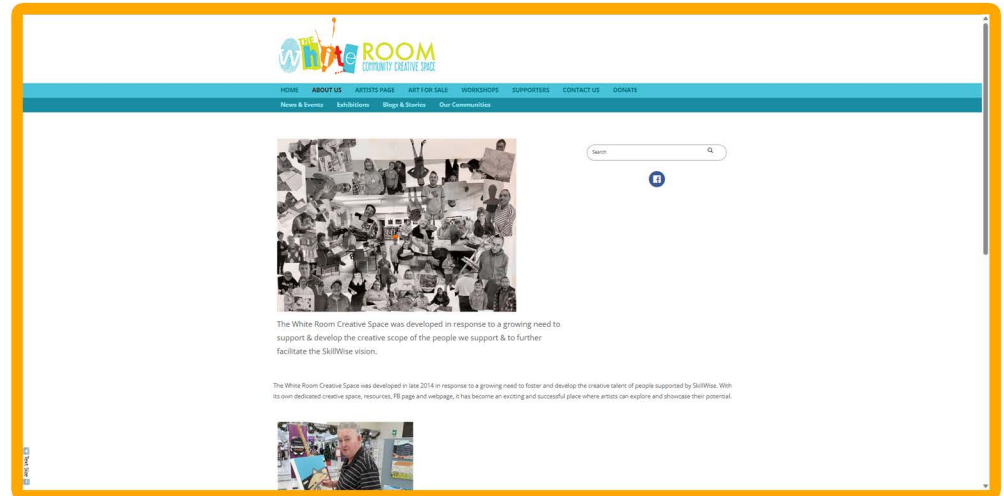
slow BIAH SHOT BRO om I am

The White Room Creative Space was developed in late 2014 in response to a growing need to foster and develop the creative talent of people supported by SkillWise. With its own dedicated creative space, it has become an exciting and successful place where artists can explore and showcase their artistic potential.

The White Room advocates for the artists inclusion in contemporary arts practice through supporting their art making, participation in exhibitions

Search

Facebook



The White Room Community Creative Space

HOME ABOUT US ARTISTS PAGE ART FOR SALE WORKSHOPS SUPPORTERS CONTACT US DONATE

News & Events Exhibitions Blogs & Stories Our Communities

Search

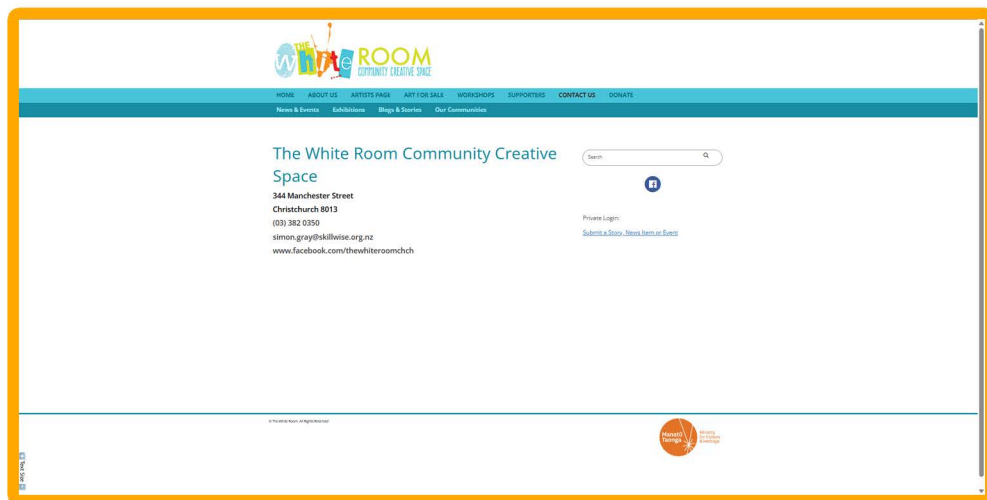
Facebook

The White Room Creative Space was developed in response to a growing need to foster & develop the creative scope of the people we support & to further facilitate the SkillWise vision.

The White Room Creative Space was developed in late 2014 in response to a growing need to foster and develop the creative talent of people supported by SkillWise. With its own dedicated creative space, resources, FB page and webpage, it has become an exciting and successful place where artists can explore and showcase their potential.

Search

Facebook



The White Room Community Creative Space

344 Manchester Street
Christchurch 8013
(03) 382 0350
simon.gray@skillwise.org.nz
www.facebook.com/thewhiteroomchch

Search

Facebook

Private Login:
[Submit a Story](#), [Book Items or Events](#)

© 2014 White Room Community Creative Space

skillwise.org.nz



The White Room Community Creative Space

HOME ABOUT US ARTISTS PAGE ART FOR SALE WORKSHOPS SUPPORTERS CONTACT US DONATE

News & Events Exhibitions Blogs & Stories Our Communities

Individual Artists' Sales

Go to our [Artist Page](#)

LOOKING FOR AN ARTIST?
Take a look below to view a comprehensive collection of work by The White Room Creative Space artists. For further information about purchasing any artwork or viewing work on display at SkillWise, please contact Simon Gray on ph: 021 508 55533 or simon.gray@skillwise.org.nz

The White Room Creative Space is located at 344 Manchester Street, Christchurch.

Art Cards
A12 11cm mixed pack of 4
See the selection below
[Order online here](#)

Search

Facebook

skillwise
Live the life you want.

Facebook

The new SkillWise website

SkillWise

About Us Services Winter Semester Request to Join Contact Us



Welcome to SkillWise

At SkillWise, we work with adults with learning disabilities in the wider Christchurch area to live full, connected, and independent lives. Whether you're looking to develop new skills, build friendships, access community support, or would like some support in your job search, we're here to help!

We work alongside you to create a personal plan that aligns with your goals—connecting you to services, opportunities, and experiences that support your journey. Our classes and activities are supported by volunteers, making it easier for the people we work with, providing a space to learn, grow, and engage with the community.

Join us in building a life that's meaningful to you.

[Keep reading about SkillWise](#)

Find out what's happening in our Winter Semester

[Learn more](#)

Skills — Boundaries and Communication — Cooking — Getting Around Christchurch — Healthy Relationships — Independent

Eligibility for SkillWise

To join SkillWise, applicants must have a learning or intellectual disability or a health condition affecting participation for at least six months. They must live in New Zealand and receive either the Supported Living or Job Seeker benefit from WINZ.

After applying, they receive confirmation and regular updates if on the waitlist. When a space opens, a hui is arranged. SkillWise aims to collaborate with other services to provide holistic support.

[Complete our Request to Join Form](#)

SkillWise
344 Manchester Street
Christchurch Central City
Christchurch 8013

Grants & Donations
Request to join
What's happening?
Contact Us

SkillWise

About Us Services Winter Semester Request to Join Contact Us

Community Support

Our Approach to Individualised Support

At SkillWise, our community team works with people to become **active citizens in their communities**. We work closely with you to set goals that matter to you—whether it's joining a local gym, learning to drive, or other everyday achievements. Our support is tailored to the person and our practice is guided by the **Enabling Good Lives principles**. This means we focus on what you want to achieve, supporting you to have ordinary life outcomes and live the way you want.

How We Work With You

Once you have joined SkillWise, we start by sitting down with you to understand your goals. This meeting is called a personal plan hui (meeting), and helps us learn what you want to work on. We then match you with a Community Facilitator who has skills and experience that match your goal, for each goal, you may work with different Community Facilitator. Some examples of what support may look like include:

- If you want to start working out, we might help you choose the best gym, connect you with a personal trainer, and support you until you build a regular routine. Our aim is to support you to feel confident and gain as much independence as possible.

[Fill out a Request to Join form today](#)

Wanting to find a job? Find out more about our Employment Support Team.

Flexible Disability Support

The Flexible Disability Support team works alongside people with Enabling Good Lives budgets. Along with individualised supports, SkillWise is an organisation that hosts funds. If SkillWise hosts your funds, the Flexible Disability Support team will can support you with purchasing items that fit within the government guidelines, and help you live your day to day good life. This service aims to remove the admin from you and your family/whānau, and give you more control over your support.

[Click to see a detailed breakdown of our fees](#)

Joining SkillWise and What to Expect

To join SkillWise, you should:

- Have a learning/intellectual disability/ies or health condition that is likely to impact you for a minimum of six months, creating barriers to participation and inclusion.
- Be living in New Zealand, be a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident, or hold a work visa or have refugee status.
- Be receiving the supported living or job seekers benefit from Work and Income (WINZ).

Once you apply, you will get an email confirming your request. While there is a waitlist, we keep in touch with regular updates. When it's your turn, we will be in contact to organise an initial hui (meeting) to see if SkillWise is right for you. Even if you join our waitlist, remember that SkillWise doesn't have to be the only service you are connected with—SkillWise aims to work in collaboration with other organisations/supports and whānau to provide quality support to you.

SkillWise
344 Manchester Street
Christchurch Central City
Christchurch 8013

SkillWise

About Us Services Winter Semester Request to Join Contact Us

Friendship Connections

Friendship Connection Support:

At SkillWise, we know that friendships are essential to living a good life. Our Friendship Connection service was created in response to a survey completed by people that attend SkillWise, highlighting the importance of social connection within our community. The Community Connector works alongside individuals that have identified that they would like to make connections, and support this to happen in everyday places at everyday times.



What this looks like:

Friendship Connections help you strengthen existing friendships and build new ones in a way that works for you. Whether it's gaining confidence in social settings, finding shared interests, or expanding your social circle, we will work with you to build these connections, our support is flexible and tailored for each connection.

Your Friendship Support Plan

When you join, we'll work with you to identify the kind of connections you are looking for, this could include:

- Support to join social groups or activities
- Guidance on making and maintaining friendships
- Building confidence in social situations
- Finding ways to stay connected outside of SkillWise

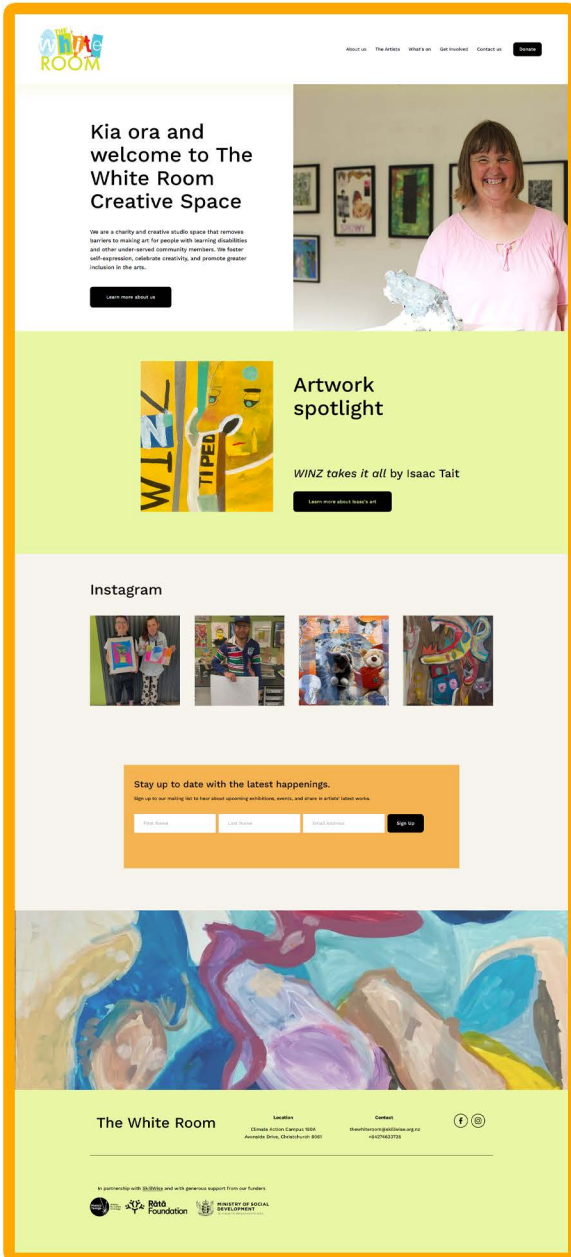
Our aim is to help you develop meaningful connections and gain greater independence in your social life.



SkillWise
344 Manchester Street
Christchurch Central City
Christchurch 8013

Grants & Donations
Request to join
What's happening?
Contact Us

The new White Room website



Kia ora and welcome to the White Room Creative Space

We are a charity and creative studio space that removes barriers to making art for people with learning disabilities and other under-served community members. We foster self-expression, inclusive creativity, and promote greater inclusion in the arts.

Artwork spotlight

WINZ takes it all by Isaac Tait




Instagram

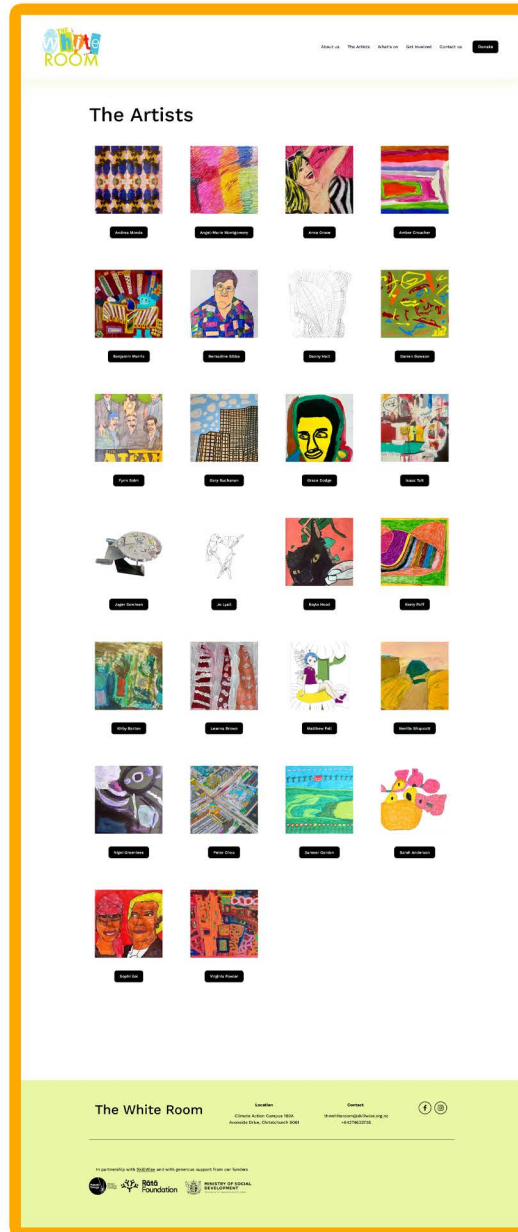
Stay up to date with the latest happenings.

The White Room

Location: Clarendon Action Campus 100A, Avonside Drive, Christchurch 8001

Contact: info@whiteroom.org.nz, +64742633778

In partnership with SkillsFuture and with generous support from our funders:   






The Artists

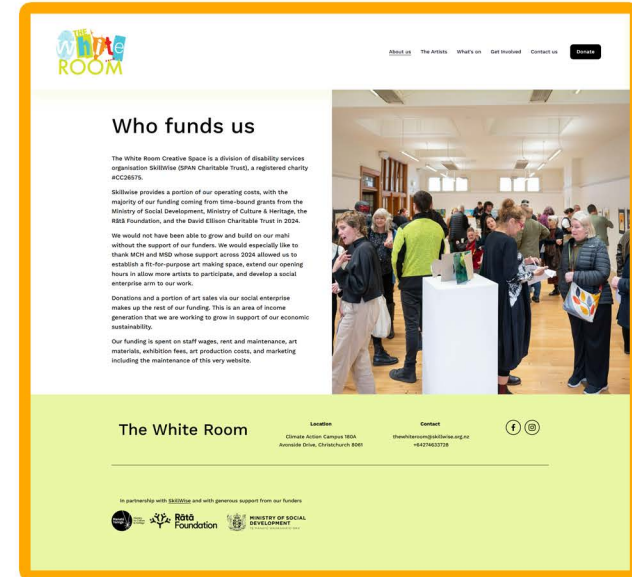
A grid of 20 artist portraits, each with a name and a 'View Profile' button.

The White Room

Location: Clarendon Action Campus 100A, Avonside Drive, Christchurch 8001

Contact: info@whiteroom.org.nz, +64742633778

In partnership with SkillsFuture and with generous support from our funders:   



Who funds us

The White Room Creative Space is a division of disability services organisation SkillsFuture (NZ) Charitable Trust, a registered charity ACC26876.

SkillsFuture provides a portion of our operating costs, with the majority of our funding coming from time-bound grants from the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Culture & Heritage, the B16 Foundation, and the David Gillson Charitable Trust in 2024.

We would not have been able to grow and build on our work without the support of our funders. We would especially like to thank MCH and MSD whose support across 2024 allowed us to establish a fit-for-purpose art-making space, extend our opening hours to allow more artists to participate, and develop a social enterprise arm to our work.




Donations and a portion of art sales via our social enterprise makes up the rest of our funding. This is an area of income generation that we are working to grow in support of our economic sustainability.

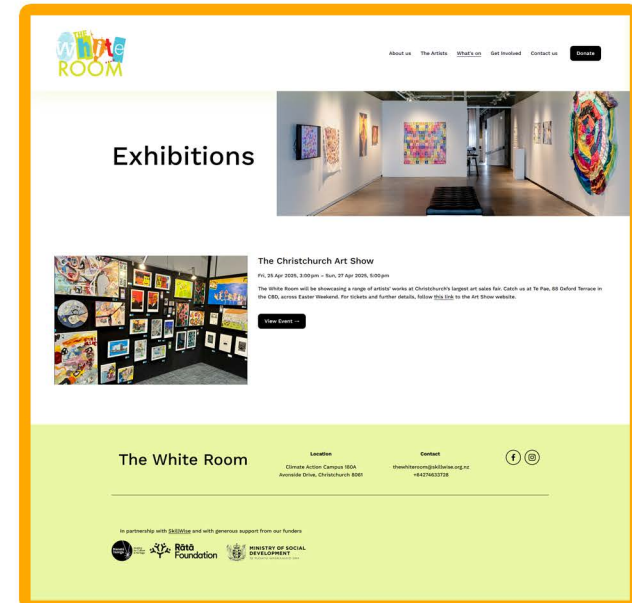
Our funding is spent on staff wages, rent and maintenance, art materials, exhibition fees, art production costs, and marketing including the maintenance of this very website.

The White Room

Location: Clarendon Action Campus 100A, Avonside Drive, Christchurch 8001

Contact: info@whiteroom.org.nz, +64742633778

In partnership with SkillsFuture and with generous support from our funders:   



Exhibitions

The Christchurch Art Show




17th - 19th April 2025, 10am - 5pm, 17th April 2025, 10am - 5pm

The White Room will be showcasing a range of artists' works at Christchurch's largest art sales fair. Catch us at Te Pahi, 85 Dalzell Terrace in the CBD, across Easter Weekend. For tickets and further details, follow [@whiteroom](#) to the Art Show website.

The White Room

Location: Clarendon Action Campus 100A, Avonside Drive, Christchurch 8001

Contact: info@whiteroom.org.nz, +64742633778

In partnership with SkillsFuture and with generous support from our funders:   

How have we improved accessibility?

Our original websites were riddled with a variety accessibility issues, with a lack of fine control over the design of it (Silverstripe). Since launching our new websites (Squarespace) we have addressed several of these issues, with more improvements to come in the next year.



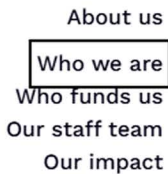
- Ensuring buttons and links have sufficient size and spacing for touch accessibility.



- High-contrast text compared to the background.



- Dark mode browsing on our SkillWise website, with easy to understand information seperated into their own blocks.



- Easy navigation with only a keyboard.

IMAGE ALT TEXT

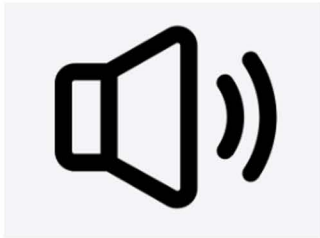
Three members of SkillWise are worl

[Describe your image](#) to improve accessibility and SEO.

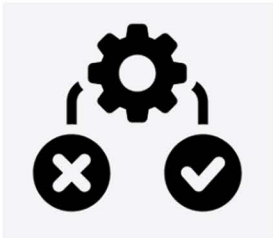
- Alt text added to images on the website.

Plans to continue improving accessibility?

Our initial drive to renew our websites focussed primarily on renewing the outdated content. But we will continue to integrate using our websites across the organization to spread news of events and what's going on at SkillWise, avoiding other methods like Facebook that involve people we work with to create an account.



- Adding other options to “read” the website, such as audio descriptions.



- Conducting usability tests with individuals who have disabilities. Especially researching into symbols vs photos.



- Improved displaying of our on-site classes.

Who have been affected?

Our new websites will enable us to work better with future learners, and better support those currently enrolled in our service.

5. Let us know if you would like to set up a payment plan.

Open Studio Sessions

[Calendar](#) [List](#)

Term 1 Week 12 - White Room Open Studio Morning Session

\$15
3 Apr 2025
Open Studio Session. Payment required on arrival.

Term 1 Week 12 - White Room Open Studio Afternoon Session

\$15
3 Apr 2025
Open Studio Session. Payment required on arrival.

Term 1 Week 12 - White Room Open Studio Morning Session

\$15
4 Apr 2025
Open Studio Session. Payment required on arrival.

- Artists are able to book themselves in on certain days, further enabling their independence and allowing our White Room space to open to community members.

Life Skills

Cooking

When: Monday to Friday, 9AM – 12PM

Location: SkillWise Cafe

Facilitated by: Louise (Monday), Hilary (Tuesday) and Jennifer (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Additional Fees: \$2 per session

Class Size: Small

[Read More:](#) +

Basic Money Skills

When: Tuesday, 10:45AM – 12PM

Location: Model Making Room

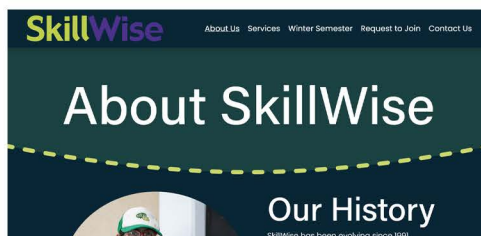
Facilitated by: Stan

Additional Fees: None

Class Size: Small

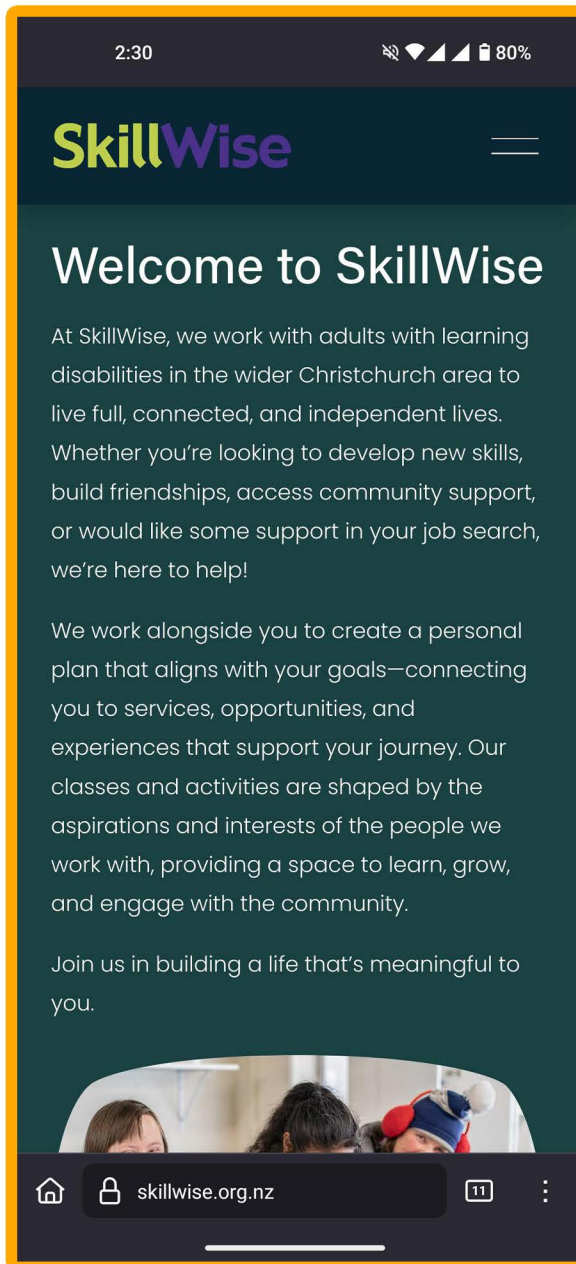
[Read More:](#) +

- Now that we refresh our classes every 6 months, the website will allow us the freedom and platform to help our learners make informed decisions about what classes they want to enrol in with the important people in their life.



- Now that our information is up to date, future people who may be interested in receiving support can now be well informed whether SkillWise is a good fit.

What have we learned?



- Our main learning curve came from innovating design that worked both landscape and portrait. Our websites are heavy with information that is important for visitors when deciding their next steps, however most of our visitors will be accessing via their (low-end) phone, so prioritizing the mobile experience was important, without making too many sacrifices for when the website is viewed on larger devices.