

**Address to Devonport-Takapuna Local Board**  
**Tuesday March 27, 2018**  
**Lynn Lawton for Depot Artspace**

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## **Our communities are empowered engaged and inclusive**

I often hear that Devonport Takapuna Local Board (LB) area is over resourced compared to the rest of Auckland in Arts & Culture (A&C) facilities. I saw a map last week produced by Council showing the cluster of 6 centres south of Lake Pupuke to illustrate that, while other areas of the North Shore (NS) and many in Auckland devoid of anything A & C related.

It is true we are significantly resourced, but the map lacks vital information to explain why this area is so well resourced with A & C facilities.

It is not because the NS is rich, affluent and received huge investment from Council.

Every one of the 6 centres in Devonport Takapuna were built up from nothing. They were not purpose built council funded & staffed facilities. Every facility is the result of the community seeing the need and opportunity, lobbying council for a disused facility, and through blood, sweat and tears on a voluntary basis, developing and building a centre and services arising out of community need. Grass roots community development.

At the beginning they received no or few \$ and today continue to receive funding that is only 10 – 20% of their OPEX. We have each developed innovative arts and culture centres by leveraging off Council funding and facilities and through the passion and commitment of the local community developed 6 distinctive centres in our area. It's been called the NS model.

What the NS has achieved, under your leadership George and those before and after you needs to be recognised and understood in the context of the Auckland Arts and Culture scene.



It's a model of how other areas of Auckland with little or no Arts and Culture resources with vision and minimum investment could be like Devonport Takapuna.

It is a unique community development model, that could transform the A & C landscape throughout the rest of Auckland.

Today Local Board, do not forget your Arts and Culture heritage and roots!!!

Arts and Culture centres have combined expertise in the arts across all disciplines that is second to none in Auckland, expertise based on hard work, experience and proven success in what we do.

We invite you to consider an alternation to the LB plan.

Under Outcome 4 there are two initiatives for Arts and Culture:

- **Work with local artists to support public art that can be enjoyed by all**
- **Continue to support the delivery of place-shaping and activation of spaces and heritage to promote arts, culture**

Your **critical** delivery arm for these two valuable initiatives is missing, Arts and Culture Centres.

We want to be partners in these initiatives. Last year in June A & C centres met with Council Staff and some board members to respond to draft LB plan and initiatives and what we propose comes from that valuable time we workshopped the draft plan.

We would suggest the following alternation:

**Utilise the expertise of our Arts and Culture Centres to support place-shaping and activation of spaces and to showcase local artists' work for the promotion and enjoyment of arts and culture.**

