

Creative Auckland - Encouraging arts, culture, music and design.

A healthy and vibrant city is one with a strong culture and an active and diverse arts community.

I'm happy to have been a champion for the wonderful cultural assets Greater Auckland offers. During my time in politics I've come to appreciate the value of our architectural and built heritage, and I was proud to help promote an Auckland City-wide accord on heritage and character. This was achieved by successfully negotiating an agreement on "Plan Change 163", allowing Auckland City to develop proper criteria for heritage and character zones.

I have also been a champion of scheduling examples of built heritage throughout Auckland City, and will continue this advocacy role in the first term of the Auckland Council

Towards a Creative Auckland

- I will support local boards that want to schedule local natural and built heritage, proving that there is comprehensive consultation with the owners of these assets throughout the process.
- I support the use of our public open spaces to display the artwork of our community's sculptors. Already there are many examples of iconic New Zealand sculpture located in parks, reserves and on mainstreets around the region.
- In undertaking major projects in the new Greater Auckland, we also need to ensure that we create spaces that allow for people to use and enjoy their city, not just regard it as a place where they work and live.
- I will also be creating an honorary role of "City Architect"; someone who is able to provide the Mayor's office with independent advice on design and architecture. Quality, independent advice with fresh thinking and international perspectives will be welcome at my Mayoral office.

Visual Arts

I recently opened the Pah Homestead at Monte Cecilia Park – the new home to the James Wallace art collection which is arguably one of the world's largest collections of New Zealand contemporary art. This was done in partnership with a major commercial sponsor and many commentators have labelled this project as a magnificent asset to the city.

Work is almost complete on the refurbishment of the Auckland Art Gallery which will house the outstanding Julian Robertson collection of impressionist art.

Visual Arts cont..

I acknowledge the gifts that philanthropists like James Wallace and Julian Robertson have made to Auckland, and I will continue to work in New Zealand and overseas to encourage further endowments of art to our great city.

However, philanthropists will not endow Auckland with their collections unless the infrastructure is in place to curate and care for them. I have demonstrated my commitment to ensuring the infrastructure is in place so that future generations of Aucklanders can enjoy artwork of international standing.

- We must continue the encouragement of philanthropy through the promotion of charitable trusts and giving. We have to champion and recognise the generosity of these benefactors and the important contribution they make towards building a more vibrant and cultured city.
- As announced in the recent NZ Herald debate I intend to appoint an independent art and culture policy advisor to the Mayoral office to provide input at the highest level into the development of key cultural assets throughout the Auckland region.
- I intend to take a region-wide approach to investment in visual arts. The metropolitan centres of the region will inherit an existing collection of public artworks. However the smaller rural communities are typically not so well endowed. The mainstreets of Waiuku, Wellsford and Maraetai need to benefit from this investment as well as the metropolitan centres of Auckland presently do.
- I will work with Local Boards throughout the region to ensure that investment in visual arts is fairly distributed throughout the region.

Performing Arts

Performing arts are a vital part of our cultural fabric. Auckland region already has some magnificent performing arts facilities including the Aotea Centre, the Telstra-Clear Events Centre and the Bruce Mason Theatre. Demand for these venues and more like them will only increase as Auckland's diverse ethnic communities all seek to express their own cultures through their own performing arts. Attending these events is a welcome opportunity for Aucklanders to meet and better understand their neighbours and the cultural heritage they bring to our community.

Maintaining and further developing facilities like these, provides important venues for these events that in turn enrich social cohesion across Auckland. They are essential assets for the establishment of a cultured and outward-looking society in Auckland.

Museums

Museums are the repository of our history and taonga. The Auckland War Memorial Museum is probably our best known museum but there are several other regionally significant museums such as the Museum of Transport and Technology and the Maritime Museum in downtown Auckland. In addition there are also special local museums like the Helensville Pioneer Museum, the Devonport Naval Museum and the Howick Historical Village which perform equally important roles in preserving the heritage and identity of local communities.

- I will work to ensure that all of Auckland's museums are resourced to protect the region's taonga and preserve their community's unique identity.

Cultural events

I want to see the local boards enthusiastically continue the work of local, community based festivals which do so much to build local pride and community awareness.

- I will ensure Auckland Council continues the ongoing commitment to major cultural events across Auckland region. This includes existing festivals like the Lantern Festival, Diwali, Pasifika, The Heritage Festival, the Manukau Festival of Arts, Racing Week, The Devonport Food and Wine Festival, Matariki, Santa Parade and many others.
- I will work with privately run festivals often organised through trusts or not for profit groups to ensure they are successfully held. An example of this is the Orewa Half marathon. I have spoken with the organisers of this privately run event and said I will back them as this community event currently struggles with funding.