

Speech at the opening of Art Week

6 October 2017

Greeting to everyone here - New Zealand Contemporary Art Trust board members, Deborah White, Director and Founder of Art Week and all your team. Viv Beck, Heart of the City and Michael Richardson Krd BA. I am delighted to have been invited to say a few words at the Opening of Artweek 2017, an event that the Waitematā Local Board is very proud to support. It was only 3 weeks ago that we opened this magnificent Ellen Meville Centre when I gave a very long speech – I promise not to do that this evening!. I just have a few acknowledgments to make

- For seven consecutive years the Waitematā Local Board has been a financial supporter of this significant arts festival that celebrates the visual arts and brings so much joy, creativity and diversity to the city.
- This year we have renewed our three year Event Partnership Fund – Artweek is one of our steady partners. Our contribution this year is \$23,000.
- Artweek is always an exciting event in Auckland's busy calendar. The wide array of free, diverse and vibrant art related activities available is outstanding. And the fact that this is such a well-attended and popular event how keen Aucklanders are to participate and engage with the Arts. Every year it is completely worthwhile. Artweek marks an indispensable date in Auckland's calendar.
- As local board we are happy to be supporting an initiative that aims to bring art closer to the people,
- I would like to congratulate the New Zealand Contemporary Art Trust and to Deborah White for being the driving force behind this festival. I know a huge amount of hours and stress go into organising such a big event. Next week we are recognising Deborah with an outstanding contribution to the Waitemata community award.
- All the best for the exciting week ahead, thanks for creating a massive opportunity for our artists and audience to show that art is alive in every corner of Tāmaki Makaurau.

