

February 1, 2022

**TO:** Toronto City Council

**RE:** Meeting 39: February 2, 3, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** DM 39.2: Making Space to Save the Arts in Toronto

**RECOMMENDATIONS (précis):** City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the City Manager and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with each other and with other appropriate individuals and groups to:

1. consider the feasibility of a grant which supports the promotion and preservation of independent live performance venues and art spaces in Toronto;
2. provide recommendations on outreach and educational campaigns promoting existing programs at the federal, provincial and municipal programs to support cultural recovery.
3. report on recommendations for granting reform for all municipal cultural granting programs to better advance Equity-deserving groups and new organizations;
4. develop comprehensive plans and policy recommendations that will sustain the arts and culture sector, including the possibility of working with for-profit organizations, structured partnerships, Business Improvements Areas, and CreateTO to develop smart, long-term policies for operations of City-owned cultural spaces;
5. recommend a cost estimate for interim financial supports for arts and culture spaces through the 2022 budget process, and to consider a segregated fund to assist with the replacement of existing cultural space for artists and venue operators lost through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with Part 18 of the Building Back Stronger Report adopted by Council December 7, 2020.
6. determine recommendations for alternative location for the displaced arts organizations and vendors in the Distillery, including a review of the City's portfolio of available spaces in the Distillery District and the local community and opportunities to fill vacant storefronts;
7. prioritize efforts to secure new affordable and permanent space for arts and culture uses through new development applications in the Distillery District and the local community.
8. explore the feasibility of providing pop-up storefronts and other accessible spaces from across the City for both non-profit and for-profit arts businesses.

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association supports the motion brought forward by Councillors Wong-Tam and Cressy (as detailed in this agenda item). Arts and culture contribute significantly to the fabric of our neighbourhood and our city, and not only support, but have a multiplier effect on economic development, tourism and hospitality – all of which contribute to the well-being of everyone who lives and works in our community, and all those who visit.



SLNA asks you to lend your support this motion and, subject to the recommendations contained in the reports and considerations that this motion will generate, to include the subject of support for the arts and culture sector in future discussions with Infrastructure Ontario and the Province to develop complete Transit Oriented Communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

p.p.  
Board of Directors  
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

cc: Mayor John Tory

Members of City Council:

- |                  |                   |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Ainslie     | Ana Bailão        | Brad Bradford      |
| Shelley Carroll  | Mike Colle        | Gary Crawford      |
| Joe Cressy       | John Filion       | Paula Fletcher     |
| Michael Ford     | Mark Grimes       | Stephen Holyday    |
| Cynthia Lai      | Mike Layton       | Nick Mantas        |
| Josh Matlow      | Jennifer McKelvie | Denzil Minnan-Wong |
| Frances Nunziata | James Pasternak   | Gord Perks         |
| Anthony Perruzza | Jaye Robinson     | Michael Thompson   |
| Kristyn Wong-Tam |                   |                    |

Councillor's Staff:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Felicity Campbell | Tom Davidson |
|-------------------|--------------|

City Managers:

- Marilyn Toft (councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

SLNA Board of Directors:

- |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ms. S. Fishleigh | Mr. S. Linton    | Ms. S. McMillan  |
| Ms. D. Patterson | Ms. G. Siciliano | Ms. T. Tenenbaum |
| Ms. R. Tilson    |                  |                  |