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**ROUNDTABLE ON ARTS AND CULTURE  
MINUTES  
MEETING 1**

**Date of Meeting:** July 22, 2004  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Committee Room 2  
City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

**Enquiry:** Doris Sue  
Committee Secretary  
416-392-7337  
dsue@toronto.ca

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*Members*

<p><b>Present:</b> Councillor Kyle Rae, Chair David Baile Shirley Blumberg Anne Collins Richard Fung Mallory Gilbert Phil Goldsmith Kevin Garland Gordon Graham</p>	<p>Clifton Joseph Dennis Lee Lenny Lombardi Sonja Smits Brian Topp</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Councillor Brian Ashton Piers Handling Suzanna Birchwood William Thorsell</p>
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The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. with Councillor Rae in the Chair.

There were no declarations of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Members of the Roundtable and staff members were welcomed and introduced. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**1. Mandate and Procedures for the Roundtable on Arts and Culture**

Orientation Binder from the Chief Administrator's Office, includes Membership, staff contacts, Terms of Reference for the Roundtable on Arts and Culture and the Rules of Procedure.

*Minute 1.1*

*The Executive Director, Culture Division, gave an overview on the mandate of the Roundtable, explaining that the Roundtable on Arts and Culture is an advisory body and was established to advise the Mayor and City Council through the appropriate standing committee. Any advice or recommendations that require implementation, reports or other action by staff must first be considered by the appropriate standing committee and approved by Council. It is also mandated to engage the community on policies, programs and activities that will allow Toronto to realize its potential as a creative City and that will result in the implementation of the City's Culture Plan.*

Action:

*The Roundtable received the presentation.*

**2. Culture Plan for the Creative City**

**(Presentation)**

The Executive Director, Culture Division, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, provided an overview of the Culture Plan for the Creative City.

*Minute 1.2*

*The Executive Director, Culture Division, gave a brief presentation on the Culture Plan for the Creative City. She explained that the Culture Plan was commissioned to help guide the City's cultural development for the next 10 years, using the arts, culture and heritage assets to position itself as a Creative City, a global cultural capital. The Culture Plan demonstrates that Toronto's arts, culture and heritage assets are essential to Toronto's economic future as well as its quality of life.*

Action:

*The Roundtable deferred further consideration of this matter to its meeting on September 27, 2004.*

**3. Alignment of Key Culture Plan Goals – Resources and Tools**

3(a) The Manager of Cultural Affairs, Culture Division, Economic Development, Culture & Tourism circulated for information:

- (i) a detailed description of the six Culture Plan priorities for the 2005 budget process; and

- (ii) the total expenditures and the per capita expenditure on arts and culture from 2001 to 2004.
- 3(b) The Roundtable considered a submission (July 22, 2004) from Mr. Brian Topp, concerning:
- (1) the issues raised regarding “Anywhere but Toronto” policies by Ontario and Canadian governments:

For example:

- (a) Ontario “regional bonus” tax policies (film)
  - (b) Canadian Television Fund “regional bonus” grant policies (film)
  - (c) Toronto implications of employee status for performers
  - (d) Similar policies by other agencies. City should ask for a joint Toronto Ontario and joint Toronto-Federal government working groups to review and consider “Anywhere but Toronto” cultural policies.
- (2) the film issues raised at the Roundtable meeting on July 22, 2004, i.e.:
- (a) Toronto: Resources and placement of Film Office; development of new studio; need for integration of Toronto-based film and culture policies
  - (b) Ontario: Tax non-competitiveness; regional bonuses
  - (c) Canada: CRTC 1999 broadcast policy; CTF fundraising and regional bonuses; telefilm “Go USA” policy; foreign ownership of broadcasters.

### *Minute 1.3*

#### *Action:*

*The Roundtable requested the Chair to forward to the Economic Development and Parks Committee the following suggestions, for consideration at its meeting on September 13, 2004:*

- (a) *that the Mayor be requested to meet with the Prime Minister or his designate and the Premier of Ontario or his designate concerning the issues raised by the Members of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture, as outlined in the following submission dated July 22, 2004, from Mr. Brian Topp:*

*Submission (July 22, 2004) from Mr. Brian Topp, concerning:*

- (1) *the issues raised regarding “Anywhere but Toronto” policies by Ontario and Canadian governments:*

*For example:*

- (a) *Ontario “regional bonus” tax policies (film)*

- (b) *Canadian Television Fund “regional bonus” grant policies (film)*
- (c) *Toronto implications of employee status for performers*
- (d) *Similar policies by other agencies. City should ask for a joint Toronto Ontario and joint Toronto-Federal government working groups to review and consider “Anywhere but Toronto” cultural policies.*

(2) *the film issues raised at the Roundtable meeting on July 22, 2004, i.e.:*

- (a) *Toronto: Resources and placement of Film Office; development of new studio; need for integration of Toronto-based film and culture policies*
- (b) *Ontario: Tax non-competitiveness; regional bonuses*
- (c) *Canada: CRTC 1999 broadcast policy; CTF fundraising and regional bonuses; telefilm “Go USA” policy; foreign ownership of broadcasters.*

(b) *that the following members of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture and other interested members be scheduled for deputation at the Economic Development and Parks Committee meeting on September 13, 2004:*

*Brian Topp  
Kevin Garland  
Lenny Lombardi*

*The Roundtable expressed appreciation to Mr. Brian Topp for his submission.*

*(Councillor Kyle Rae; copy to: Mayor David Miller, Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Executive Director, Culture Division; Mr. Brian Topp; Members of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture; Administrator, Economic Development and Parks Committee; Committee Secretary, Roundtable on Arts and Culture – July 28, 2004)*

#### **4. Report to Council on Culture Plan Implementation**

*Minute 1.4*

*Action:*

*The Roundtable considered this matter with Item 3.*

## **5. Listening to Toronto Budget Consultations – Arts and Culture**

The Chair suggested that a public consultation be held similar to that conducted by the Mayor and the Budget Chief, called “Listening to Toronto”, to engage public participation with respect to the 2005 budget discussions relating to arts and culture.

### *Minute 1.5*

#### Action:

*The Roundtable requested the Chair:*

- (1) to hold public consultation sessions similar to that conducted by the Mayor and the Budget Chief during the 2004 Budget process, called “Listening to Toronto”, to provide an opportunity for the community to participate during the 2005 Budget discussions, as it relates specifically to arts and culture; and*
- (2) to advise the Economic Development and Parks on the action taken by the Roundtable.*

(Councillor Kyle Rae; copy to: Mayor David Miller; Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Executive Director, Culture Division; Members of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture; Administrator, Economic Development and Parks Committee; Committee Secretary, Roundtable on Arts and Culture – July 28, 2004)

## **6. 2006 – Year of Creativity Update**

The Executive Director provided Members with background information on the 2006 – Toronto’s Year of Creativity. She explained there were community consultations held in June 2004, informing on the development of a Year of Creativity Proposal which will serve as the foundation from which a marketing and design strategy, and a preliminary budget will be developed for presentation to Council in 2005.

### *Minute 1.6*

#### Action:

*The Roundtable deferred consideration of this matter to the meeting on September 27, 2004 for further discussion, and with a request to the Members of the Roundtable to provide an alternative name for the “2006 – Year of Creativity”.*

## **7. John Lorinc – Public Art Opportunity**

The Roundtable considered a communication (May 18, 2004) from Mr. John Lorinc, suggesting the transformation of the advertising space at the Museum subway station into a permanent public photography gallery that would showcase the work of local artists, making Museum Station into a mini museum. Mr. Lorinc appeared before the Roundtable regarding this matter.

### *Minute 1.7*

#### Action:

*The Roundtable requested the Chair to forward the following suggestions to the Policy and Finance Committee, for consideration at its meeting on September 15, 2004:*

- (1) that the submission of Mr. Lorinc outlined in his communication dated May 18, 2004, proposing the transformation of advertising space at the Museum subway station into a permanent public photography gallery, be forwarded to the Art Committee for Public Places, for consideration; and*
- (2) that Members of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture appear at a future meeting of the Art Committee for Public Places to advocate Mr. Lorinc's proposal; and*
- (3) that the Chair of the Toronto Transit Commission be requested to attend the meeting of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture on September 27, 2004, to participate in the discussion on the issue of art and creativity in the transit system.*

(Councillor Kyle Rae; copy to: Chair, Toronto Transit Commission; Chair, Art Committee for Public Places; Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Executive Director, Culture Division; Mr. John Lorinc; Administrator, Policy and Finance Committee; Committee Secretary, Roundtable on Arts and Culture – July 28, 2004)

### *New Business*

## **8. Arts in the City**

The Roundtable considered a communication (July 22, 2004) from Dennis Lee suggesting, among other things, the possibility of using the office of the Mayor to promote and spotlight Arts in Toronto by having the Mayor attend, or host, various publicized activities highlighting the excitement and promoting the cultural vitality of Toronto.

Minute 1.8

Action:

*The Roundtable requested the Chair to forward the communication (July 22, 2004) from Mr. Dennis Lee, forwarding his ideas on how the Mayor could promote and spotlight arts in Toronto, to the Policy and Finance Committee, for consideration at its meeting on September 15, 2004, and advising the Policy and Finance Committee that the Roundtable endorsed proposals 1 and 2, as quoted below:*

*“(1) The Mayor Goes to the Arts*

- Once a month (six times a year?), the Mayor (and discerning family members?) heads out for a good time – in the artistic ferment of T.O. The outing is publicized. As much coverage as possible, so the gig acquires a certain cachet. What is it this time?*
- They might take in a popular musical, or an opera; another time, a small dance troupe’s premier, or a jazz club; an art gallery opening; a new play; an evening of readings; a rap gig.*
- There would have to be some good advice in the background. You’d want this to develop into a barometer –what’s new and exciting in town? When other people followed Mayor Miller’s footsteps, you’d want them to encounter something that really juiced them. No-meaning duds.*
- There would be two goals. First, to highlight some specific arts events; and second, to convey the subtler message that it’s a normal, exciting part of life in T.O. to explore the highways and byways of our cultural vitality.*

*(2) The Arts Come to the Mayor*

- At the same time, what about creating a special gala event – once a year? twice a year? –where the Mayor presents our very finest artists to people at large? Musicians, actors, dancers, authors. High culture and low; for youth and for geezers. It’s in some super venue. Maybe there are paintings, sculpture, and photography on display too. It’s an A-list gig, but everyone’s invited –to come and be knocked out by our most galvanizing talent.*
- How is it funded? I’m not sure; some of the people you’d go after don’t come cheap. Would they do it pro bono, if the City donated (say) \$25,000.00 to a youth-in-the-arts program, or some such? (something that changed each time).*
- Same goal as in (1). To show that the arts are integral to life in Toronto; and to let people discover how exhilarating they can be.*
- I also cherish the notion of an occasional evening where some of the most bracing thinkers in the City present their current lines of thought, under the Mayor’s auspices. But that’s a separate gig; trying to integrate it with an artsy free-for-all would likely be a clunker.”*

(Councillor Kyle Rae; copy to: Mayor David Miller; Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Executive Director, Culture Division; Mr. Dennis Lee, Member of the Roundtable on Arts and Culture; Administrator, Policy and Finance Committee; Committee Secretary, Roundtable on Arts and Culture – July 28, 2004)

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

*Minute 1.9*

*Action:*

*The Roundtable decided to hold its next meeting on September 27, 2004, in Committee Room 1, second floor, City Hall, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.*

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Chair