



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Toronto Arts Council – Renewal of Multi-Year Agreement

Date:	March 15, 2007
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Donald G. Eastwood, General Manager Economic Development, Culture and Tourism
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2007\Cluster A\EDCT\ECON DEV\0704-007

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council authority to renew a multi-year agreement with the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) until December 31, 2011.

The City recognizes the importance of supporting arts and culture activities for Torontonians. These events enliven our shared expressions, enrich the quality of life and place for both residents and visitors, and encourage cultural tourism. The City continues its long history in supporting organizations and individual artists through funding allocations made through the Toronto Arts Council. The multi-year agreement between the TAC and the City serves the arts and culture community further. This agreement allows for a financial and administrative reporting practice, and provides the TAC the necessary commitment and resources to manage the granting practice effectively and efficiently exercise its responsibilities to the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism recommends that:

1. Council grant authority to renew the multi-year agreement with the Toronto Arts Council for the administration and distribution of arts and culture funding on behalf of the City of Toronto for a period of five years;

2. the agreement with the Toronto Arts Council be subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, the City Solicitor and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer;
3. the Toronto Arts Council continue to submit its annual funding request through the City's annual operating budget process; and
4. the appropriate officials be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report. The Toronto Arts Council will continue to submit its annual budget request through the City's annual operating budget process.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on December 4, 5, and 6, 2001, City Council adopted Clause No. 8 of Report No. 12 as amended, of the Economic Development and Parks Committee dated November 1, 2001, from the Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, entitled "Toronto Arts Council - Operating Principles". By adopting the clause, City Council granted the authority to enter into a five-year agreement with the Toronto Arts Council for the administration of the distribution of arts and culture funding on behalf of the City.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

A five-year agreement was executed between the City and the Toronto Arts Council in 2002 for the administration of the distribution of arts and culture funding. The relationship envisioned by the agreement has been functioning as anticipated and it is now time to renew the agreement for five-years.

COMMENTS

Started in 1974, the Toronto Arts Council is an independent not-for-profit corporation overseen by a community-based volunteer Board of Directors. Currently, the Board of Directors numbers 30, with City Council nominating five Councillors to the Board. The remaining members are not selected, appointed or approved by City Council but established through the TAC's own process as an independent not-for-profit corporation. Since its inception, the TAC has acted on behalf of the City of Toronto to administer the distribution of arts and culture funding.

From the 2006 Community Partnership and Investment Program Budget, City Council has allocated \$10,152,600 to the TAC, which comprised of \$9,213,300 for arts and culture allocations and \$939,300 for the administration of its funding activities.

The agreement with the Toronto Arts Council was executed in 2002 and has been functioning as anticipated. The TAC and City staff have reviewed the current agreement and have determined that no major revisions are required. The new agreement will include minor revisions to reflect the terminology of the City's administrative reorganization. The TAC will continue to submit its annual funding request through the City's annual operating budget process.

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SIGNATURE

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