



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

2007 Funding Allocation for Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs)

Date:	May 9, 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\ed0706-016

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval on the recommended funding allocations for the four non-profit organizations that have applied for municipal support within the Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) category of Arts and Culture, Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP).

Community arts are the bedrock of the city's cultural ecology. The LASOs are community-based arts and cultural organizations that are essential to a vibrant community arts infrastructure for the City and are an important building block for healthy and cohesive communities. These organizations have sound financial management systems and governance structures. Public funding is necessary as the organizations are not fully self-supporting through private donations and self-generated income.

Allocation recommendations presented in this report are based on the review by Culture staff and a peer advisory panel. Culture staff manage the program and reviewed the funding applications with due diligence and in compliance with the City of Toronto's Grants Policy adopted by Council on December 16 and 17, 1998. Renewed multi-year (2007-2010) funding agreements, which establish a structured link between the City and the four LASOs and guide funding allocations, are in place for this funding cycle.

A total of \$427,700 is in the Arts & Culture funding service envelope for the LASOs within the 2007 Approved Budget for CPIP. Toronto Culture recommends a total of \$427,700 be allocated to the four LASOs for the 2007 funding cycle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Toronto Culture requests Council to:

1. Approve Arts and Culture funding allocations totalling \$427,700 to four LASOs as follows:

Organization	Funding Allocation
Arts Etobicoke	\$193,700
Lakeshore Arts	\$ 72,040
Scarborough Arts Council	\$ 87,000
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$ 74,960
Total	\$427,700

2. and authorize the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

Type of funding	Source of funds	Amount
Available with the approved budget for CPIP	2007 approved budget for CPIP, GL Account 5200	\$427,700

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2007 Approved Operating Budget. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

Through Clause No. 3, Report No. 24 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on November 25, 26 and 27, 1998, the City established the role of Toronto Culture in the delivery of funding in the Arts and Culture category for LASOs, among other funding in the same category assigned to Toronto Culture.

The four LASOs are Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts, Scarborough Arts Council and UrbanArts Community Arts Council (formerly Arts York).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The LASOs provide a wide spectrum of arts and cultural services and programming for their members and broader community with a focus on youth, and arts education.

COMMENTS

Arts and Culture Funding Service Envelope for LASOs

Of the 2007 net budget for the Arts and Culture funding service envelope, \$427,700 is designated for allocation to the LASOs. (See Appendix 1 for descriptions of the Local Arts Service Organizations).

Functions of the City's Arts and Culture Funding for LASOs

The Arts and Culture funding for the LASOs provides a vehicle for the City to collaborate with these organizations and direct public funds to City priorities. Signed multi-year funding agreements ensure that this program effectively addresses needs and service gaps.

2007 Grant Application Review Process:

Culture staff reviewed the applications received by the February 7, 2007 deadline with due diligence, checking the applications for eligibility, completeness and accuracy.

A panel of advisors then reviewed and assessed the applications using a peer assessment process. Culture staff selected panellists based on their ability to represent a broad base of experience and expertise as well as their general knowledge of the cultural sector and their involvement in various, geographic communities of the city. The advisors were Norma Crawford, Adonis Huggins, and Linda Thomas.

Norma Crawford was a contracted consultant for the Ontario Arts Council (1987-1988). In that capacity, Norma evaluated and provided input about community arts development funding procedures. Norma's other involvement at the Ontario Arts Council included her service as the Senior Grants Officer for Arts Education, Associate Grants Officer for Theatre (1972-1981). Norma was the Executive Director of the Periodical Writers Association of Canada (1982-1986).

Adonis Huggins is the Program Director of Regent Park Focus. Adonis specializes in using community-based media as a tool to engage youth for social change. In 2006, Adonis received Toronto Culture's *Face the Arts Award* that recognizes his role as an arts activist who has developed multi-media prevention programs and activities for young people. In 1995, the City presented the *Mayor's Task Force on Drugs Award* to him and to Regent Park.

Linda Thomas has been the Executive Director of the Mississauga Arts Council since 2000. Linda has sound experience with non-profit management at various levels. As well, Linda has career connections in the field of social services. She was the Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Peel, Provincial Executive Director of Bereaved Families of Ontario and National Executive Director of Child Find Canada,

As part of the review process, Toronto Culture invited LASO representatives to present their organizations' 2007 activity highlights and to respond to questions from the panel.

Panel members reviewed and discussed the applications based on the following assessment criteria: 1) Organizational capacity including operations and service delivery: governance, membership and participation; access and equity; and financial management; 2) Program effectiveness including vision/mandate; artistic quality; community impact and development; monitoring and evaluation; and accountability.

Summary of Recommendations:

Organization	2006 Funding Level	2007 Request	2007 Recommendation	City Funding as a % of the organization's operating budget
Arts Etobicoke	\$161,400	\$200,000	\$193,700	16.8%
Lakeshore Arts	\$44,040	\$80,000	\$ 72,040	14.3%
Scarborough Arts Council	\$82,800	\$87,000	\$ 87,000	28.5%
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$53,960	\$90,000	\$ 74,960	17.8%
Total	\$342,200	\$457,000	\$427,700	

* The 2007 funding allocation in the Arts & Culture funding service envelope for the LASOs represents a 25% increase over the 2006 funding allocation for these organizations.

CONCLUSION

The Local Arts Service Organizations provide a variety of opportunities for residents of Toronto through the arts and are helping to build a dynamic, safe and creative city.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Donald G. Eastwood, General Manager
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ATTACHMENT:

Overview of Local Art Service Organizations

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Local Arts Service Organizations

1. Arts Etobicoke:

2007 marks Arts Etobicoke's 33rd year of operation. In 2006, Arts Etobicoke moved to a storefront gallery in Islington Village creating a new art venue in Etobicoke. Arts Etobicoke co-presented with Expect Theatre urbanNOISE, a 3-year multidisciplinary urban arts training program and festival for at-risk youth in Rexdale where top Canadian stars performed alongside youth performers who had been trained through the program. Programs that will be continued in 2007 include the following: a) the Arts Discovery program that has expanded with in an initiative titled *This is My Neighbourhood* in partnership with the Toronto District School Board and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Students' artwork was exhibited at Neilson Park Creative Centre, Arts Etobicoke Gallery and Harbourfront Centre; b) *Introspections Student Art Show*, 10th year in 2006, where students from participating schools had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with professional artists; and c) a new literacy children's program *From 3 to 3* that uses iconic children's stories from diverse cultures to build language skills in partnership with the University of Toronto.

2. Lakeshore Arts:

Lakeshore Arts has been in operation for 14 years. Lakeshore Arts plays a vital role in using arts as a catalyst for change. Its 3rd annual music festival, *Brass in the Grass Music*, has provided the community with an opportunity to experience, interact and discover the brass instruments, and has developed a community-based festival destination in west Toronto. Lakeshore Arts' (YAM) *Youth Arts Movement* involves youth at a decision-making level in the organization's artistic programming and governance. In 2006, YAM conducted a youth survey to explore the artistic interest of over 300 youth in the community to further inform its youth programming. Lakeshore Arts launched year 1 of *Shazaam!*, a comic book project that follows students through elementary and high school, opening opportunities for careers and education in the arts at the post-secondary level. As well, it launched a 4-week after-school program *Diaspora Dialogues* where youth worked with professional authors in a self-selected writing genre, opening up writing as a potential career option. Lakeshore Arts will continue to deliver these two programs in 2007. As an ongoing practice, Lakeshore Arts provide complimentary/subsidized tickets to local service agencies, children, grandparents and youth to ensure accessible and affordable arts opportunities for the broader community.

3. Scarborough Arts Council:

Scarborough Arts Council has been in operation for 29 years. It provides arts programming, services and advocates for the community. This organization continues to be an effective incubator for emerging and fledgling arts groups. The organization is going through a year of transition with changes in personnel. Its *Surface and Symbol* community arts newspaper continues to have a dedicated page for youth titled *Emerge*. This page will be written and edited by students from local high schools. Its 2006, *Kijimba Kind, Gentle Spirit* arts and environmental program for at-risk youth in the Kingston Galloway area, finished off with a community art festival that celebrated the permanent installation of a youth-sculptured hydro pole in Morningside Park. In 2007, in-keeping with its effort last year, the organization will continue to involve youth in sculpting two smaller hydro poles to create a gateway to the Morningside Park to complement what was created in the previous year. Scarborough Arts Council has developed new and ongoing partnerships with the Highland Creek Stewardship Program, reaching out to youth in the east, including Kingston-Galloway, through a papier-mâché mask-making activity. In addition, the organization has successfully made inroads into newcomers' communities such the Sri Lankan and Somali communities.

4. UrbanArts Community Arts Council:

UrbanArts Community Arts Council (formerly Arts York) has been in operation for 19 years. In 2006, UrbanArts delivered a variety of successful programs. Its After-School-Arts Program was expanded to the high-density complexes in Trethewey. The artwork of participating youth was exhibited at the City Hall rotunda. Through its Graffiti Transformation program, 15 garbage cans at the Eglinton Flats Park were painted. Its breakthrough program S.T.E.P.U.P. offered youth the opportunity to express themselves and learn the artistic skills of dub poetry. The *Dreambuilding* project with the theme *Apartment Life* culminated in a community mural (50 ft x 10 ft) in the high-density neighbourhood of Weston-Mt. Dennis. In 2007, UrbanArts will deliver a new mobile program *beats.mind.movement* in music production, education, non-profit management and networking for youth in the Weston-Mt. Dennis, Lawrence Heights, and Parkdale and other neighbourhoods in central-west Toronto.

Collaborative Efforts

These four LASOs are also collaborating to maximize their resources. In 2006, all LASOs collaborated on the *First Cuts Youth Film & Video* tour, an activity that brought the work of five young, first-time filmmakers to a wide audience across the city. Again this year, Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts and Scarborough Arts Council will implement their city-wide initiative, *Toronto Poetry Contest*, with an expanded youth focus. Arts Etobicoke and Lakeshore Arts have implemented the diversity plan they developed in 2003/4 with a stepped approach. This plan will also be a resource for other LASOs.