



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Culture Build Investment Program – 2007 Allocations

<b>Date:</b>	October 19, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Economic Development Committee
<b>From:</b>	Sue Corke, Deputy City Manager
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2007\Cluster A\EDCT\ECON DEV\ed071107-040

#### SUMMARY

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This is the sixth year of the Culture Build Investment Program. To date, the City has provided funding for 53 projects in order that not-for-profit cultural organizations can bring their facilities up to a state of good repair.

The recommendations for allocations contained in this report are the result of a review of the applications received at the September 14, 2007 deadline. The administration of the review was carried out in accordance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy as adopted by Council on December 16 and 17, 1998.

The arts and cultural organizations that are supported through the Culture Build Investment Program provide a wide variety of opportunities for residents of Toronto to participate in the arts as participants, volunteers or audience members. In the last six years, the Culture Build Investment Program has helped to further bring several of these organizations' facilities closer to a state of good repair.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The Deputy City Manager responsible for Economic Development, Culture and Tourism recommends that:**

1. Culture Build Investment Program allocations be approved for the following organizations:
  - a. Canadian Children's Dance Theatre \$48,000.00
  - b. Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre \$54,000.00

c.	Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$88,000.00
d.	Ontario Crafts Council	\$62,000.00
e.	Tarragon Theatre	\$15,500.00
f.	Toronto Aerospace Museum	\$7,500.00
g.	Tranzac Club	\$46,000.00

Total		\$321,000.00
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2. the Community Partnership and Investment Program's 2007 Approved Operating Budget, which includes \$250,000.00 gross and net expenditures for the Culture Build Investment Program, be increased one time by \$71,000.00 gross and zero net proposed to be funded by the Cultural Facilities Capital Grants Reserve Fund XR1211 to reflect the above allocations; and
3. the appropriate city officials be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The 2007 Approved Budget for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Culture Build Investment Program within the Community Partnership and Investment Program is \$250,000.00 towards the state of good repair of existing non-City-owned, not-for-profit cultural facilities in Toronto. This report recommends an allocation of \$321,000.00 to seven organizations. One-time additional funding of \$71,000.00 is recommended from the Cultural Facilities Capital Grants Reserve Fund XR1211. The purpose of this reserve fund is to provide funds to assist the City's not-for-profit cultural sector with financing for state of good repair capital projects. The Reserve Fund balance was \$110,756.00 as of September 30, 2007.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting held on March 4-8, 2002, Council established a Culture Build Investment Program to address the state of good repair capital requirements of the City's not-for-profit cultural sector. Council provided a one-time contribution of \$500,000.00 to fund the new program and established the Culture Build Reserve Fund for this purpose.

Since the initial year, the budget for the Culture Build Investment Program has been reduced. City Council approved the 2007 Culture Build allocation of \$250,000.00 within the Community Partnership and Investment Program.

The one-time additional amount of \$71,000.00 is available from the Cultural Facilities Capital Grants Reserve Fund XR1211. This reserve fund was established through the 2002 Operating Budget with a total of \$1.4 million contributions, and holds funds awarded through the Culture Build Investment Program until the conditions of the grants

are fulfilled by recipients. The \$71,000.00 is available funding not committed to any other grant. The Reserve Fund balance was \$110,756.00 as of September 30, 2007.

This is the sixth year that the Culture Build Investment Program has been offered to not-for-profit cultural organizations in Toronto. The purpose of the City of Toronto's Culture Build Investment Program is to enhance the cultural experience for residents and visitors by bringing Toronto's not-for-profit cultural facilities into a state of good repair.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Culture Build Investment Program is targeted at small to mid-sized facilities providing matching funding for major repairs, renovations or improvements to buildings in order to bring them into a state of good repair. Projects include retrofit for access needs; health and safety; replacing aging equipment; major repairs to basements, brickwork and roofs; heating and air conditioning; upgrades to seating, lobbies, box offices and public washrooms; and the stabilizing of historic properties. The use of historical buildings by arts organizations has been prevalent in Toronto and the City encourages the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. It is well understood that repairs, renovations and improvements to such heritage buildings are more expensive than to a newer building.

### **Culture Build Investment Criteria:**

This program contributes to improving the physical conditions of existing not-for-profit cultural facilities in the City of Toronto. All the organizations recommended for grants met the following eligibility criteria of the Culture Build Investment Program:

1. incorporated as a not-for-profit organization;
2. located in the City of Toronto;
3. have been in existence for a minimum of three years;
4. own the facility or have at least five years remaining on their current lease at the time of applying to the program; and
5. are not City-owned facilities.

The Culture Build Investment Program does not support regular building maintenance costs, feasibility studies or the cost of purchasing a building or facility.

The maximum allocation available and recommended through the Culture Build Investment Program is \$100,000.00.

In all cases, the City's grant does not exceed 50 percent of total capital costs with matching funds coming from other levels of government, private sector and/or in-kind contributions.

Priority is given to applications from not-for-profit organizations that own or lease small to medium performing arts facilities (i.e.: 500 seats or less) and must have a direct positive effect on an applicant's activities.

## **COMMENT**

### **Review Process:**

Economic Development, Culture and Tourism staff reviewed the eight applications received at the September 14, 2007 deadline and requested additional information and/or clarification where necessary. Refer to Attachment No. 1 for a complete list of received applications. The total amount of funds requested through the 2007 Culture Build Investment Program was \$516,748.00.

The applications were reviewed and assessed through a peer assessment process. The role of the panel was to advise City staff on the merits of the applications and to offer a professional assessment of the various proposals submitted for major repairs, renovations or improvements to such buildings so as to bring the facilities into a state of good repair.

Advisors were selected to represent a broad base of experience and expertise and a general knowledge of the cultural sector. The panel for advising City staff was comprised of: Sandra Laronde (Founder of Native Women in the Arts), Peter Stewart (Partner – George Robb Architects), Ron Struys (Factory Theatre, Chair, Board of Directors) and Susan Wright (Toronto Arts Council).

### **Community Access and Outreach:**

City Council at its meeting on September 25, 26 and 28, 2006 requested the Deputy City Manager report back to the appropriate Committee on the review of community access strategy submitted by the grant applicants and secondly that organizations that do not deliver on promised outreach activities be required to appear before the appropriate Committee in order to secure future grants.

Information regarding community access and outreach programs was collected from the not-for-profit cultural organizations who applied to the Culture Build Investment Program.

Community access and outreach programs were included in the analysis in determining funding allocations, in addition to the cultural merit, financial management and urgency of the proposed major repairs, renovations or improvements to the cultural facilities by arts organizations.

For instance, the Canadian Children's Dance Theatre has had an Access Policy since 1995 that outlines the rental rates for not-for-profit arts renters. The policy also incorporates the opportunity to donate space from time to time to worthy dance community and local community use for meetings, special events, etc. Canadian

Children's Dance Theatre has received several awards from the local Business Improvement Area for their community work.

The Tarragon Theatre studios are continually rented out at a highly discounted rate and occasionally for free to theatre companies for rehearsal, readings, auditions, etc. Tarragon also makes available for free community access for events such as the Tarragon Village Community Association meetings.

The Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre offers their facility to several other ethnic groups (e.g. Portuguese, Spanish and two African Canadian groups) as well as to the local community for various functions such as dances and weddings on a cost recovery basis.

The dozens of cultural organizations as well as local and national charities that use the Tranzac Club are wide ranging.

These and future recipients will be required to report back to City staff on their committed outreach activities in their end of project report.

#### Summary of Recommendations:

Seven organizations have been recommended for funding and have clearly demonstrated state of good repair needs based on the above mentioned criteria.

City Council has allocated \$250,000.00 towards the 2007 Culture Build Investment Program to address the state of good repair capital requirements of the City's not-for-profit cultural sector. The total amount of \$250,000.00 plus one-time funding of \$71,000.00 from the Cultural Facilities Capital Grant XR1211 has been allocated on a proportional basis to the following seven applicants:

1. Canadian Children's Dance Theatre	\$48,000.00
2. Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$54,000.00
3. Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$88,000.00
4. Ontario Crafts Council	\$62,000.00
5. Tarragon Theatre	\$15,500.00
6. Toronto Aerospace Museum	\$ 7,500.00
7. Tranzac Club	\$46,000.00
Total	\$321,000.00

It is recommended that the following allocations be approved:

1. Canadian Children's Dance Theatre

Canadian Children's Dance Theatre was founded in 1980 to provide young dancers with a public performance alternative to prevailing

competition/examination/recital options. The mission of the organization is to develop and maintain a contemporary dance repertory company of professional calibre, comprised of emerging Canadian dance artists performing the works of diverse choreographers, for children, youth and the general public.

The organization is seeking funds to retrofit their building so as to be more energy efficient, eliminate water penetration and improve safety. Funding in the amount of \$48,000.00 is recommended, which represents 22 percent of the total project cost.

2. Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre

The Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre is a charitable organization whose objective is to preserve and showcase Hungarian heritage in the Canadian mosaic. Programming includes a museum, an accredited research library, theatre group, movie theatre, dancing, music and culinary arts. The Centre endeavours to integrate new Canadians into the larger Canadian multicultural society.

The organization is seeking funds to restore the roof to a state of good repair. Funding in the amount of \$54,000.00 is recommended, which represents 50 percent of the total project cost.

3. Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre

The Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre was founded in 1977 with a mandate to sustain Latvian heritage and cultural traditions and to provide a venue for social and cultural exchange with other communities in Canada. Its goal is to provide facilities for concerts, theatre, lectures, dance performances, art exhibits and other educational/social/ recreational activities for the general public and members.

The organization is seeking funds to replace the windows on the first floor of their building. Funding in the amount of \$88,000.00 is recommended, which represents 50 percent of the total project cost.

4. Ontario Crafts Council

The Ontario Crafts Council is the province's largest not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary craft organization that supports craftspeople and their work while making connections with the cultural fabric of our greater community. The Ontario Craft Council was established in 1976 and its primary mandate is to support and advocate craft on behalf of its 1500 members.

The organization is seeking funds to renovate the gallery's retail space dedicated to the promotion of Ontario craft. Funding in the amount of \$62,000.00 is recommended, which represents 33 percent of the total project cost.

5. Tarragon Theatre

Tarragon Theatre was founded in 1979. Its mandate is to develop, encourage and create new work; to attract artists and technicians to interpret new work; to develop and sustain an administrative structure to support new work; to develop marketing strategies to promote new work and to generate an audience for new work.

The organization is seeking funds to replace the carpeting in the public spaces of the theatre. Funding in the amount of \$15,500.00 is recommended, which represents 50 percent of the total project cost.

6. Toronto Aerospace Museum

The Toronto Aerospace Museum is a not-for-profit charitable organization which commenced in 1997 and is dedicated to developing a world-class educational, heritage and tourist attraction at Downsview Park. In its unique and authentic historical setting, the Museum celebrates the aviation accomplishments of Torontonians and the Greater Toronto Area's long association with aeronautical innovation, aircraft manufacturing and aerospace technology.

The organization is seeking funds to make necessary improvements to the front of the building including signage, exterior wheelchair ramp and a non-permanent elevator. Funding in the amount of \$7,500.00 is recommended for the signage only at the front of the building, which represents 50 percent of the total cost of the proposed signage.

7. Tranzac Club

The original mandate of the Tranzac Club was to welcome and guide Australian and New Zealand newcomers and to promote mutual assistance through co-operation of members. Currently the emphasis of the Club has been to promote a better understanding of Canada through the performing and visual arts. The Tranzac Club presents its own programming in these areas; serves as the headquarters for the Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival and acts as an important incubator for Toronto musicians and composers.

The organization is seeking funds to make necessary improvements such as carpeting, replacement of window and doors, electrical wiring, washroom improvements, etc. Funding in the amount of \$46,000.00 is recommended which represents 50 percent of the total cost of the proposed signage.

This is the sixth year of the Culture Build Investment Program. To date, the City has provided funding for 53 projects in order that not-for-profit cultural organizations can bring their facilities up to a state of good repair.

The recommendations for allocations contained in this report are the result of a review of the applications received at the September 14, 2007 deadline. The administration of the review was carried out in accordance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy as adopted by Council on December 16 and 17, 1998.

The arts and cultural organizations that are supported through the Culture Build Investment Program provide a wide variety of opportunities for residents of Toronto to participate in the arts as participants, volunteers or audience members. In the last five years, the Culture Build Investment Program has helped to further bring several of these organizations' facilities closer to a state of good repair.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Sue Corke  
Deputy City Manager

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Summary of 2007 Culture Build Investment Program Applications



### Summary of 2007 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Allocations Recommended	Amount Requested (%) of the Total Project Cost	Amount of Allocation Recommended	Nature of Request for Funding
Canadian Children's Dance Theatre	\$50,000 (22%)	\$48,000 (22%)	Increase energy efficiency, eliminate water penetration and improve safety
Harbourfront Centre	\$55,250 (50%)	-----	Install customized acoustical baffle panels to roof structure of outdoor stage to address sound leakage
Hungarian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$54,537 (50%)	\$54,000 (50%)	Re-roofing of east side of roof
Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$88,000 (50%)	\$88,000 (50%)	Replace windows on the first floor of building
Ontario Crafts Council	\$87,000 (46.5%)	\$62,000 (33%)	Renovation to include a gallery/retail space dedicated to the promotion of Ontario craft
Tarragon Theatre	\$15,500 (50%)	\$15,500 (50%)	New carpeting for the public spaces
Toronto Aerospace Museum	\$120,343 (50% maximum)	\$7,500 (3%)	Install exterior signage, exterior wheelchair ramp, automated doors at entrance and non-permanent elevator to allow wheelchair visitors to access the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor of museum

Tranzac Club (Headquarters of The Fringe)	\$46,117.50 (50%)	\$46,000 (50%)	Replace carpeting; exterior windows and doors; resurfacing/patching parking lot; electrical wiring, kitchen and washroom improvements; replace main hall stage and external lighting
<b>8 applications received – 7 grants recommended</b>	<b>\$516,748</b>	<b>\$321,000</b>	