

# COMMUNITY ARTS STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

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## APPENDIX 2: COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED SERVICE GAPS IN CITYWIDE COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

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Based on community input collected during the Focus Group Meeting, December 5, 2005, participants identified four areas of service gaps. As well, they provided ideas on expected outcomes in Toronto's community arts sector should those service gaps be addressed. Community-identified challenges and opportunities are summarized below:

### 1. Enhanced and Ongoing Funding

In order to achieve sustainable governance, structures and resources of community arts organizations, the majority of which is non profit in nature, enhanced and ongoing funding was perceived to be key. In addition, participants believed that enhanced and ongoing funding contributes to sustainable community arts programming.

Some identified opportunities with enhanced and ongoing funding include:

- Build the infrastructure of Toronto's community arts sector
- Promote broad participation in community arts for all community members
- Establish youth employment programs and support outreach networks to new communities
- Expand communication to broaden outreach

### 2. Space

The lack of rehearsal, performance and programming space was identified as a major challenge. The lack of affordable space for community members and youth to gather together in creative processes was seen as a major drawback to community arts development, programming, community outreach and positive neighbourhood change.

### 3. Recognition of community arts

To build Toronto's community arts sector, participants saw the need for the important role of community arts to be formally recognized as an integral building block in developing and nurturing neighbourhoods. They saw a pressing need to profile the success of community arts groups, artists and community members. The formal appreciation of volunteer contribution was also expressed as key to the sound functioning of the sector.

### 4. Resource-sharing – how to build on resources already existing within the sector

Participants believed that resource-sharing would bring about more effective service delivery and cost effectiveness.