



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Designating a Portion of Metro Square in Honour of Glenn Gould

Date:	June 11, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Donald G. Eastwood, General Manager Economic Development, Culture and Tourism
Wards:	20
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council authority to designate a portion of Metro Square in honour of Glenn Gould as outlined in Attachment No. 1.

This naming request was initiated by the Toronto Legacy Project Committee through Toronto Culture. The mandate of the Toronto Legacy Project is to commemorate notable cultural figures by naming a variety of facilities in their honour. The intent is to weave the achievements of these cultural figures into the fabric of the cityscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Council approve the designation of the area within Metro Square, indicated in Attachment No. 1, in honour of Glenn Gould; and
2. 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.

DECISION HISTORY

The Toronto Legacy Project was initiated by the City's first Poet Laureate, Dennis Lee, and approved by City Council on October 29, 2002.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Legacy Project honours notable artists and thinkers who have enriched the life of Toronto, by embedding their names in the fabric of the city. The intent is to create an ongoing mechanism by which the Legacy Project can continue over the years, in a systematic way. The elements to the Legacy Project include the creation of a Names Bank; initiatives to assign names pro-actively to appropriate sites; and the mounting of plaques honouring notable artists and thinkers. To date, the Legacy Project has completed Oscar Peterson Place at the Toronto-Dominion Centre in 2004 and George Faludy Place on St. Mary Street in 2006.

COMMENTS

Born in Toronto in 1932, Glenn Gould became a legendary concert pianist on the international stage before the age of thirty. Gould stopped giving concerts at the age of 32 in order to explore innovative ways to share his music through mass media. In doing so, he influenced a generation of musicians and audiences through his extraordinary interpretations of the works of classical composers, most notably Bach. His unique, insightful and intensely personal performances of his extensive repertoire have become milestones in the history of classical music.

As a site for honouring Glenn Gould, the location within Metro Square has been selected by the Legacy Project Committee due to its high profile downtown location in the heart of the entertainment district and its proximity to CBC's Glenn Gould Studio and Roy Thomson Hall. The designation would include a Legacy Plaque and a plaque outlining the significance of Glenn Gould. The Glenn Gould Foundation organizes well attended tours to Gould sites throughout the City and has proposed that, if approved, Glenn Gould Place at Metro Square would be a starting point for future tours.

The Glenn Gould Foundation is planning a full year of Glenn Gould programming which will take place across the country in 2008. The Foundation is working with the Legacy Project to celebrate the launch of the Year of Gould with the public "opening" of Glenn Gould Place on September 25, 2007, the 75th anniversary of Gould's birthday. Council's approval will ensure that this exciting nation-wide cultural program can begin in downtown Toronto.

This naming proposal attests to Glenn Gould's status as a leading cultural figure in Toronto and does not conflict with the neighbourhood park at St. Clair Avenue and Avenue Road near the artist's former home named "Glenn Gould Park".

Facilities and Real Estate have jurisdiction over Metro Square and have expressed support for this proposal. Parks, Forestry and Recreation have also been consulted about this project and have indicated their support. Facilities and Real Estate's criteria for naming of property follows that contained in the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks and Recreation Facilities. This proposal to name an area within Metro Square adheres to the criteria of this policy. This designation proposal has also been developed in parallel to the Municipal Naming Policy and does not conflict with the draft policy to date.

The Executor of Glenn Gould's Estate and the Executive Director of the Glenn Gould Foundation have both indicated their support for this proposal.

Members of the local community and stakeholders were notified of the naming initiative in January 2007. The original proposal of the Legacy Project Committee had been to name Metro Square in its entirety as Glenn Gould Place. Culture understands that Canada's Walk of Fame has had a new design for the Walk of Fame approved, which would encompass King Street and a portion of Metro Square. The Legacy Project proposal has been revised, in close consultation with Tourism staff, to its current iteration. The area to be designated as Glenn Gould Place does not interfere with the Walk of Fame design and ensures that both proposals can coexist within the large downtown public space of Metro Square.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Donald G. Eastwood, General Manager
Economic Development, Culture & Tourism

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Map of Metro Square showing area proposed for Glenn Gould Place
Attachment No. 2 – Letter of support from executor of Glenn Gould Estate
Attachment No. 3 – Letter of information to local community and stakeholders