

Attachment 2

Building the Toolkit to Retain and Create Cultural Space in Toronto

No-Net Loss

As part of the City's settlement process within the Queen West Neighbourhood, an innovative policy was introduced by the City's Planning Department and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Division to retain employment uses and the protection of space for arts and cultural industries, while residential development proceeds.

A "no-net-loss of non-residential space" policy will be reflected in the new zoning by-law created for the Queen West Neighbourhood resulting in the replacement of the neighbourhood's existing 40,000 square metres of non-residential space. This has resulted in the stipulation that 0.7 times the lot size for each development in Queen West must be set aside for non-residential uses.

Creative Space Key Attributes

In order to better understand the unique needs for creative space, a range of existing studio and production space that provide critical venues to the arts and culture community for diverse arts practices were surveyed by *Toronto Artscape*. The key attributes of these creation and production spaces are:

- Natural light;
- Access to water;
- Security;
- High ceilings;
- Flexibility of access;
- Broadband;
- Soundproofing;
- Storage;
- Access to public;
- Special ventilation;
- Cargo elevators;
- Oversized doors;
- Special electrical wiring;
- Sprung floors; and
- High-load bearing floors.

The articulation of these attributes provides a useful tool for planners when assessing the applicability of space for creative and cultural industries.

Affordable Housing for Artists

On May 30th, 2008, Cultural Services convened a meeting of artists housing providers, the Toronto Arts Council, as well as representatives of other departments at the City of Toronto: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, and Planning, to provide input on artist affordable housing needs as part of the City's *Housing Opportunities Toronto* (or HOT) consultation process in preparation for the development of a ten year Affordable Housing Plan. Key messages from the meeting include:

- Artist housing needs are unique and different than the needs of non-artists;
- Artists add economic value to neighbourhoods and the City, and it's important that they be recognized and respected for this;
- The majority of affordable housing currently provided in the city has not been designed to meet artists' needs in terms of the design of the physical space and/or the approach taken to managing that space; and
- There are opportunities to create new financing models to develop more and better affordable housing for artists.

Creative Industries, Convergence Centres and Incubators

Stimulating Economic Growth: Imagination, Manufacturing, Innovation, Technology Financial Incentive Plan included definitions of creative industries, convergence centers and incubators eligible for the tax increment equivalent grant.

“Creative Industries” are industries that have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property including; arts and crafts; broadcast; design; film; video and photography; music and the visual and performing arts; publishing; software; computer games and electronic publishing.

“Convergence Centre” is a facility that must demonstrate by way of a business plan that it:

- Includes an intentional focus/mandate on cluster or sector development;
- Provides programming for tenants focusing on business development, collaboration and networking;
- Uses the majority of its space for companies within the specific cluster or sector;
- Provides external stakeholder and/or public access to programming and/or space; and
- Provides security of tenure for a cluster/sector development organization.

“Incubator” is a facility that must demonstrate by way of a business plan that it:

- Has a mandate for entrepreneurship development and job creation;
- Provides start-up companies with a combination of a business address, space and shared support services; and
- Offers regular start-up business and professional development training.