



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Community Partnership and Investment Program
Culture Build Investment Program – 2008 Allocations**

Date:	October 31, 2008
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Sue Corke, Deputy City Manager
Ward:	All
Reference Number:	P:/2008/Cluster A/EDCT/ECON DEV/November/ed0811-004

SUMMARY

This is the seventh year of the Culture Build Investment Program. To date, the City has provided funding for 60 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 12, 2008 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 these organizations' facilities closer to a state of good repair.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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) Bad Dog Theatre Company \$10,500.00

(b) Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie	\$51,500.00
(c) Drum Artz Community Centre	\$80,000.00
(d) Factory Theatre	\$42,000.00
(e) Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)	\$70,000.00
(f) Mercer Union, A Centre for Contemporary Art	\$36,000.00
Total	\$290,000.00

- the Community Partnership and Investment Program's 2008 Approved Operating Budget, which includes \$250,000.00 gross and net expenditures for the Culture Build Investment Program, be increased one time by \$40,000.00 gross and zero net proposed to be funded by the Cultural Facilities Capital Grants Reserve Fund XR1211 to reflect the above allocations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2008 Approved Budget for the Culture Build Investment Program within the Community Partnership and Investment Program is \$250,000.00. This report recommends an allocation of \$290,000.00 to 6 organizations and thus, one-time additional funding of \$40,000.00 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 uncommitted Reserve Fund balance was \$41,979.00.00 as of September 30, 2008.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has received 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 Cultural Facilities Capital Grants Reserve Fund for this purpose.

Since the initial year, the budget for the Culture Build Investment Program has been reduced. City Council approved the 2008 Culture Build allocation of \$250,000.00 within the Community Partnership and Investment Program.

The one-time additional amount of \$40,000.00 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 \$40,000.00 is available funding not committed to any other grant. The Reserve Fund balance was \$41,979.00.00 as of September 30, 2008.

This is the seventh 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 existing 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.

Culture Build Investment Criteria:

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.

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.

COMMENT

Review Process:

Economic Development, Culture and Tourism staff reviewed the ten applications received at the September 12, 2008 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 2008 Culture Build Investment Program was \$697,516.00

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: Martin Bragg, (Artistic Producer. - Canadian Stage Company), Louise Garfield (Executive Director - Arts Etobicoke), Peter Stewart (Partner – George Robb Architects) and Susan Wright (Toronto Arts Council).

Community Access and Outreach:

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.

Example of community access and outreach programs for those organizations listed above include –

- Bad Dog Theatre Company maintains the tradition of offering free drop-in classes each Saturday.
- With Coleman & Lemieux Compaigne recently relocating from Montreal to Dundas Street East and Parliament Street the dance company has brought much more than a strong desire to participate in community outreach within Regent Park as the neighbourhood is redeveloped; they bring a unique expertise in mobilizing communities around artistic expression, from their groundbreaking work in aboriginal communities in Manitoba, to their initiative in Newfoundland's Gros Morne Provincial Park.
- Drum Artz Community Centre is committed to long-term positive change in Toronto's communities. In 2007 alone, the organization put on 20 performances

and workshops including the Canada Day celebration at Queen’s Park, Easter Seals Telethon live on CBC television and the St. James Town Community Festival.

- The 100-seat Studio Theatre as well as the 200-seat Mainspace at Factory Theatre are used by community groups for various benefit events often at little to no charge.
- Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) are working with community partners to develop a 24-week youth mentoring project. Partners involved in the project include Youth Employment Services (YES); 4Unity Youth Media; Schools Without Borders; Regent Park Film Festival; Regent Park Focus and the Remix Project.
- Mercer Union, A Centre for Contemporary Art provides wide ranging community access and outreach activities. A recent example was Mercer Union providing a space for a community clothing swap hosted by artist Katie Bethune-Leamen whereby people from the Queen Street West neighbourhood and the local art community were invited to bring their unwanted clothes to the gallery for a large-scale trade. Leftover unwanted clothes were donated to Goodwill. Presented as a community service (not a relational art practice) the event brought together a diverse cross-section of the local neighbourhood and Toronto community.

Summary of Recommendations:

Six 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 2008 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 \$40,000.00 from the Cultural Facilities Capital Grant XR1211 has been allocated on a proportional basis to the following six applicants:

1. Bad Dog Theatre Company	\$10,500.00
2. Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie	\$51,500.00
3. Drum Artz Community Centre	\$80,000.00
4. Factory Theatre	\$42,000.00
5. Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)	\$70,000.00
6. Mercer Union, A Centre for Contemporary Art	\$36,000.00
 Total	 \$290,000.00

It is recommended that the following allocations be approved:

(1) Bad Dog Theatre Company

Bad Dog Theatre Company was originally known as Theatresports Toronto, which held weekly improv comedy sessions with top actors and comedians like Mike Myers at Harbourfront to enthusiastic crowds throughout the 1980's and 1990's. Today, Bad Dog Theatre presents shows most nights of the week but also offers a training program for all ages focusing on improvised theatre as well as sketch comedy and stand-up.

The organization is seeking funding to upgrade and expand its washrooms. A Capital grant of \$10,500.00 is recommended, which represents 50 percent of the total project cost.

(2) Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie

Founded in 2000, Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie, led by husband and wife Bill Coleman and Laurence Lemieux, is a professional dance organization that creates, produces and presents works on a local, national and international scale. The company is recognized as one of the most dynamic forces in Canadian dance, thanks to the scope of its artistic vision and the accomplishments of its founders.

The organization is seeking funding to replace and repair doors and a main floor window; install ventilation in the restroom as well as paint walls; replace leaking pipes, fixtures and water heater; repair roof; install new dropped ceiling in dance studio as well as replace rubberized dance floor with a high quality adagio dance floor. A capital grant of \$51,500 is recommended, which represents 35 percent of the total project cost.

(3) Drum Artz Community Centre

Drum Artz Community Centre is an organization dedicated to promoting diverse arts in Toronto communities through the professional coordination of rehearsals, performances, workshops and educational opportunities in world music percussion, dance, visual art and theatre. The parent organization, Samba Squad, is a community-based drumming group that inspired the formation of Drum Artz Community Centre in 2004.

The organization is seeking funding to replace its roof and install a green roof, Repair the floor as well as install a permanent lighting grid in the main studio. A capital grant of \$80,000.00 is recommended, which represents 50 percent of the total project cost.

(4) Factory Theatre

Factory Theatre's mandate is to develop and produce compelling new Canadian theatre and to work with and develop Canadian theatre artists. Factory Theatre's repertoire is entirely Canadian, and there is a strong commitment to diversity, as well as consideration for gender and generational balance.

The organization is seeking funding to replace the existing flooring that is broken, faded and a trip hazard with new hardwood floors; replacement of men's washroom and replacement and expansion of the women's facilities as well as renovation of the administrative staff office. A capital grant of \$42,000.00 is recommended, which represents 46 percent of the total project cost.

(5) Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)

Since 1981, Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) has grown to become one of Canada's foremost artist-run production centres for independent filmmakers and artists working with celluloid to learn and produce in the medium. LIFT is a member-driven, not-for-profit organization

The organization is seeking funding to renovate their facility that includes electrical, mechanical and carpentry/millwork and paint. A capital grant of \$70,000.00 is recommended, which represents 14 percent of the total project cost.

(6) Mercer Union

Established in 1979, Mercer Union, A Centre for Contemporary Art is an artist-run centre dedicated to the professional presentation of contemporary art. For almost 30 years Mercer Union has maintained ambitious programming, exhibiting national and international artists in formative and established stages of their careers.

The organization is seeking funding to restore the facility's Victorian tin ceiling; HVAC installation; alarm security system installation; plumbing improvements; installation of a lighting track system and building a public display case. A capital grant of \$36,000.00 is recommended, which represents 49 percent of the total project cost.

Issuance of Grants:

The grant recipients are to receive 90 percent of their Culture Build Grant upfront with the balance to be issued upon completion and review of all third party invoices. The first instalment will not be issued until such time as the matching funds are confirmed. All organizations will enter into a Letter of Agreement with the City confirming that the

funds will be used for only capital projects as described in this report. Furthermore, a narrative report confirming the project completion as well as a financial report must be filed within six months after completion of the project. Finally, the commitment to issue a grant is null and void should the organizations' status change from the eligibility criteria.

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The recommendations for allocations contained in this report are the result of a review of the applications received at the September 12, 2008 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.

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SIGNATURE

Sue Corke, Deputy City Manager

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Summary of 2008 Culture Build Investment Program Applications