

Economic Development Committee – Item 16.5

(Considered by City Council on September 24 and 25, 2008)

ED16.5	Adopted			Ward: All
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Major Cultural Organizations – The Toronto International Film Festival Group

City Council Decision

City Council on September 24 and 25, 2008, adopted the following motions:

1. The Toronto International Film Festival Group be deemed eligible for membership in the Major Cultural Organizations (Majors) funding category within the Community Partnerships and Investment Program (CPIP) based on the review of the eligibility criteria; and that funding responsibility for TIFFFG in 2009 be transferred to the Majors category in CPIP from the Toronto Arts Council Grant Program and the Economic Sponsorships Initiatives Program.
2. This report be referred to Budget Committee, as part of the 2009 Operating Budget process, to provide information for the consideration of an appropriate level of funding for the TIFFFG comparable to the funding of other major cultural organizations.

(September 4, 2008) Report from the Executive Director, Cultural Services.

Committee Recommendations

The Economic Development Committee recommends that:

1. The Toronto International Film Festival Group be deemed eligible for membership in the Major Cultural Organizations (Majors) funding category within the Community Partnerships and Investment Program (CPIP) based on the review of the eligibility criteria; and that funding responsibility for TIFFFG in 2009 be transferred to the Majors category in CPIP from the Toronto Arts Council Grant Program and the Economic Sponsorships Initiatives Program.
2. This report be referred to Budget Advisory Committee, as part of the 2009 Operating Budget process, to provide information for the consideration of an appropriate level of funding for the TIFFFG comparable to the funding of other major cultural organizations.

Committee Decision Advice and Other Information

The Economic Development Committee requested the General Manager, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism to report back to the Economic Development Committee on the outreach activities currently being undertaken by the Toronto International Film Festival Group (TIFFG) and what additional activities will be undertaken by TIFFG throughout the City if they are provided with additional resources during the 2009 budget process.

Financial Impact

There are no 2008 financial implications associated with this report.

A budget pressure would be created for the 2009 Operating Budget should Council decide to fund the Toronto International Film Festival Group at a comparable level to other Major Cultural Organizations in the Community Partnerships and Investment Program.

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

Summary

City Council provides financial support to major cultural organizations that are recognized as essential cultural ambassadors for the City and whose programs have a significant impact on the regional economy by playing a major role in tourism attraction through the development of Toronto as a world wide cultural destination. The Major Cultural Organizations funding category includes Art Gallery of Ontario; Canadian Opera Company; National Ballet of Canada; National Ballet School; Toronto Symphony Orchestra; George Gardiner Museum of Ceramics; Pride Toronto and Festival Management Committee (Caribana).

The Toronto International Film Festival Group represents one of the most important cultural institutions in the City of Toronto. The organization is currently undergoing significant expansion that will continue to put Toronto on the international cultural map. For over three decades they have produced a film festival along with a full range of year round programming that has attracted international recognition for artistic excellence. They have also demonstrated sound financial management and a diverse and growing funding base.

The Toronto International Film Festival Group qualifies as a major cultural organization based on a review of the criteria for the funding category in the Community Partnerships and Investment Program. A proportionate grant to the TIFFG through the CPIP would be in the range of \$800,000 to \$1 million based on the annual contribution to other existing major cultural organizations.

Background Information (Committee)

2008-09-16-ed16.5-Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ed/bgrd/backgroundfile-15474.pdf>