

Toronto Artscape – Multi-Year Agreement

Date:	March 30, 2009
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	P:/2009/Cluster A/EDCT/ECON DEV/April/ed0904-008

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority for the city to enter into a multi-year agreement with Toronto Artscape Inc. (“Artscape”) in a partnership program of the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) similar to agreements the City has with other cultural organizations.

Celebrating its 22nd anniversary, Artscape is a not for profit enterprise engaged in culture-led regeneration. Artscape is unique since it and Artspace, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, are the only two not-for-profit organizations in North America that create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations. In recent years, Artscape has played a catalytic role in the regeneration of some of Toronto’s most important creative communities including the Distillery Historic District, Queen Street West, Liberty Village and Toronto Island.

The proposed multi-year funding agreement will allow for a structured link between the City and Toronto Artscape. It will enable planning and service delivery that offers an increased degree of stability, accountability to Council, and sets out the City's terms and conditions for the coming years. Specific requirements and deliverables from Toronto Artscape will be included in the formal agreement based on the nature of the arts and culture services provided to the City, its residents and visitors to Toronto.

Toronto Artscape is very important to the City. Entering into a formal agreement is consistent with the Major’s Platform, the *Agenda for Prosperity* and the supporting document entitled the *Creative City Planning Framework*. Such an agreement will assist the City in future collaborations with Artscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (1) authority be granted to enter into a multi-year agreement with Toronto Artscape Inc. subject to:
 - (a) the satisfaction of the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture & Tourism, the City Solicitor and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer;
 - (b) the following Terms and Conditions:
 - (i) Artscape shall use the grant funds for the following programming and administrative activities:
 - development and management of Artscape's (Toronto-based) portfolio of arts and cultural facilities
 - proposal development to create and manage affordable artist live/work space
 - preliminary exploration of cultural facility development
 - advice (as the go-to organization) on policy and program development related to creative spaces, places and the economy.
 - (ii) City funding guidelines as established by Council Policy;
 - (iii) Artscape shall submit its annual funding request to the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, for recommendation to the Economic Development Committee and Council for review and approval;
 - (iv) Artscape shall submit its annual report and financial audit to the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism for review; and
 - (v) the agreement shall be for a term of five years.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2009 Operating Budget resulting from the adoption of this report.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement, Toronto Artscape will be required to continue to submit its annual report and financial audits for review and to continue to submit its one year funding request to the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism during the City's Annual Operating Budget process, for recommendation and approval by City Council.

Toronto Artscape has received annual funding through the City of Toronto Community Partnership Investment Program. In 2008, the organization received \$253,800 and the recommended grant for 2009 is \$258,900, included in CPIP's 2009 Recommended Operating Budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

The City has a long history of entering into funding agreements with cultural organizations, more specifically with the Major Cultural Organizations (i.e. Art Gallery of Ontario, Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet of Canada, National Ballet School and Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Gardiner Museum and Pride Toronto) as well as the Local Arts Service Organizations (i.e. Arts Etobicoke, Scarbrough Arts Council, Lakeshore Arts as well as urbanArts Community Arts Council).

Artscape has formally requested that an agreement with the City be developed that will provide clarity to both parties similar to the agreements with other cultural institutions and the City.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Artscape was an initiative of the Toronto Arts Council and at the beginning addressed a key concern for the City of Toronto – the loss of valuable and irreplaceable affordable space for the arts. Artscape has grown from a small, single-focus organization to an internationally recognized creative city builder. In the early years, with critical base funding support from the City of Toronto, Artscape was able to fulfil its initial mandate: to create a development and management model for producing and operating safe, affordable and appropriate cultural space. Within five years Artscape moved from being a small, one-person operation with an annual budget of less than \$100,000 to developing and managing five sites with hundreds of tenants, an annual operating budget in excess of \$1,000,000 and development projects totalling \$4 million.

Currently, Artscape operates three organizations - Toronto Artscape Inc., Artscape Non-Profit Homes Inc., and the Artscape Foundation. Artscape has a staff of 25 and in 2008 its consolidated budget was in excess of \$13 million.

Notable Artscape developments in the last ten years are Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts and the 440,000 square feet (40,877 square metres) of development within the Distillery Historic District with a tenant mix of artist work studios, designer retail studios as well as not for profit theatre, dance, music and artist-in-residence organizations.

Artscape's most recent achievement is the \$21 million Wychwood Car Barns Project which opened in November 2008 and which pushes the culture-led regeneration model to another level by adding community-focused organizations to the project as well as incorporating LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in the development.

To date, areas supported by the City's operating grant have included the development and management of Artscape's (Toronto-based) portfolio of arts and cultural facilities; development and management of affordable artist live/work space; preliminary exploration of cultural facility development and advice on policy and program development related to creative spaces, places and the economy.

COMMENTS

The intent of the multi-year funding agreement is to define the purpose and benefits to the City of such funding and to put in place processes that will achieve accountability to the City for the funding it provides. This report recommends that authority be granted to enter into a five-year agreement with Toronto Artscape – similar to other cultural organizations such as the LASO's and the Major Cultural Organizations. The annual requests for funding amounts for Artscape will be subject to review and approval by City Council. Under the terms of the proposed agreement, Toronto Artscape will be required to submit its annual report and financial audits for review and to submit its funding request to the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism during the City's Annual Operating Budget process, for recommendation and approval by City Council.

The proposed multi-year funding agreement will allow for a structured link between the City and Toronto Artscape. It will enable planning and service delivery that offers an increased degree of stability, accountability to Council, and sets out the City's terms and conditions for the coming years. Specific requirements and deliverables from Toronto Artscape will be included in the formal agreement based on the nature of the arts and culture services provided to the City, its residents and visitors to Toronto.

There is a role and a commitment of the General Manager of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism in working with other city divisions including the Affordable Housing Office and Planning to coordinate actions to advance programs and activities that will be outlined in the multi-year agreement between the City and Artscape.

CONTACT

Lori Martin
Senior Cultural Affairs Officer
Tel: 416 392-5225
Fax: 416 392-5600
Email: lmartin2@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Michael H. Williams, General Manager
Economic Development, Culture & Tourism