



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

8 The Esplanade/ 1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan

Date:	July 27, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Robert Freedman, Director, Urban Design
Wards:	Ward 28 - Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	te10057

SUMMARY

The purpose of this staff report is to seek City Council approval of the 8 The Esplanade/ 1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan. The plan has been prepared by the owner in compliance with the development approval provisions. The plan, which is included as Attachment 1 of this report, outlines the method by which the owner will commission public art in the publicly-accessible, publicly-owned area of the development site.

This site is located within the designated St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. The development site in its entirety is a block bounded by Front Street to the north, Scott Street to the east, The Esplanade to the south and Yonge Street to the west. The proposal for this block is a mix-use development which includes the expansion of the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts (municipal address of 1 Front Street East) and a new 57-storey residential tower (municipal address 8 The Esplanade). The Sony Centre occupies a significant footprint and presence in the block and is a landmark that has been designated a historic building donated to the City of Toronto.

The 8 The Esplanade/1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan provides a framework for a Public Art Commission in the proposed location. The attached plan meets the objectives of the City Planning Percent for the Public Art Program and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve the attached 8 The Esplanade/1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

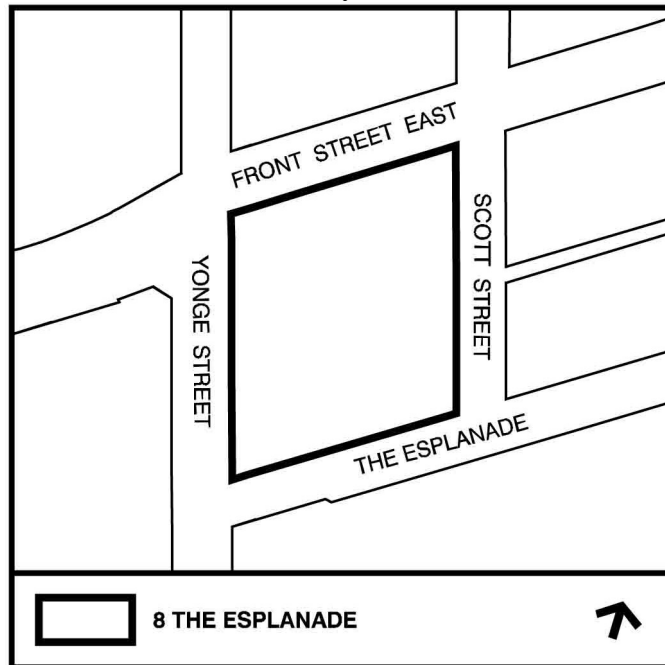
DECISION HISTORY

City Council decision at its meeting on May 26 and 27, 2008, adopted several motions including amending the Zoning By-law for this block and to enter into a Section 37 Agreement to secure a number of benefits including public art.

The owner is required to produce a public art plan for review by City Planning Staff and its advisory panel, the Toronto Public Art Commission and City Council. Initial meetings were held with the owner team and Urban Design Staff to discuss public art site potentials. On July 20th, 2010, the owner representatives made a presentation to the Toronto Public Art Commission at which time a recommendation was made for the approval of 8 The Esplanade/1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The owner and City Planning Staff met to discuss the public art process and to identify the public art site potentials. The attached public art plan outlines the artist selection process. There will be a jury comprised of a majority of art experts, two owner representatives and a ward representative. The public art plan also identifies a process from which artists will be short-listed and three finalists will be invited to compete in a competition process.



The art budget identified in the public art plan is based on a preliminary estimate that will be confirmed in a process as outlined in the Section 37 Agreement.

COMMENTS

The 8 The Esplanade - Public Art Plan provides an introduction to the project, the team and introduces the background to the public art provisions.

The public art objectives are addressed for this on-site program, with a primary focus on the public property at the west-side plaza area approximately 4000 square feet of land fronting Front and Yonge Street. The development associated with the address 8 The Esplanade is funding the art in the public plaza which will be owned and maintained by the Sony Centre.

The 8 The Esplanade/1 Front Street East - Public Art Plan meets the City's objectives for the provision of public art in private development, is in accordance with the City Planning Percent for the Public Art Program, and is supported by the Toronto Public Art Commission. Upon City Council's approval, the owner will commence the artist competition as scheduled in the attached plan.

We look forward to the results of the public art competition.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: 8 The Esplanade/1 Front Street East- Public Art Plan