



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

2012 Local Service Arts Organizations (LASOs) Grant Allocation

Date:	April 24, 2012
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:/2012/Cluster A/EDC/ECON DEV/May/ed1205-014

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council approval on the recommended funding allocations for the four non-profit organizations that have applied for municipal support through the Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) Program.

The arts are an integral part of a healthy culture, nourishing creativity and providing social and economic benefit. Community arts provide significant value to both communities and artists. The LASOs are community-based arts and cultural organizations that are essential to a vibrant community arts infrastructure for the City and are an important building block for healthy and cohesive communities. As incorporated charitable organizations dedicated to community engagement through the arts, the LASOs have sound financial management systems, governance structures, and solid, sustainable community outreach arts programming, activities and events. Public funding is necessary as the organizations are not fully self-supporting through private donations and self-generated income.

Allocation recommendations presented in this report are based on the review by Cultural Services staff and an external peer advisory panel. Cultural Services staff manage the program and reviewed the funding applications with due diligence and in compliance with the City of Toronto's Grants Policy adopted by Council on December 16 and 17, 1998.

A total of \$533,410 is in the Arts & Culture funding service envelope for the LASOs within the 2012 Approved Budget for CPIP. Cultural Services recommends a total of \$533,410 be allocated to the four LASOs for the 2012 funding cycle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Arts and Culture funding allocations totalling \$533,410 to four Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) as follows:

Organization	Funding Allocation
Arts Etobicoke	\$227,530
Lakeshore Arts	\$ 97,840
Scarborough Arts Council	\$113,405
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$ 94,635
Total	\$533,410

2. City Council authorize the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts beyond what has been approved in the 2012 Operating Budget.

A total of \$533,410 is included in the Economic Development and Culture 2012 Approved Operating Budget to fund these four Local Service Arts Organizations. No change over 2011.

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

DECISION HISTORY

Through Clause No. 3, Report No. 24 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on November 25, 26 and 27, 1998, the City established the role of Toronto Culture in the delivery of funding in the Arts and Culture category for LASOs, among other funding in the same category assigned to Toronto Culture.

The four LASOs are Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts, Scarborough Arts (formerly Scarborough Arts Council) and UrbanArts Community Arts Council (formerly Arts York).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The LASOs are Toronto's anchor community arts organizations that provide a wide spectrum of arts and cultural services and programming for their members and broader community with a focus to interact with communities using all forms of art as the catalyst. Focuses of their services and programming are:

- 1) arts education in Toronto's inner suburbs;
- 2) building a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose amongst neighbours at the local, grassroots level;
- 3) bringing together arts and businesses; and
- 4) media outreach bringing positive messages about the impact of their programs on the communities they work with

With one of its key programming focus on youth, their programs and services help program participants develop a creative voice, self esteem and employment skills.

COMMENTS

Arts and Culture Funding Service Envelope for LASOs

Of the 2012 net budget for the Arts and Culture funding service envelope, \$533,410 is designated for allocation to the LASOs. (See Appendix 1 for descriptions of the Local Arts Service Organizations).

Functions of the City's Arts and Culture Funding for LASOs

The Arts and Culture funding for the LASOs provides a vehicle for the City to collaborate with these organizations and direct public funds to City priorities. They provide services that are aligned with those of Cultural Services at both the policy and operational levels. They strongly support the City of Toronto's work in underserved communities and geographic areas providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth, newcomers, LGBTT individuals, and participants from a broad demographic spectrum through their services and programming customized to local needs.

2012 Grant Application Review Process:

Cultural Services staff reviewed the applications received by the February 2, 2012 deadline with due diligence.

A peer review panel was set up to review and assess the applications through a peer assessment process. Cultural Services staff selected panellists based on their ability to represent a broad base of experience and expertise as well as their general knowledge of the cultural sector and their involvement in various, geographic communities of the city. The advisors were Mackenzie Kinmond, Skye Louis, Sara Moyle, and Sandra Tarantino.

For the past decade, Mackenzie Kinmond has experimented with theatre and community development in Ontario and abroad. As a youth worker with over three years of experience in community development, Mackenzie tries to infuse creativity, arts and social justice into all the work that she does. She has worked in neighbourhoods throughout Toronto including Rexdale, Jane and Finch, Weston Mount-Dennis, and downtown Toronto (2009-2011). Mackenzie plays the flute in a band and believes strongly in the power of the arts to engage and inspire people from all walks of life.

Skye Louis is the Coordinator for the Neighbourhoods Arts Network, Toronto Arts Foundation (2010 – to date). Skye is an artist/librarian with expansive experience in both

fields. She has worked with Mural Routes (2005), Scarborough Arts Council (2006), Inkstorm Screenprinting Collective, Anchor Archive Zine Library, Roberts Street Social Centre in Halifax (2007-2009), and the Federation of Community Organizations (2009).

Sara Moyle is the co-founder and Artistic Producer of the Humber River Shakespeare Company, a professional, non-profit theatre company serving communities within the Humber Watershed and beyond. Now entering its fifth season of production, Humber River Shakespeare produces year-round programming, from annual summer and winter tours, to classroom facilitation, innovative events, and local heritage narrative. Sara is also a professional actor and movement instructor.

Sandra Tarantino received a Bachelor of Fine Arts through Ontario College of Art and Design and participated in the off-campus Florence (Italy) program. She has also received a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology and Bachelor of Education, while continuing to actively participate in the artistic community as Founder and Director of C1 art space since 2004 and Co-founding Director of AWOL Gallery and Studios Co-operative since 1996. She is a recipient of the Visual Artist Grant (2007, 2005, 2003) and Exhibition Assistance Grant (2005, 2006) from the Ontario Arts Council. Her work is in private and corporate collections across Canada, U.S.A and Europe.

As part of the review process, Cultural Services invited LASO representatives to present their organizations’ 2011/12 activity highlights, 2012/13 strategic directions, and to respond to questions from the panel.

Panel members reviewed and discussed the applications based on the following assessment criteria: 1) Organizational capacity including operations and service delivery: governance, membership and participation; access and equity; and financial management; 2) Program effectiveness including vision/mandate; artistic quality; community impact and development; monitoring and evaluation; and accountability. At the end of the process, panel members rated the organizations from 1 – 5 (lowest to highest) against the two assessment criteria. Based on a positive review, staff make the following recommendations.

Summary of Recommendations:

Organization	2012 Request	2012 Recommendation	City Funding as a % of the organization’s operating budget
Arts Etobicoke	\$235,230	\$227,530	39%
Lakeshore Arts	\$135,000	\$ 97,840	42%
Scarborough Arts	\$116,000	\$113,405	29%
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$104,098	\$ 94,635	17%
Total	\$590,328	\$533,410	Average: 31.8%

CONCLUSION

The Local Arts Service Organizations provide a variety of opportunities for residents of Toronto through the arts and contribute to a vibrant community arts infrastructure in Toronto. With the common goal of serving the diverse needs in their community and across Toronto, the LASOs make the arts, in all forms, broadly accessible and affordable. Through their programs and services, community arts become very much part of the daily fabric of community living.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Michael H. Williams, General Manager
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1. - Overview of Local Art Service Organizations