

## **2012 Major Cultural Organizations Allocation**

<b>Date:</b>	May 2, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Economic Development Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:/2012/Cluster A/EDC/ECON DEV/May/ed1205-015

### **SUMMARY**

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This report seeks Council approval on the recommended funding allocations for the ten non-profit organizations that have applied for municipal support through the Major Cultural Organizations Program. The Budget was adopted by City Council at the meeting of January 17, 2012.

The report outlines ten allocations to: the Art Gallery of Ontario; Canada's National Ballet School; Canadian Opera Company; Festival Management Committee (Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto); George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art; National Ballet of Canada; Pride Toronto; Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity (Luminato); Toronto International Film Festival Group; and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for a total of \$6,030,960.00.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:**

1. City Council approve the allocation of the cultural investment of \$6,030,960.00 to the following organizations:

Art Gallery of Ontario	\$ 540,000.00
Canada's National Ballet School	\$ 137,332.00
Canadian Opera Company	\$1,317,015.00
Festival Management Committee (Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto)	\$ 494,190.00
George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art	\$ 135,980.00

National Ballet of Canada	\$1,148,600.00
Pride Toronto	\$ 123,807.00
Toronto International Film Festival Group	\$ 800,000.00
Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity (Luminato)	\$ 200,000.00
Toronto Symphony Orchestra	\$1,134,036.00

2. The balance of the 2012 instalment payments to the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canadian Opera Company, Festival Management Committee, National Ballet of Canada, Toronto International Film Festival Group and Toronto Symphony Orchestra be made as one payment following allocation adoption by Council, and that monthly instalments to these organizations resume in January 2013.
3. 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.

This report recommends that the 2012 approved Operating Budget of \$6,030,960.00 for the Major Cultural Organizations program within the Economic Development and Culture Division be allocated to the ten above-mentioned major cultural 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 roles of Toronto Culture in the delivery of funding in the Arts and Culture category for Major Cultural Organizations, among other funding in the same category assigned to Toronto Culture.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

As approved by City Council on May 18, 2011 through the endorsement of the report, *Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto*, the City provides financial support to enhance major cultural organizations that are recognized as essential cultural ambassadors and infrastructure for the City, and for cultural attractions that have a significant impact for the benefit of Torontonians and toward cultural tourism enhancement. These organizations play a major role in enhancing local cultural ecology, and in developing Toronto as a worldwide cultural destination. Funding is provided for

not-for-profit cultural organizations that have demonstrated a consistent level of professional standards, artistic excellence, international achievement, a sound financial management system, diverse funding base and board accountability.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Review Process:**

Economic Development and Culture staff reviewed the applications received at the April 2, 2012 deadline and requested additional information and/or clarification where necessary. The applications were reviewed and assessed through a peer assessment process. The role of the Advisory Panel was to advise staff on the merits of the applications, provide advice on the cultural programming, and offer professional assessment of the programs. As well, the Advisory Panel was asked to identify long-term issues and trends.

Advisors were selected to represent a broad base of experience and expertise and a general knowledge of the cultural sector. The 2012 panel for the Major Cultural Organizations was comprised of Tricia Baldwin, Managing Director, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra; Min Sook Lee, Independent Filmmaker and Producer; Dr. Emanuele Lepri, Director, Bata Shoe Museum; and Jay Rankin, Executive Director, Dance Umbrella of Ontario.

The following allocations contained in this report are the result of a positive review of the applications. 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.

### **Major Cultural Organizations:**

1. The Art Gallery of Ontario:

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) was established as the Art Gallery of Toronto in 1900 and has operated as a Provincial agency since 1966. The mission of the Art Gallery of Ontario is to bring art and people together and boldly declare “Art Matters”. The gallery is a flagship institution bringing Canadian and international art to Toronto and serving the community with outreach and educational activities. In 2011 the AGO achieved major success with its exhibition *Chagall and the Russian Avant-Garde* and opened its new Weston Family Learning Centre. It opens its Picasso exhibition this month, and will present a major exhibition of the work of Frida Khalo and Diego Rivera in the fall. The organization requested funding for its 2012/2013 activities.

An operating allocation of \$540,000.00 will be issued to the AGO, which represents 1% of its revenues.

2. Canada's National Ballet School:

Canada's National Ballet School (NBS), incorporated in 1959, is an internationally recognized professional training institution. The company has expanded its mandate with a real community sensibility that results, amongst others, to demystify ballet. The organization provides their facility to professional and community dance organizations and partners from many other arts organizations in the city. This past year saw the departure of Jeff Melanson, Co-CEO, and the arrival of Grant Troop, formerly of the Ontario Science Centre as the next Executive Director. The organization requested funding for its 2012/2013 season of public performances and community programs.

An operating allocation of \$137,332.00 will be issued to the NBS, which represents 1% of its revenues.

3. The Canadian Opera Company:

The Canadian Opera Company (COC), founded in 1950, has a mission to produce opera of the highest international standard while attracting growing public support and participation in opera through increased accessibility and education. Under the direction of Alexander Neef, the company continues to maintain a high profile in the international community through touring and co-productions. The COC's free lunchtime programming at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing has proven to be enormously popular with regular line-ups and crowds. The organization requested funding for its 2012/2013 activities and programs which includes seven productions.

An operating allocation of \$1,317,015.00 will be issued to the COC, which represents 4% of its revenues.

4. Festival Management Committee (Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto):

The Festival Management Committee is an organization appointed with the approval of the City of Toronto to provide governance and financial oversight to the Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival Toronto (formerly Caribana). The festival is one of the premier cultural events in Toronto every summer and a major tourist draw. The festival has achieved governance and management stability under the direction of the Festival Management Committee. The Festival Management Committee requested funding for the 2012 edition of the festival.

An operating allocation of \$494,190.00 will be issued to the FMC which represents 14% of its revenues.

5. The George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art:

The George Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Arts opened in 1984 and is the only specialized ceramics museum in North America. The vision of the Gardiner Museum is to engage a diverse public by telling the rich and dynamic story of clay, its connection to society in the past and the vitality of ceramic art in the present. The organization requested funding for its 2012 activities which will feature two major exhibitions "Rule Britannia! 400 Years of British Ceramics" and "The Chinese Vase Project."

An operating allocation of \$135,980.00 will be issued to the Gardiner Museum, which represents 4% of its revenues.

6. The National Ballet of Canada:

The National Ballet of Canada (NBC), founded in 1951, is Canada's largest dance company and has an international reputation as a renowned classical ballet company. The company, led by Karen Kain, has enjoyed a stellar 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season and will bring back some of its most spectacular recent successes including *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The company remains a standard bearer for classical ballet in Canada. It has been invited to tour to the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C., and Sadler Wells in London, England, next season. The organization requested funding for its 2012/2013 activities and programs.

An operating allocation of \$1,148,600.00 will be issued to the NBC, which represents 3% of its revenues.

7. Pride Toronto:

Pride Toronto was incorporated in 1995 but has been in existence as the organizer of Pride Week in Toronto since 1971. Pride Toronto celebrates its 32<sup>nd</sup> festival in 2012 and Pride Week events will take place from June 22 – July 1, 2012. The festival is the pre-eminent venue for the cultural and artistic expression of Toronto's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, queer, questioning and two-spirited community. Cultural programming includes comedy, theatre, cabaret, literary readings, visual art, etc. The organization requested funding for its 2012 activities.

The organization recently appointed a new Executive Director, Kevin Beaulieu, and has begun organizing its host duties for World Pride in 2014. This grant is specifically to support a ten-day arts and cultural festival which includes a weekend street festival and not the parade itself and represents 5 percent of its revenues.

An operating allocation of \$123,807.00 will be issued to Pride Toronto which represents 5% of its revenues.

8. Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity (o/a Luminato):

Founded in 2005 and operating under the trade name "Luminato", the Festival presents an annual multi-disciplinary arts festival in Toronto for 10 days each June, presenting both ticketed and free events in the areas of theatre, classical and contemporary music, dance, literature, and visual arts by both Canadian and internationally acclaimed artists. Lectures, workshops and panels that enhance the audience's experience and understanding of the artistic program, as well as in-school and community based programs for students are an integral part of the programming. In 2012, Luminato will present Einstein on the Beach along with other major performing arts works.

An operating allocation of \$200,000.00 will be issued to the Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity, which represents 1% of its revenues.

9. Toronto International Film Festival Group:

The Toronto International Film Festival Group (TIFFG) is a not-for-profit, charitable, cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world. Their vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image. TIFFG is comprised of several programming components including: the Toronto International Film Festival; TIFFKids; the Film Reference Library; Cinematheque Ontario; and Film Circuit. 2012 marked the organization's third year of programming in the Bell Lightbox which houses theatres and exhibition space, and space for public programs and education. The organization continues to be a major catalyst for downtown economic activity along the John Street Corridor.

An operating allocation of \$800,000.00 will be issued to the Toronto International Film Festival Group, which represents 2% of its revenues.

10. The Toronto Symphony Orchestra:

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO), formed in 1921, celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season in 2011/2012. Music Director Peter Oundjian maintains an excellent relationship with the orchestra and has attracted top international musicians and conductors to play with the TSO. The TSO has been successful in drawing audiences to its concerts through a variety of initiatives including different start times, discounts for concertgoers aged 15 – 35 under the TSOundcheck program, and audience education programs such as pre-concert chats. This year, in partnership with Luminato and the City of Toronto, the orchestra will participate in Bicentennial of the War of 1812 activities by presenting a free public concert in David Pecaut Square. The organization requested funding for its 2012/2013 activities.

An operating allocation of \$1,134,036.00 will be issued to the TSO, which represents 5% of its revenues.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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