



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Culture Build Investment Program – 2014 Allocations

Date:	June 10, 2014
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the 2014 Culture Build Investment Program allocations to seven non-city-owned not-for-profit cultural facilities. The total allocation of \$330,000.00 for 2014 Culture Build Investment Program was approved by City Council as part of the Economic Development and Culture operating budget on January 29, 2014.

The Culture Build Investment Program provides matching funds to assist the City's not-for-profit cultural sector with financing for state of good repair capital projects. The arts and cultural organizations that are supported through the Culture Build Investment Program provide a wide variety of opportunities for Toronto residents to engage in the arts as participants, volunteers or audience members. In its first eight years, the Culture Build Investment Program has helped bring 71 cultural facilities closer to a state of good repair.

The recommended allocations contained in this report are the result of a Peer Panel review of the applications received at the April 14, 2014 deadline according to established criteria. The administration of the review was carried out in accordance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy as adopted by City Council and effective April 2013.

Based on feedback from last year's peer review panel, Culture Build's eligibility criteria has been expanded to include a wider range of facilities with a core cultural mandate, and to include funding for feasibility studies for projects that would meet the criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the allocation of the state of good repair investment of \$330,000.00 to the following organizations through the Culture Build Program:

Artists to Artists Foundation	\$65,000.00
Hot Docs	\$25,000.00
Red Sky Performance	\$22,000.00
SKETCH	\$81,000.00
GBSP Centre Corp (Young Centre for the Performing Arts)	\$15,100.00
Tafelmusik	\$100,000.00
Toronto Dance Foundation	\$21,900.00
Total:	\$330,000.00

Financial Impact

This report recommends that the 2014 approved Operating Budget of \$330,000.00 for the Culture Build program within the Economic Development and Culture Division be allocated to the seven above-mentioned cultural organizations. There is no financial impact beyond the approved budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on March 4 – 8, 2002, City Council established the Culture Build Investment Program to address the facility requirements of the City's not-for-profit cultural sector with financing for state of good repair capital projects.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/minutes/council/cc020304.pdf>

Over the span of several years (2002 – 2008 and starting again in 2013), the Culture Build Investment Program has funded 71 capital projects to address the state of good repair needs of Toronto's non-city owned cultural facilities by provided a total of \$2.1 M in grant funding.

Funded projects leveraged \$7.4M from other sources to realize \$9.9 M worth of capital projects – a return on investment of more than \$3.50 for every municipal dollar invested. The Culture Build Investment Program was consistently oversubscribed with grant requests totalling, on average, twice the amount of the grants awarded.

Adopted by City Council in 2011, the *Creative Capital Gains - An Action Plan for Toronto* report recommended that the City ensure a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space by reinstating the Culture Build Investment Program to address the state of good repair in cultural facilities.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.ED3.3>

In January 2014, City Council earmarked \$330,000.00 to enhance the cultural experience of Toronto residents and visitors through Culture Build projects.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX37.1>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In the past, the Culture Build Investment Program has been targeted for small to mid-sized existing cultural facilities that are able to provide matching funding for major repairs, renovations or improvements to buildings in order to bring them into a state of good repair. Priority had been given to applications from not-for-profit organizations that own or lease small to medium performing arts facilities (500 seats or less).

In recent years however, it has become apparent that other types of innovative facilities with core cultural functions are equally in need of funding in order to bring their facilities up to a state of good repair.

Funding is now available for feasibility studies for those organizations that meet the eligibility criteria in response to the interest of the cultural community and the feedback from last year's peer assessment panel.

Projects include retrofit for access needs; health and safety; replacing aging equipment; major repairs to basements, brickwork and roofs; heating and air conditioning; upgrades to seating, lobbies, box offices and public washrooms.

Culture Build Investment Program Criteria:

The Culture Build Investment Program contributes to improving the physical condition of existing not-for-profit cultural facilities in the City of Toronto. All the organizations recommended for grants meet the following eligibility criteria of the Culture Build Investment Program:

1. incorporated as a not-for-profit organization;
2. located in the City of Toronto;
3. have been in existence for a minimum of three years;
4. own the facility or have at least five years remaining on their current lease at the time of applying to the program; and
5. are not city-owned facilities.

The Culture Build Investment Program does not support regular building maintenance costs or the cost of purchasing a building or facility.

The maximum allocation available and recommended through the Culture Build Investment Program is \$100,000.00 per project requested.

In all cases, the City's grant does not exceed 50 percent of total capital costs with matching funds coming from other levels of government, private sector and/or in-kind contributions.

COMMENTS

Review Process:

Economic Development and Culture staff reviewed the thirteen applications received at the April 14, 2014 deadline and requested additional information and/or clarification where necessary. Refer to Attachment No. 1 for a complete list of received applications. The total amount of requested funds was \$568,715.00.

The applications were reviewed and assessed through a peer assessment process. The role of the panel is to advise City staff on the merits of the applications and to offer a professional assessment of the various proposals submitted for major repairs, renovations or improvements to bring the facilities into a state of good repair.

Advisors were selected to represent a broad base of experience and a general knowledge of the cultural sector. The panel for advising city staff was comprised of Adele Dobkowski (Executive Director – ArtsBuild Ontario), Paul Hatton (President – Pha Project Management), Maxine Bailey (VP – Advancement at TIFF) and Susan Wright (Director of Operations, Toronto Arts Council).

Community Access and Outreach:

Information regarding community access and outreach programs was collected from the not-for-profit cultural organizations who applied to the Culture Build Investment Program.

Community access and outreach programs were included in the analysis in determining funding allocations, in addition to the cultural merit, financial management and urgency of the proposed major repairs, renovations or improvements to the cultural facilities by arts organizations.

Some examples of community access and outreach programs for those organizations listed above include:

- Hot Docs provides to youth in Toronto's 13 most under-served communities, as identified by the City of Toronto and United Way through their Docs for Schools Program and Doc Accelerator. In addition, approximately 60 to 70 nights per year the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema is dedicated to third-party rentals to incumbent festivals like TIFF, TJFF, After Dark and Banff Mountain Film. The Cinema hosted free community enriching events including a Christmas Food Drive, a New Year's Eve Party, Live Broadcasts of the Oscars and the Super Bowl and free back to school screenings. The Cinema also participated in a number of other community events including Doors Open and the Big on Bloor street festival.
- Red Sky Performance has partnered with the TSO, Toronto Consort, Soundstreams, YMCA, ImagineNATIVE Film & Media Festival, TEDx Talks, DanceWorks, Young People's Theatre, ArrayMusic, Native Women in the Arts, Tarragon Theatre, Aboriginal Education Centre, Native Women's Resource Centre, Harbourfront Theatre, Ryerson University, University of Toronto and York University.
- Tafelmusik provides affordable access to its performance space for various sized arts organizations including Toronto Consort, CBC Radio, Associates of Toronto Symphony Chamber Music Series, Children's Arts Theatre, Escovedo, Exultate Chamber Choir, Luminato Festival, Fringe Festival, Neko Case concert, Polaris, Six Shooter Productions, Soundstreams Canada, Sultans of String, Talisker Players, Turkish Classical Music, Viva Youth Singers as well as numerous arts education events and individual artists recitals and readings.

Summary of Recommendations:

Seven organizations have been recommended for funding and have clearly demonstrated state of good repair needs based on the above mentioned criteria.

City Council has allocated \$330,000.00 towards the 2014 Culture Build Investment Program to address the state of good repair capital requirements of the City's not-for-profit cultural sector. The total amount of \$330,000.00 has been allocated on a proportional basis to the following seven applicants:

Artists to Artists Foundation	\$65,000.00
Hot Docs	\$25,000.00
Red Sky Performance	\$22,000.00
SKETCH	\$81,000.00
GBSP Centre Corp (Young Centre for the Performing Arts)	\$15,100.00
Tafelmusik	\$100,000.00
Toronto Dance Foundation	\$21,900.00
Total:	\$330,000.00

It is recommended that the following allocations be approved:

(a) Artists to Artists Foundation

Located in Weston, Artists to Artists Foundation's mission is to foster and promote the arts in communities with a special emphasis on disadvantaged communities by providing leadership and support to individuals in the arts through funding, mentorship, sharing of resources, skills and expertise.

A capital grant of \$65,000.00 is recommended to replace windows, internal doors and restoration of the exterior which represents 33% of the total project cost.

(b) Hot Docs

Hot Docs is North America's largest documentary film festival, conference and market with a mandate to showcase and support the work of Canadian and international documentary filmmakers and to promote excellence in documentary production.

The organization is seeking funding to prepare a feasibility study for renovating the lower level of the fly tower at the back of the Bloor Street Hot Docs Cinema to be used for workshops, smaller screens, seminars, receptions and community meetings. A capital grant of \$25,000.00 is recommended, which represents 50% of the total project cost.

(c) Red Sky Performance

Established in 2000, Red Sky Performance is Canada's leading world Indigenous performance company in dance, theatre and music. Founded by Sandra Laronde, Red Sky is designed for *all* people; a core element of its mission is to provide a deep and positive experience of contemporary Indigenous culture.

The organization is seeking funding for renovations at their 401 Richmond Street West facility in a cost effective manner that will result in a better, more efficient use of their current space thereby eliminating the need to rent additional or a larger space.

A capital grant of \$22,000.00 is recommended, which represents 49% of the total project.

(d) SKETCH Working Arts for Street-Involved & Homeless Youth

Since 1996 SKETCH has operated as a community arts development initiative engaging young people from across Canada ages 15-29 who are homeless and on the margins. SKETCH creates equitable opportunities for diverse young people to experience the transformative power of the arts; to development their leadership and self-sufficiency and to cultivate social and environmental change through the arts.

The organization is seeking funding for its new home at Artscape Youngplace on Shaw Street in Toronto's west end and more specifically support for the fit-up of three studios: a Wet Room, a Movement Studio and a Music Studio. A capital grant of \$81,000.00 is recommended, which represents 43% of the total project.

(e) GBSP Centre Corp (operating as Young Centre for the Performing Arts)

GBSP Centre Corp, operating as Young Centre for the Performing Arts, was born out of a partnership struck between the Soulpepper Theatre Company and George Brown College with the vision of creating a performing arts, education and community outreach facility that would be home to George Brown Theatre School's celebrated three-year professional actor training program and Soulpepper Theatre Company with its mandate of performance, artist training and youth outreach.

The organization is seeking funding replacing incandescent and compact florescent lighting fixtures with improved LED technology as well providing a mobile "pop-up" LED lighting system that would improve third-party community usage in the Young Centre for the Performing Arts. A capital grant of \$15,100.00 is recommended, which represents 28% of the total project.

(f) Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir

The role and impact of Tafelmusik on the Toronto, national and international music milieu is extensive through the Toronto season (a 50-performance series), artistic and community partnerships, touring, recording, radio/tv broadcasts, and artists training programs. Opera Atelier is Tafelmusik's most important partner and by invitation they travelled to France together last month to perform Lully's *Persée* at the Royal Palace of Versailles - the first time the opera has appeared on that stage since 1770.

The Jeanne Lamon Hall at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre is a 770 seat venue a block west of Spadina on Bloor. In 2013, Tafelmusik undertook major acoustical and seating upgrades of the hall as part of their Phase 1 renovations. As part of the Phase 2 renovations, the organization is seeking funding for a modern, properly and safely equipped hall with the purchase of energy-efficient and modern lighting and multimedia equipment along with fail arrest systems that are currently absent in the hall. A capital grant of \$100,000.00 is recommended, which represents 10% of the total project.

(g) Toronto Dance Foundation

The Toronto Dance Foundation was incorporated in 1978 when a permanent home, the Winchester Street Theatre, was acquired for the Toronto Dance Theatre and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre with the mandate to advance the knowledge and appreciation, stimulate interest in and promote the study of contemporary dance as well as to own, manage, improve and maintain the property at 80 Winchester for the benefit of the Toronto Dance Theatre and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre.

The organization is seeking funding to conduct a structural feasibility study so as to move forward on future renovations as well as purchasing a new video system to better address the production needs of the two resident companies as well as rental groups. A capital grant of \$21,900.00 is recommended, which represents 50% of the total project.

Issuance of Grants:

The grant recipients are to receive 90 percent of their Culture Build grant upfront with the balance to be issued upon completion and review of all third party invoices. The first instalment will not be issued until such time as the matching funds are confirmed. All organizations will enter into a Letter of Agreement with the City confirming that the funds will be used for capital projects as described in this report. Furthermore, a narrative report confirming the project completion as well as a financial report must be filed within six months after completion of the project. Finally, the commitment to issue a grant is null and void should the organizations' status change from the eligibility criteria.

CONCLUSION

This is the ninth year of the Culture Build Investment Program. The Culture Build Investment Program ran from 2002 to 2008 and was reinstated in 2013 with City Council earmarking \$330,000.00 in 2014 to enhance the cultural experience of Toronto's residents and visitors. To date, the City has provided funding to 71 projects in order that non-city owned, not-for-profit cultural organizations can bring their facilities up to a state of good repair.

The arts and cultural organizations supported through the Culture Build Investment Program provide a wide variety of opportunities for Toronto residents to engage in the arts as participants, volunteers or audience members. In the eight years that the Culture Build Investment Program has operated it has helped to further bring several of these organizations' facilities closer to a state of good repair.

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ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Summary of 2014 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Attachment No. 1

Summary of 2014 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Organization	Amount Requested (%) of the Total Project Cost	Amount of Allocation Recommended	Nature of Request for Funding
Artists to Artists Foundation 1 Victoria Avenue West (Jane & Weston) Ward 11	\$65,000.00 (33%) of \$197,500.00	\$65,000.00 (33%)	Replacement of windows and internal doors as well as restoration of the exterior of the building
Canadian Music Centre 20 St. Joseph Street (Yonge & Wellesley Street W) Ward 27	\$39,485.00 (50%) of \$78,971.00	----	Hire a landscape architect to design, prepare a cost estimate, tender and implement the plan to redesign the front walkway, staircase, railings and provide general landscape upgrades.
Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie 304 Parliament Street (Parliament & Dundas) Ward 28	\$50,000.00 (13%) of \$377,826.00	----	Build a 385 square foot first floor level addition (storage/washroom) over the parking space at the west of the property and a 405 square foot second level floor addition (dressing rooms)

CONTACT Photography Festival 80 Spadina Avenue (King & Spadina) Ward 20	\$46,324.00 (50%) of \$92,648.00	-----	Demolition, electrical, sprinkler, HVAC and general construction to upgrade new home within same building
Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra 80 Winterton Drive Martingrove Collegiate Institute (Martingrove & Eglinton) Ward 3	\$16,000.00 (45%) of \$35,500.00	-----	Install an illuminated double-sided electronic pylon sign at Martingrove Collegiate Institute to promote orchestra and other arts and cultural events at the school and in the community.
Evergreen 550 Bayview Avenue (Bayview & Bloor) Ward 29	\$50,000.00 (26%) of \$194,700.00	-----	Install a series of Venetian barriers on 26 doors on three main buildings to mitigate the effects of future flood waters.
Harbourfront Centre 235 Queens Quay West (Queens QuayW. and York) Ward 20	\$12,685.00 (50%) of \$25,369.00	-----	Install approved flame retardant solution on the theatrical stage drapery at the Fleck Dance Theatre.

Hot Docs 506 Bloor Street West (Bloor and Bathurst) Ward 20	\$25,000.00 (50%) of \$50,000.00	\$25,000.00 (50%)	Feasibility study into renovating the lower level of the fly tower at the back of the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema to be used for workshops, smaller screens, seminars, receptions and community meetings.
Red Sky Performance 401 Richmond Street West (Spadina & Richmond) Ward 20	\$22,000.00 (49%) of \$45,150.00	22,000.00 (49%)	Demolition, removal and construction of new interior partitions, a reconfiguration and upgrade to the lighting and electrical system, construction of safe overhead storage, installation of new interior glass partitions and doors, a rebuild of the reception and common work areas and relocation of the HVAC unit as well as floor refinishing.
SKETCH (Working Arts for Street-Involved and Homeless Youth) 180 Shaw Street (Queen St W & Ossington) Ward 19	\$93,632.00 (50%) of \$187,263.00	\$81,000.00 (43%)	Support for the fit up of three studios: (1) Wet Room – purchase a screen washer, hook up plumbing and drainage system, install electrical access, drywall and painting; (2) Movement Studio – fur-out a wall, install mirrors and drywall, provide electrical access, painting and equip the room with custom built storage units; (3) Music Studio – install acoustic paneling, electrical allocation and paint.
GBSP Centre Corp. (Young Centre for the Performing Arts) 50 Tank House Lane (Distillery District)	\$26,689.00 (50%) of \$53,378.00	\$15,100.00 (28%)	Replace traditional incandescent and compact florescent lighting fixtures with improved LED technology as well as purchasing a mobile "pop-up" LED theatrical lighting system that would improve third-party community usage in the facility.

Ward 28			
Tafelmusik 427 Bloor Street West (Bloor & Spadina) Ward 20	\$100,000.00 (10%) of \$1,033,584.00	\$100,000.00 (10%)	Energy-efficient lighting and multimedia equipment along with fall arrest systems as part of the Phase 2 renovations in the Jeanne Lamont Hall at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre
Toronto Dance Foundation 80 Winchester St (Wellesley St. E. & Parliament) Ward 28	\$21,900.00 (50%) of \$43,800.00	\$21,900.00 (50%)	Structural feasibility study to address accessibility concerns, re-envisioning lobby space, improved support areas and the creation of additional studio space as well as the purchase of a new video system to better serve the production needs of both companies and all community renters.
13 applications received – 7 grants recommended	\$568,715.00	\$330,000.00	