



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

2015 Culture Build Allocations

Date:	June 11, 2015
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	21129

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the 2015 Culture Build Investment Program allocations to 12 non-city-owned not-for-profit cultural facilities. The total allocation of \$330,000.00 for the 2015 Culture Build Investment Program was approved by City Council as part of the Economic Development and Culture operating budget on March 10 & 11, 2015.

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. Since 2002, the Culture Build Investment Program has helped bring 78 cultural facilities closer to a state of good repair.

The recommended allocations in this report are the result of a review of eligible applications by a peer advisory committee. All applications were received by the April 10, 2015 deadline and assessed by the committee according to established criteria. The program is administered in accordance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy as adopted by City Council and effective April 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

City Council approve the allocation of \$330,000.00 to the following organizations through the Culture Build Investment Program:

A Space Gallery	\$16,600.00
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto	\$21,000.00
Contemporary Textile Studio	\$7,350.00
Drum Artz Community Centre o/a Geary Lane	\$39,570.00
Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Academy	\$40,000.00
Gallery TPW	\$12,500.00
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre	\$39,000.00
Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre	\$25,000.00
Toronto's First Post Office	\$3,980.00
Toronto International Film Festival	\$35,000.00
Upfront Theatre Foundation	\$45,000.00
Vtape	\$45,000.00
Total:	\$330,000.00

Financial Impact

This report recommends the allocations of program funding for the Culture Build Investment Program to the 12 above-mentioned cultural organizations. There is no financial impact beyond the approved 2015 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>

Adopted by City Council in 2011, *Creative Capital Gains - An Action Plan for Toronto* 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>

At its meeting of March 10, 2015, City Council approved the Operating Budget which included \$330,000.00 for the Culture Build Investment Program, to be administered by Economic Development and Culture.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX3.4>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

From 2002 – 2008, and following reinstatement in 2013, the Culture Build Investment Program has funded 78 capital projects to address the state of good repair needs of Toronto's non-city owned cultural facilities. A total of \$2.76 M in grants has been awarded. Funded projects leveraged \$9.14 M from other sources to realize \$11.9 M worth of capital projects – a return on investment of approximately \$3.30 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.

In the past, the Culture Build Investment Program was targeted at 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, 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 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 15 applications received by the April 10, 2015 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 \$739,782.00.

Eligible applications were reviewed by an external committee of peer advisors and assessed on established criteria. The role of the committee was to advise City staff on the merits of the applications and to offer a professional assessment of the various proposals submitted, and the potential impact of the projects on the physical conditions for creation, presentation, production, exhibition and preservation purposes.

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 Franco Boni (General & Artistic Director of The Theatre Centre), Kendra Fry (General Manager of Trinity-St. Paul's United Church and Community Centre), Paul Hatton (President of Pha Project Management) 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:

- Community access and outreach activities that specifically support the work of Aboriginal artists have been a priority for Vtape for more than 20 years. Vtape's interest in the success of Canadian Aboriginal artists and the issues that they bring to an international cultural dialogue has been integrated into every aspect of Vtape's vision;

- *Special Delivery* is a TIFF program that reaches out to youth in underserved local communities who may not otherwise have access to the film festival experience. *Special Delivery* brings film screenings, director discussions and film-craft workshops to schools and community groups free of charge. Through hands-on film experiences and interactions with industry professionals, *Special Delivery* has reached, in 2014 alone, 1,784 children and worked with 20 community service organizations in 13 neighbourhood improvement areas: and
- A Space Gallery gives tours and workshops about their exhibitions to high school and university students, as well as not-for-profit organizations such as SKETCH. Each year, A Space Gallery provides ongoing collaborative programming with two organizations that operate without gallery walls (e.g. imagineNATIVE film and video festival, South Asian Visual Arts Collective, Images Festival, Reel Asian Film Festival, Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts).

Summary of Recommendations:

Twelve 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 2015 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 twelve applicants:

A Space Gallery	\$16,600.00
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto	\$21,000.00
Contemporary Textile Studio	\$7,350.00
Drum Artz Community Centre o/a Geary Lane	\$39,570.00
Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Academy	\$40,000.00
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Total:	\$330,000.00

It is recommended that the following allocations be approved:

(a) A Space Gallery

Founded in 1971, A Space Gallery is one of the oldest artist-run centres in Canada. Its mandate focuses on work that is politically engaged, oriented around the non-dominant communities and supportive of innovative and experimental aesthetic and technical practices. Multidisciplinary projects that create a forum for dialogue and collaboration between diverse communities are created and exhibited by the gallery.

The organization is seeking funding to undertake renovations to improve existing space and reduce operating costs. A capital grant of \$16,600.00 is recommended for A Space Gallery which represents 50% of the total project cost.

(b) Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto

Established in 1989, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto is a not-for-profit, non-political organization with an objective to preserve and study Chinese culture and heritage; to promote Chinese culture and heritage and enrich the diversity of the Canadian society; and house cultural and community related functions and events in order to encourage community participation in the sharing of other cultures and heritages.

A capital grant of \$21,000.00 is recommended for a roof repair which represents 28 % of the total project cost.

(c) Contemporary Textile Studio

Contemporary Textile Studio creates and supports a community dedicated to textile arts, crafts and design through education and innovation. Members can access equipped studio space, mentor each other, explore joint projects, teach and participate in workshops, initiate community and school partnership programs and showcase innovative practices in the textile field.

A capital grant of \$7,350.00 is recommended towards to the costs of a darkroom and the ventilation of the main studio space, which represents 50% of the total project.

(d) Drum Artz Community Centre o/a Geary Lane

Geary Lane, home to Drum Artz and Samba Kidz, is a not-for-profit organization focusing on music. Drum Artz is located within a multipurpose 4,800 square foot, two storey, repurposed auto body shop with a rooftop deck that can quickly transform to suit the needs of any creative project. The facility provides a vibrant and creative space that is affordable to artists, musicians and community groups.

A capital grant of \$39,570.00, representing 39% of the total project costs, is recommended for a baseline property condition assessment, upgrades to fire code standards, installation of security cameras and landscaping.

(e) Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Academy

Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Academy, founded in 1990, is committed to the appreciation and dissemination of Spanish music, dance and culture. The company is dedicated to the creation and production of new choreographic works, original music and to the presentation and preservation of its extensive repertoire.

A capital grant of \$40,000.00, representing 49% of the total project costs, is recommended to replace specialized sprung dance floors, install a professional grade sound system, create a performance area with theatre blacks (curtains), and acquire a small professional LED lighting system and a video projector.

(f) Gallery TPW (Toronto Photographers' Workshop)

Gallery TPW, founded in 1977, is one of Canada's most respected artist-run centres. It has recently moved and is transforming a 3,300 square foot warehouse into a modern and accessible facility dedicated to the exhibition of lens and screen-based art.

A capital grant of \$12,500.00, representing 3% of the total project costs, is recommended specifically for electrical work, drywall, shelving, a track lighting system, and a new accessible front entrance.

(g) Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Founded in 1963, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre has been the leading site of production, presentation and programming of Japanese artistic and cultural activity in Canada. Its mandate is to foster, showcase and promote Canadian artists of Japanese ancestry, as well as amateur and professional artists and arts organizations that engage in art forms that reflect traditional and contemporary artistic practices of Japan.

A capital grant of \$39,000.00, representing 18% of the total project cost, is recommended to replace a faulty and aging boiler system.

(h) Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre

The Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre provides a home base for Ontario's Latvian-Canadian community including three heritage schools, four dance groups, three choirs and a heritage library that contains the largest collection of Latvian

books in North America (over 15,000) as well as a children's library which is visited by over 2,000 readers annually.

A capital grant of \$25,000.00, representing 13% of the total project costs, is recommended to upgrade the exterior walls and install new fire doors to Riga Hall (main ballroom).

(i) Toronto's First Post Office

The Town of York Historical Society (TYHS) grew out of interest in the restoration, in the early 1980's, of a block of 19th-century buildings on Adelaide Street East. One of these was Toronto's First Post Office, a National Historic Site, part of which TYHS operates as a museum. Its mission is to create original and accessible programming, public event and broad-based communications geared to all ages and cultures that will generate excitement and pride in Toronto and its place in the history of Canada.

The organization is seeking funding to address a number of small but necessary repairs and installations in order to ensure the continuing accessibility, visibility and sustainability of this museum. A capital grant of 3,980.00 is recommended, representing 50% of the total project costs.

(j) Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)

TIFF is recognized locally, nationally and internationally for its curated film programs. September 2010 marked the opening of its permanent home, the TIFF Bell Lightbox. The facility contains six state-of-the-art theatres, three learning studios for educational and outreach programs, two galleries, event spaces and the Film Reference Library which holds its extensive film archive. It is a hub for Toronto's film community.

The organization is seeking funding to replace a failing HVAC system in its Film Reference Library, and to replace leaky floor-to ceiling glass exterior adjacent to the HSBC Gallery. These are required to meet 'Class A' levels of climate control as defined by ASHRAE (the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers – the industry standard for museums and archives). A capital grant of \$35,000.00 is recommended, which represents 28% of the total project costs.

(k) Upfront Theatre Foundation

Upfront Theatre Foundation was incorporated in 2003 as a not-for-profit organization serving children, students, youth and women in the Jane and Finch community and surrounding areas. Upfront Theatre produces festivals such as Rastafest, Sistahfest and Tweenfest in the community. It also provides skills training workshops in multimedia; hands-on employment training to students

during the summer; and offers community practicums to York University students.

The organization is seeking funding to renovate its lobby and front office; upgrade the HVAC; create an arts hub on the second floor that would include three office spaces, storage space and an additional washroom, as well as equip the space with a recording studio. A capital grant of \$45,000.00 is recommended, representing 45% of the total project costs.

(l) Vtape

Vtape is a distributor and information resource centre that makes the work of independent video artists visible and accessible. Vtape makes its collection of more than 5,600 video artworks accessible to a client base of over 9,000 festivals, museums, galleries, educational institutions, community groups, curators, scholars and diverse public audiences. In addition, Vtape has invested significant resources to increasing the awareness of Aboriginal media arts production.

The organization is seeking funding to transform a space into a climate controlled facility to preserve and protect access to an important collection of video artworks and a new space for public presentation, education, appreciation and critical engagement. A capital grant of \$45,000.00 is recommended, representing 24% of the total project costs.

Disbursements:

The grant recipients receive 90 percent of their Culture Build grant in advance of undertaking their project 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 City's commitment to issue a grant is null and void should the organizations' status change from the eligibility criteria.

CONCLUSION

This is the tenth year of the Culture Build Investment Program and demand for the program remains high. The program's investment in state of good repair projects of cultural facilities across the city directly contribute to the City's policy objective of ensuring a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space.

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ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Summary of 2015 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Attachment No. 1
Summary of 2015 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Organization	Amount Requested (%) of the Total Project Cost	Amount of Allocation Recommended	Nature of Request for Funding
<p>A Space Gallery 401 Richmond Street West (Richmond Street W. & Spadina) Ward 20</p>	<p>\$16,649 (50%) of \$33,299</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$16,600</p>	<p>Significant upgrades to facilities including space reduction and utility upgrades; rebuild of office and reception areas; kitchenette; storage of archival records; floor refinishing; ceiling and duct repair as well as front entrance resulting in improved existing space and reduced operating costs.</p>
<p>Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto 5183 Sheppard Ave E. (Sheppard Ave. E. & Markam Rd.) Ward 42</p>	<p>\$37,124.70 (50%) of \$74,249.41</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">\$21,000</p>	<p>Within the Dr. Hin-Shiu Hung Art Gallery address: 1) wear and tear - repair roof, sand and refinish hardwood floor; patching and painting of ceiling wall (including damages caused by leaking) 2) improvements - installation of professional gallery hanging and tracks system; installation of efficient LED projection lights and tracks; new screen door between display area and emergency exit and adding a built in sound system and video projection system.</p>

<p>Coleman Lemieux & Compagnie 304 Parliament St. (Parliament & Dundas Street E.) Ward 28</p>	<p>\$50,000 (13%) of \$381,750</p>	<p>not recommended</p>	<p>Construct a three level addition at the back of the property. The ground level will be used as parking and storage, the second floor as a green room/dressing room for artists and community members who use the facility and the third floor as storage, which the facility is in great need of.</p>
<p>Contemporary Textile Studio Co-Operative 401 Richmond Street West # 109 (Richmond Street W. & Spadina) Ward 20</p>	<p>\$7,350 (45%) of \$14,700</p>	<p>\$7,350</p>	<p>Darkroom and ventilation of the main studio space.</p>
<p>Drum Artz Community Centre o/a Geary Lane 360 Geary Avenue (Dupont & Dufferin) Ward 17</p>	<p>\$46,443 (46%) of \$101,186</p>	<p>\$39,570</p>	<p>Conduct a Baseline Property Condition Assessment, upgrades to fire code standards, install security cameras, replace all 2nd floor windows, install floor tiles in upstairs kitchen, repair staircase for safety, replace damaged driveway at front and back of building, landscaping at main entrance (planters and trees), purchase and install sprung dance floor with a marley floor surface, LED lighting.</p>

<p>Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Academy</p> <p>401 Richmond Street West</p> <p>(Spadina & Richmond)</p> <p>Ward 20</p>	<p>\$40,900 (50%) of \$81,800</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>	<p>Replace specialized sprung dance floors in both large and small studio spaces, install a new professional grade sound system, create a performance area with theatre blacks (curtains), acquire a small professional LED lighting system and purchase folding chairs that are suitable seating for viewing performances. Purchase a video projector to be used both for studio performance and theatrical productions.</p>
<p>Gallery TPW O/A Toronto Photographers Workshop</p> <p>170 St. Helens Ave.</p> <p>(Bloor & Lansdowne)</p> <p>Ward 18</p>	<p>\$55,000 (14%) of \$410,613</p>	<p>\$12,500</p>	<p>Renovations of new space 3,300 square-foot warehouse including: floors, framing, electrical, drywall, painting, plumbing, glazing and doors; HVAC heating and cooling system; new electrical system; new track lighting system.</p>
<p>Harbourfront Centre</p> <p>235 Queens Quay W.</p> <p>(Lower Simcoe & Queens Quay W.)</p> <p>Ward 20</p>	<p>\$36,113 (50%) of \$72,227</p>	<p>not recommended</p>	<p>Upgrade and retrofit the HVAC system within the Fleck Dance Theatre</p>

<p>Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre</p> <p>6 Garamond Court</p> <p>(Don Mills & Eglinton Avenue E.)</p> <p>Ward 26</p>	<p>\$100,000 (46%) of \$217,631</p>	<p>\$39,000</p>	<p>Replacement of the faulty and aging boiler system; improvements to the capacity of, and to the safety and hygienic conditions in the two main dressing rooms; repair deteriorating concrete surrounding two entrances to cultural spaces; and repair of leaking windows and water-damaged walls in the building's Heritage Lounge.</p>
<p>Latvian Canadian Cultural Centre</p> <p>4 Credit Union Drive</p> <p>(Victoria Park Avenue & Eglinton Avenue E.)</p> <p>Ward 34</p>	<p>\$100,000 (50%) of \$200,000</p>	<p>\$25,000</p>	<p>Upgrade exterior wall; HVAC system replacement and retrofit; replace parking area asphalt; new fire doors to Riga Hall (main ballroom).</p>
<p>National Ballet School of Canada</p> <p>400 Jarvis Street</p> <p>(Carlton Street. & Jarvis Street)</p> <p>Ward 27</p>	<p>\$86,875 (50%) of \$173,750</p>	<p>not recommended</p>	<p>Repairs to concrete sidewalks and interlock paved driveway at the main entrance to the School.</p>

<p>Toronto's First Post Office 260 Adelaide Street East (Jarvis St.& King St. East) Ward 28</p>	<p>\$3,980 (50%) of \$7,961</p>	<p>\$3,980</p>	<p>Installation of doorbells and panic button; exterior signage; bathroom bars; kitchen sink/fridge/stovetop combination and improved lighting; permanent exhibit; flags (way-finding indicators for visitors and customers)</p>
<p>Toronto International Film Festival 350 King Street West (John Street & King Street) Ward 20</p>	<p>\$48,809 (39%) of \$124,906</p>	<p>\$35,000</p>	<p>Replace failing HVAC system; correct design flaws system in glass exterior within the Film Reference Library and Exhibition Space</p>
<p>Upfront Theatre Foundation 1290 Finch Avenue West (Keele Street. & Finch Avenue W.) Ward 8</p>	<p>\$50,000 (50%) of \$100,000</p>	<p>\$45,000</p>	<p>Renovate lobby and front office; upgrade to HVAC; create an arts hub on second floor that would include three office spaces, storage space and additional washroom; build a recording studio on first floor.</p>

Vtape 401 Richmond Street West #452 (Richmond Street W. & Spadina) Ward 20	\$60,538 (32%) of \$187,538	\$45,000	Turn facility into 1. A climate-controlled facility to preserve and protect access to collection of video artworks and 2. New space for public presentation, education, appreciation and critical engagement.
15 applications received – 12 grants recommended	\$739,782.00	\$330,000.00	