

## 2018 Culture Build Allocations

**Date:** April 20, 2018

**To:** Economic Development Committee

**From:** General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

**Wards:** All

### SUMMARY

---

The purpose of this report is to recommend the 2018 Culture Build Investment Program grant allocations for eight privately-owned cultural facilities. Funding for the Culture Build Investment Program was approved by City Council as part of the Economic Development and Culture Division's 2018 operating budget.

The Culture Build Investment Program provides matching funds to assist Toronto's not-for-profit cultural sector with state of good repair capital projects. The arts and cultural organizations that are supported by the program provide a wide variety of opportunities for Toronto residents to engage in the arts as creators, participants, volunteers or audience members.

The allocations recommended in this report are the result of a review of eligible applications by a peer advisory committee. All applications were received by the February 7, 2018 deadline and assessed by a four person committee according to established criteria. The program is administered in accordance with the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy as adopted by City Council.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

---

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, recommends that:

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

Organization	Funding Allocation
Canadian Music Centre	\$50,000.00
Caribbean Tales Inc.	\$3,884.00
Crow's Theatre	\$100,000.00
Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)	\$19,000.00

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre	\$44,224.00
Open Studio	\$50,000.00
Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises	\$19,892.00
Toronto Artscape Inc.	\$43,000.00
Total:	\$330,000.00

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

This report recommends the allocations of program funding for the Culture Build Investment Program to the eight above-mentioned cultural organizations.

The funding for the Culture Build Investment Program is included in the 2018 Approved Operating Budget of the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The Interim 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 Toronto'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 January 23, 2018, City Council approved the Operating Budget which included funding for the Culture Build Investment Program, to be administered by Economic Development and Culture Division.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.BU41.1>

## **COMMENTS**

---

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 funding meet the following program eligibility criteria:

- a) incorporated as a not-for-profit organization;
- b) located in the City of Toronto;
- c) have been in existence for a minimum of three years;
- d) own the facility or have at least five years remaining on their current lease at the time of applying to the program; and
- e) are not City-owned facilities.

Funding for feasibility studies may be provided to those organizations that meet the existing eligibility criteria. 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. In all cases, the City's grant does not exceed 50 percent of total project costs with matching funds coming from other levels of government, the private sector, and/or in-kind contribution.

The Culture Build Investment Program prioritizes small to mid-sized existing cultural facilities to provide matching funding for major repairs, renovations or improvements to buildings in order to bring them into a state of good repair. Projects include: retrofits to major repairs to basements, brickwork and roofs; heating and air conditioning; and upgrades to seating, lobbies, box offices, and public washrooms.

### **Review Process:**

Economic Development and Culture Division staff reviewed nine applications received by the February 7, 2018 deadline, and requested additional information or clarification where necessary. Refer to Attachment No. 1 for a complete list of received applications. The total amount of funds requested was \$382,040.00.

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 condition for creation, presentation, production, exhibition and preservation purposes.

Advisors were selected to represent a broad base of experience, building and construction expertise, and a general knowledge of the cultural sector. The peer advisors were: Beth Brown (Managing Director of Nightwood Theatre); Tom Finan (Senior Vice President, P. Eng. of JLL); Ryan Rice (Chair, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Studies at OCAD University), and Leah Ross (Senior Corporate Management and Policy Consultant, City Manager's Office).

### **Community Access and Outreach:**

In order to ensure the broadest possible benefit from program funding, 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 facilities by arts and culture organizations.

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

Crow's Theatre supports local arts and community groups by providing space for productions, fundraisers, workshops, and other activities for discounted or waived rental fees; and

Miles Nadal JCC is a founding partner of the Bloor Street Culture Corridor that includes the ROM, Hot Docs Cinema and the Royal Conservatory and hosts the REELAbilities Toronto Film Festival, the largest film festival in North America dedicated to presenting films by or about people with disabilities;

Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises (the 'Hub') has partnered with StreetARToronto to create a vibrant mural spanning the entire city block, participated in Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival as well as the Annual South Asian Festival and worked on fundraising for an art exhibition and live performance in support of Planned Parenthood.

**Summary Recommendations:**

Eight organizations have been recommended for funding by having clearly demonstrated state of good repair needs based on the criteria above.

The allocations recommended to the recipient organizations are:

Organization	Funding Allocation
Canadian Music Centre	\$50,000.00
Caribbean Tales Inc.	\$3,884.00
Crow's Theatre	\$100,000.00
Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto	\$19,000.00
Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre	\$44,224.00
Open Studio	\$50,000.00
Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises	\$19,892.00
Toronto Artscape Inc.	\$43,000.00
Total:	\$330,000.00

**Details of Recommendations:**

The following organizations and projects are recommended for funding:

1. Canadian Music Centre

Established in 1959, the Canadian Music Centre is committed to inspiring people through music creation, performance and educational programs. From its national and Ontario regional headquarters at Chalmers House, Canadian Music Centre blends the

roles and responsibilities of a respected national arts service organization, performance promoter, presenter, publisher and recording label.

An allocation of \$50,000.00 to purchase and install new, energy-efficient thermal-pane windows and doors to improve internal temperature control and enhance safety and accessibility is recommended, which represents 28 percent of the total project costs.

## 2. Caribbean Tales Inc.

Incorporated in 2001, Caribbean Tales' vision is to help build an inclusive Canadian society that celebrates the rich traditions of Caribbean heritage storytelling in film. The Caribbean Tales International Film Festival, held annually in Toronto, screens and promotes Caribbean-themed films and new media products so that general and diverse audiences could see themselves and their lives reflected on the screen.

An allocation of \$3,884.00 to install a security alarm and camera system; paint and plaster interior walls, install window/door coverings and built-in storage compartments in the office is recommended, which represents 28 percent of the total project costs.

## 3. Crow's Theatre

In January 2017, Crow's opened the doors to a new venue: Streetcar Crowsnest. Streetcar Crowsnest offers a dynamic spectrum of affordable contemporary theatre, arts events for all ages, as well as wide-ranging community programming and partnerships. The facility includes a 200-seat main theatre, a 90-seat studio, a lobby gallery, and support production and administrative areas.

An allocation of \$100,000.00 is recommended to complete capital work at the new theatre including improving administrative and production spaces, installing a new communications system as well as necessary exterior signage, which represents 50 percent of the total project costs.

## 4. Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT)

LIFT is an artist-run production and educational media arts organization dedicated to celebrating excellence in the moving image. With over 30 member organizations, LIFT provides public access to 180 workshops annually. LIFT also runs mentorship programs in partnership with ImagineNative, supporting emerging First Nation filmmakers in their first production, as well the Film Access Project, supporting deaf and disabled filmmakers through the production of their first work.

An allocation of \$19,000.00 is recommended for energy efficiency and accessibility improvements by updating the front vestibule, insulating office windows, adding an accessible, automated door and updating the kitchen facilities, which represents 50 percent of the total project costs.

## 5. Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre

For over 60 years, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (MNJCC) has been providing recreational, educational, and cultural programming to over 36,000 people each year. The centre provides lectures, film screenings, choirs, performing and visual arts and the Suzuki Music School.

An allocation of \$44,224.00 is recommended to revitalize the Al Green Theatre with removable seats and equipment that will allow the facility to be used for multi-purposes and will increase its accessible seating and accessible stage access. The proposed allocation represents 8 percent of the total project costs.

## 6. Open Studio

Open Studio is Canada's leading non-profit printmaking studio and gallery and is dedicated to the production, preservation and promotion of contemporary fine art printmaking. Open Studio encourages collaboration, creativity and discovery through practice, presentation, learning and community development.

An allocation of \$50,000.00 is recommended for state of good repair projects including replacing the main doors, lowering the front counter to become AODA compliant, improving the gallery layout and replacing gallery lighting, which represents 27 percent of the total project costs.

## 7. Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises

The Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises (Riverdale Hub) was founded in 2000 to address the lack of cultural, artistic and entrepreneurial programming opportunities available in Toronto's predominately South Asian community, Little India. In 2016, the Riverdale Hub doubled the number of art exhibitions they curated with a 48% increase in attendance. In 2017, the Hub continued to grow programming, seeing a further 25% increase in attendance through four art exhibitions and other events.

An allocation of \$19,892.00 is recommended to repair the concrete floor and renovate the ground floor into an art gallery space with an art suspension system, track lighting, hardwood floors and drywall installation, which represents 50 percent of the total project costs.

## 8. Toronto Artscape Inc.

One of the 11 cultural facilities operated by Artscape is Daniels Spectrum, a 60,000 square foot community cultural hub in Regent Park neighbourhood. Since 2012, Daniels Spectrum has served as a focal point for artistic performance, arts education, cultural expression, social innovation and community collaboration.

An allocation of \$43,000.00 is recommended for the Daniels Spectrum community cultural space to improve accessibility and security, which represents 50 percent of the total project costs. Artscape has proposed installing automatic doors at entrances and washrooms and security cameras on the exterior of the building.

## **Disbursements:**

All grant recipients sign a Letter of Agreement with the City confirming that the funds will be used for capital projects as described in this report. Grant recipients receive 90 percent of their funds in advance of undertaking their project with the balance to be issued upon submission of a final report. The first instalment is issued when matching funds are confirmed in writing. The final report includes a description of the completed project and a final budget with accompanying invoices. It is submitted within six months of project completion. Finally, the City's commitment to issue a grant is null and void should the organization's status change from the eligibility criteria.

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

## **CONTACT**

---

Patrick Tobin  
Director, Arts and Culture Services  
Tel: (416) 392-4166  
[Patrick.tobin@toronto.ca](mailto:Patrick.tobin@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Mike Williams  
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1: Summary of 2018 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Attachment 1  
Summary of 2018 Culture Build Investment Program Applications

Organization	Amount Requested	Amount of Allocation Recommended	Project Summary
1. Canadian Music Centre 20 St. Joseph Street, Toronto Ward 27	\$50,000.00 (28%) of \$181,353.00	\$50,000.00	The Canadian Music Centre requests funding to purchase and install new, energy-efficient thermal-pane windows and doors to improve internal temperature control and enhance safety and accessibility.
2. Caribbean Tales Inc. 454 Ossington Ave., Toronto Ward 19	\$5,925.00 of (50%) of \$11,850.00	\$3,884.00	Caribbean Tales seeks funding to install a security alarm and camera system; paint and plaster interior walls, install window/door coverings and built-in storage compartments in the office
3. Crow's Theatre 345 Carlaw Avenue, Toronto Ward 30	\$100,000.00 (50%) of \$200,000	\$100,000.00	Crow's theatre seeks funding to address state of good repair at the theatre including improving administrative and production spaces, installing a new communications system, improving lighting and way finding signage.
4. Dance Umbrella of Ontario 476 Parliament Street 2nd floor, Toronto Ward 28	\$50,000.00 (25%) of \$200,000.00	\$0.00	Dance Umbrella of Ontario requests funding to renovate office space and purchase equipment to accommodate growth of their staff.
5. Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto 1137 DuPont Street, Toronto Ward 18	\$19,000.00 (50%) of \$38,000.00	\$19,000.00	The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto seek to improve the energy efficiency and accessibility of their building by updating their front vestibule, insulating office windows, adding an accessible, automated door and updating kitchen facilities.



6. Miles Nadal JCC 750 Spadina Ave. Toronto Ward 20	\$44,224.00 (8%) of \$584,224.00	\$44,224.00	Miles Nadal JCC requests funding to revitalize the Al Green Theatre as a multi-purpose community space, with increased accessible seating and accessible stage access.
7. Open Studio 104-401 Richmond Street West, Toronto Ward 20	\$50,000.00 (27%) of \$182,474.00	\$50,000.00	Open Studio requests funding for state of good repair projects including replacing the main doors, lowering the front counter to become AODA compliant, improving the gallery layout and replacing gallery lighting.
8. Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises 1326 Gerrard Street East Intersection - Gerrard St. E. and Greenwood Ave. Ward 30	\$19,892.00 (50%) of \$39,784.00	\$19,892.00	Riverdale Immigrant Women Enterprises seeks funding to repair the concrete floor and renovate the ground floor into an art gallery space with an art suspension system, track lighting, hardwood floors and drywall installation.
9. Toronto Artscape 171 East Liberty St., Suite 224, Toronto Ward 19	\$43,000.00 (50%) of \$86,759.00	\$43,000.00	Artscape has requested funding for the Daniels Spectrum community cultural space to improve accessibility and security. Artscape has proposed installing automatic doors at entrances and washrooms and security cameras on the exterior of the building.
Total Organizations - 9	\$382,040.00 (25%) of \$1,524,444.00	\$330,000.00	