

2018 Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) Grant Allocation

Date: April 18, 2018

To: Economic Development and Culture

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

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

Allocation recommendations presented in this report are based on the review by Economic Development and Culture Division staff and an external peer advisory panel. Arts and Culture Services staff manage the program and reviewed the grant applications with due diligence and in compliance with the City of Toronto's Community Grants Policy adopted by Council at its July 16, 2013 meeting.

A total of \$1,705,400 is included in the Economic Development and Culture 2018 Approved Operating Budget to fund the six Local Arts Service Organizations. The recommended 2018 allocations represent a redistribution of \$23,500 (or 1.4% of the total program budget) to achieve greater equity in City support to the LASOs and to better reflect the relative performance of the LASOs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Economic Development and Culture Division's funding allocations totalling \$1,705,400 to six LASOs as follows:

Organization:	Funding Allocation:
Arts Etobicoke	\$424,295
Lakeshore Arts	\$295,430
Scarborough Arts	\$260,000
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$295,435
East End Arts	\$171,000
North York Arts	\$259,240
Total	\$1,705,400

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$1,705,400 for the Local Arts Service Organizations 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

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 the LASOs, among other funding in the same category assigned to Toronto Culture.

The four original LASOs were Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts, Scarborough Arts (formerly Scarborough Arts Council) and UrbanArts Community Arts Council (formerly Arts York). The two newer LASOs, North York Arts (2011) and East End Arts (2013), were formed per Recommendation 2.3 "Establish Local Arts Service Organizations in North York and East York" in Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto, adopted by Council in 2011, to broaden the LASOs' service area across the city outside of the downtown core.

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

At its meeting on February 17, 2016, City Council approved an increase of \$372,000 to the Local Arts Services Organizations grant budget, bringing it to the current total of \$1,705,400.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX12.2>

COMMENTS

Arts and Culture Funding Service Envelope for LASOs

Of the 2018 net budget for the Arts and Culture funding service envelope, \$1,705,400 is designated for allocation to the LASOs.

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. The LASOs provide services that are aligned with those of Arts and Culture Services at both the policy and operational levels. The LASOs strongly support the City of Toronto's work in underserved communities and geographic areas providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth, newcomers, LGBTQ2S individuals, seniors, and participants from a

broad demographic spectrum through services and programming customized to local needs.

2018 Grant Application Review Process

Arts and Culture Services staff reviewed the applications received by the February 12, 2018 deadline with due diligence.

A peer review panel was set up to review and assess the applications. Arts and Culture 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.

Panel members reviewed and discussed the applications based on the following assessment criteria: 1) cultural impact; 2) public impact; and 3) organizational resiliency and financial management.

In consideration of both the feedback from the peer assessment panel and EDC staff's analysis of the LASOs' funding applications, EDC staff recommend minor adjustments be made to the allocations from their 2017 levels. Recommendations include a reduction for 3.3% for both Arts Etobicoke and Scarborough Arts to ensure that program funds are more equitably distributed and to better reflect the relative performance of the LASOs. No significant disruptions to the service levels of the two LASOs facing minor funding reductions are expected. North York Arts will be granted an additional \$23,500 to allow for the expansion of its programming scope and extended reach to underserved communities.

Summary of Allocations:

Organization	2017 Grant	2018 Grant	\$ change	% change	City Funding as a % of the organization's operating budget
Arts Etobicoke	\$438,795	\$424,295	-\$14,500	-3.3%	50.7%
Lakeshore Arts	\$295,430	\$295,430	\$0	0%	33.6%
Scarborough Arts	\$269,000	\$260,000	-\$9,000	-3.3%	40.7%
UrbanArts	\$295,435	\$295,435	\$0	0%	24.4%
East End Arts	\$171,000	\$171,000	\$0	0%	38.7%
North York Arts	\$235,740	\$259,240	+\$23,500	+10%	25.0%
Total	\$1,705,400	\$1,705,400	\$0	0%	Average: 35.5%

The LASOs provide a variety of creative opportunities for residents of Toronto and contribute to vibrant community arts 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 part of the daily fabric of community living. The minor changes in allocations between LASOs is intended to achieve greater equity in funding, reflect the size of the communities served and reflect the relative performance of the LASOs, ultimately strengthening the LASOs network as a whole.

CONTACT

Patrick Tobin
Director, Arts and Culture Services
Tel: 416-392-4166
Fax: 416-392-5600
Email: Patrick.Tobin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Williams
General Manager, Economic Development & Culture