



REPORT FOR ACTION

Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) - 2019 Grant Allocations

Date: May 3, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

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

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

A total of \$1,817,400 is included in the Economic Development and Culture 2019 Approved Operating Budget to fund six LASOs. The recommended 2019 budget to be allocated in this Report represents an increase of \$112,000 (or 7% increase over the 2018 total program budget) to support the valuable arts programming and services provided by the LASOs, while achieving greater equity in funding distribution and to fairly reflect the relative performance of the LASOs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve funding allocations totalling \$1,817,400 to six Local Arts Service Organizations as follows:

Organization:	Funding Allocation:
Arts Etobicoke	\$436,295

Organization:	Funding Allocation:
Lakeshore Arts	\$313,430
Scarborough Arts	\$282,000
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$315,435
East End Arts	\$183,000
North York Arts	\$287,240
Total	\$1,817,400

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$1,817,400 for the Local Arts Service Organizations program is included in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget of the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer 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 March 7, 2019, City Council approved an increase of \$112,000 to the Local Arts Services Organizations grant budget, bringing it to the current total of \$1,817,400.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX2.5>

The Toronto Grants Policy was adopted by City Council in 1998. Amendments to the policy were made in 2008 and in 2013, when the policy was renamed the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2008.CD16.6>

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX32.1>

COMMENTS

Functions of the City's Economic Development and Culture Funding for LASOs

The Economic Development 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 the Division 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.

2019 Grant Application Review Process

Economic Development and Culture Division staff thoroughly reviewed the applications received by the February 25, 2019 deadline.

A peer review panel was set up to review and assess the applications. Economic Development and Culture Division 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 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 staff analysis of the LASOs' funding applications, Economic Development and Culture Division staff recommend increases to be made to the LASO allocations from 2018 levels as follows.

Summary of Recommended Allocations:

Organization	2018 Grant	2019 Grant	\$ change	% change	Percentage of operating budget*
Arts Etobicoke	\$424,295	\$436,295	\$12,000	2.8%	44.5%
Lakeshore Arts	\$295,430	\$313,430	\$18,000	6.1%	35.6%
Scarborough Arts	\$260,000	\$282,000	\$22,000	8.5%	46.2%
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$295,435	\$315,435	\$20,000	6.8%	32.8%
East End Arts	\$171,000	\$183,000	\$12,000	7.0%	52.8%
North York Arts	\$259,240	\$287,240	\$28,000	10.8%	37.3%
Total	\$1,705,400	\$1,817,400	\$112,000	6.6%	Average: 41.5%

*City funding as percentage of the LASO's total operating budget, projected for 2019

The LASOs provide a large 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 communities 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 2019 grant allocations are based on ranking by the peer review committee, consideration of per capita and geographic coverage and in bringing the newer LASOs to a more equitable share in the portfolio. These new funds will further support their work in the community, achieve greater equity in funding, and reflect the relative performance of the LASOs, ultimately strengthening the LASOs network as a whole.

CONTACT

Patrick Tobin, Director, Arts and Culture Services, Economic Development and Culture
416-392-4166, Patrick.Tobin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Williams
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture