

December 4, 2020

RE: Building Back Stronger: Report of the City of Toronto's Economic and Culture Recovery Advisory Group

Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

I am pleased to submit the final report of the City of Toronto's Economic and Culture Recovery Advisory Group for your consideration.

Together with Co-Chair Blake Goldring, I convened this group of 20 remarkable community leaders to identify actions and priorities for Toronto's long-term economic and cultural recovery. Our report includes 18 recommendations that are grouped into four key areas: economic recovery, anti-racism and inclusion, workforce and talent, and arts and culture. Each of these areas is critical to our ongoing recovery efforts, and will position us to build back stronger – with a renewed economy, a dynamic, revitalized arts scene, and opportunities for all Torontonians, in all corners of the city. They also build on and complement the important work of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild.

Over the last nine months, we have seen partners in business, culture, and government come together like never before to face the challenges presented by COVID-19. Toronto entered this crisis from a position of economic strength made possible by the innovation, diversity and goodwill of our city's business and cultural communities. The road ahead will not be easy, but I am confident that together with partners in business and culture, we will build a more prosperous, resilient and successful Toronto.

I encourage you to support the following recommendation to begin the implementation process for these important actions.

Recommendation:

That:

1. City Council forward the report from the City of Toronto's Economic and Culture Recovery Advisory Group to the City Manager for review and implementation as part of the City of Toronto's ongoing COVID-19 recovery efforts.



Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Deputy Mayor
Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee
Councillor, Ward 21, Scarborough Centre

Attachment 1 - Building Back Stronger: Report of the Economic and Culture Recovery Advisory Group