



LAKESHORE ARTS

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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
THROUGH ART

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat

Delivered by email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of **Lakeshore Arts**, I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

Now in its 29th year Lakeshore Arts is a not-for-profit local arts service organization (LASO) that uses the arts as a means to engage, entertain, educate and inspire. Our mandate encourages us to be inclusive; our programming offers something for any age, skill level and interest.

As an organization we rely heavily on Bingo funding to support many of our arts programs including our Youth Climate Collective, a mentorship program for youth ages 12-16 that explores the intersection of art and activism and the role of creativity in tackling the climate crisis - last year alone over 15 youth mentees participated in this program. Bingo also supports our Elements of Theatre program which is a partnership between LSA and Community Living and Write by the Water a 5-part writing workshop series for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) creatives ages 18 to 65+, to express themselves through storytelling and the written word.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx,

the Delta St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, be removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Watson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley Watson
Executive Director, Lakeshore Arts

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