TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM3.7	ACTION			Ward: 28

Release of Section 37 Funds, 55 Mill Street (390 Cherry Street), for Artscape Studios and Young Centre for the Performing Arts in Distillery District - by Councillor Pam McConnell and seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

**** Notice of this Motion has been given.***
**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Toronto and East York Community Council. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.***

Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell and Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam recommend that:

1. City Council increase the Community Partnership and Investment Program's 2011 Interim Operating Estimates, administered by Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, by $286,152.94, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits related to 55 Mill St. (390 Cherry St.) (source: Account 220096), for the following purposes.

    a. to provide a one-time grant of $143,076.47 to the Young Centre for the Performing Arts toward capital improvements related to the Young Centre for the Performing Arts in the Distillery District; and

    b. to provide a one-time grant of $143,076.47 to Toronto Artscape for capital improvements related to the Artscape Distillery Studios located in Building No. 74 and the third floor of Building Nos. 58/59 at 55 Mill Street in the Distillery District.

2. The required funding of $286,152.94 be forwarded to the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and Toronto Artscape, respectively, upon the signing by each organization of a separate Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary

The redevelopment of the Distillery District was first approved by the former City of Toronto in May, 1994. In March, 2009, the Ontario Municipal Board approved revisions to the redevelopment resulting in zoning By-law 5-2010(OMB), which set out Section 37 community benefits for the City. Among the large list of benefits was $350,000 for each of Toronto

Artscape and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, for capital improvements to their Distillery District facilities. These Section 37 payments were indexed to inflation and phased in three installments related to building permits for the phased development, and the first such indexed installment of $143,076.47 for each organization has been received. The second installment is anticipated in about 1 year from now.

Artscape has a 20-year head lease on 50,000 square feet of space in the Case Goods Warehouse and the Cannery buildings in which are provided the Artscape Distillery Studios. These 60 studios provide work and retail studios for artists in all media, offices for non-profit arts organizations, rehearsal and performance spaces, and galleries, serving approximately 300 artists and workers directly and benefiting thousands more artists, students and audiences indirectly.

Young Centre for the Performing Arts is a joint venture of Soulpepper Theatre Co. and George Brown College, incorporated as a registered charity with a 120-year lease. Anchored by the presence of Soulpepper's year-round classical repertory and George Brown College's Theatre School, the Young Centre provides a home for artists and arts organizations across all performance disciplines.

Artscape and the Young Centre will each sign an Undertaking governing the purpose of the funds and financial reporting requirements, prior to the funds being forwarded from the City.

(Submitted to City Council on February 7, 2011 as MM3.7)