

**Community Arts Action Plan for Toronto:
Suggested Actions for the next Community Arts
Action Plan from the External Advisory
Committee**

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Based on the success the 2008-2012 of the Community Arts Action Plan for Toronto and identified current gaps in the sector, the External Advisory Committee believes that the more work is still needed to further address those gaps and grow the sector. The suggested actions are:

1. Create more accessible space for community arts across the city.

Actions:

- 1.1 Cultural Services work with partners to prioritize developing and implementing the Cultural Hot Spot recommendation from the Creative Capital Gains Report, to celebrate cultural activity in Toronto's neighbourhoods and to promote neighbourhoods as cultural destinations.*
- 1.2 Cultural Services continue to explore opportunities to promote access to physical space for community arts activities based on community suggestions gathered through the ward-by-ward community infrastructure consultations with the public, facilitated by Cultural Services to compile the cultural spaces inventory.*
- 1.3 Cultural Services continue to facilitate partnerships to expand the use of public as well as privately-owned space for community arts activities and events.*

2. Enhance sustainable funding for community arts

Actions:

- 2.1 City Council review the use funds collected through the Billboard Fee to address identified service gaps in the community arts sector.*
- 2.2 Cultural Services work with funders and community partners to support programs that would enhance the youth arts business and youth arts social enterprise sectors.*
- 2.3 Recognizing the leadership of Toronto Arts Council in developing capacity for community arts, increase funding levels to TAC grants*

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programs. Increased funding to TAC would make it possible to assist with equitable funding for underserved communities, including seniors and youth, and an enhanced Community Arts Grants portfolio.

3. Raise the profile of the community arts sector

Actions:

- 3.1 Cultural Services work with partners to create a Community Arts Cultural Ambassador/Champion program (similar to the Poet Laureate program) whereby the "ambassador/champion" will take on specific roles to raise awareness and support for Toronto's community arts sector.
- 3.2 Cultural Services continue to support and promote community arts events and initiatives that provide career and employment opportunities for youth, as well as feature Toronto's thriving culture in diverse neighbourhoods.

4. Create effective mechanisms for sharing resources

Actions:

- 4.1 City Council provide funding to support the development of a central network for community arts groups and artists to connect, raise profile, share information and leverage their resources, specifically to
 - a. Provide funding to support a mobile website for the central network, making it easier to promote and access community arts information.
 - b. Provide funding to create an iOS/Android mobile app for the central network, thereby providing an easy "on ramp" for accessing community arts information.
- 4.2 Cultural Services work with partners like Toronto Public Library, TTC, LASOs, neighbourhood malls to create a "springboard program" where QR codes (quick response codes) can be placed in strategic locations, so the public, tourist, artists and anyone who has the impetus to look for arts info can use a smartphone to scan a QR code and be directly springboarded to the information.

CONCLUSION

The External Advisory Committee believes that the above suggested actions are an effective means for the City to "take leadership in convening its divisions and agencies with community art leaders on a regular basis to solve common problems, generate peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and help to build the capacity of the sector" (Creative Capital Gains, p. 20).

Community Arts Action Plan for Toronto: Members of the External Advisory Committee

The External Advisory Committee was convened by Toronto Cultural Services in 2012 to review progress and outcomes of the 2008-2012 Community Arts Action Plan. Committee Members included:

1. Mahlikah Aweri

Founding Member of Red Slam Collective

2. Kayode Brown

Executive Director, JustBGRAPHIC

3. Margo Charlton

Margo Charlton, Research Manager at Toronto Arts Foundation

4. Kiana Eastmond

Founder and Executive Director of Chips

Winner of the 2011 ArtReach Pitch Contest, Youth Arts Entrepreneur Category

5. Liz Forsberg

Managing Director, Art Starts

6. Julie Frost

Executive Director, Arts for Children and Youth

East End Arts Community Working Group

7. Louise Garfield

Executive Director, Arts Etobicoke

8. Adonis Huggins

Program Director, Regent Park Focus

9. Naseeb Hussain

Assistant Director, JustBGRAPHIC

10. Lila Karim

Managing Director, North York Arts

11. Marlene McKintosh

Executive Director, UrbanArts Community Arts Council

12. Susan Nagy

Executive Director, Lakeshore Arts

13. Dameion Royes

President/CEO of Big It Up International, Co-founder of "Shoot With This," a film mentorship collective for youth

14. Noora Sagarwala

Managing Director, Manifesto Community Projects

15. Lorrie Ann Smith

Manager of Public Programs and Audience Development, Art Gallery of Ontario

16. Andrew Suri

Grants Officer, Toronto Arts Council, Community Arts Program

17. Tim Whalley

Executive Director, Scarborough Arts