

Community Arts Action Plan for Toronto

*Stories of Innovation and
Success: What happens
when you plan*

Manifesto Community Projects: Manifesto Festival



2007 Youth Arts Pitch Contest Winner

Travis Blackman



“I’m at the point in my career where I’m at the beginning of where I want to be. My foot’s in the door , now I have to see what I can do with my feet instead of trying to get in...”

Emerging Youth Artist Pop Up Residency Toronto Ferries



Arts for Children and Youth

2011

Revitalization of Toronto's Jack Layton Ferry Terminal



Shore Stories
2012

Arts for Children and Youth



The Bridging Festival



Since 2010

Above and under the Lawrence Avenue bridge
Scarborough Arts

beats.mind.movement: the business of music



UrbanArts Community Arts Council

Created musical pathways engaging First Nations youth & communities across Canada



Red Slam Collective



Since 2008

Neighbourhood Arts Network



Since 2010



**Toronto Arts Foundation &
Art Starts**

Thank you

Looking into the future...

*Suggested
actions*

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

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.
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.
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

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

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.
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 resource sharing

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.

2. Cultural Services work with partners like TPL, TTC, LASOs, and 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.