
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM16.2	ACTION			Ward:28
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Release of Section 37 Funds, 55 Mill Street (390 Cherry Street), for Artscape Studios and Young Centre for the Performing Arts in the Distillery District - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2012 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$286,843.20 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits related to 55 Mill Street (390 Cherry Street) (source: Account 220096), for the following purposes:
 - a. to provide a one-time grant of \$143,421.60 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 \$143,421.60 to Toronto Artscape for capital improvements related to the Artscape Distillery Studios located in Building No. 74 and the third floor of Buildings Nos. 58/59 at 55 Mill Street in the Distillery District.
2. City Council direct that the funding 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 second such indexed installment of \$143,421.60 for each organization has been received.

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 Company 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 6 and 7, 2012 as MM16.2)

Background Information

Member Motion MM16.2