

2013-2017 Community Arts Action Plan for Toronto

APPENDIX 1: The Local Arts Service Organization strategy: initial intentions, initial funding and significant funding changes since the strategy's inception

Background

Prior to amalgamation, local arts councils received funding from their respective municipalities and Metro Toronto.

Through Clause No.3, Report No. 24 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on November 25, 26, and 27, 1998, the City established the role of the Culture Division in the delivery of the Arts and Cultural Grants Program including administering arts grants to the local arts councils and the Arts Toronto Arts Awards Program.

In 1998, Arts Toronto's grant for the Toronto Arts Awards was a miscellaneous annual line item in the Consolidated Grants Budget. In 1999, funds that were allocated to Arts Toronto were transferred to the Cultural Grants Program for administration and review. In 1999, the grant envelope for the LASOs and Arts Toronto totalled \$273,570.00.

The Origin of the Local Arts Service Organizations

The local arts councils, later called Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) included: Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts, Scarborough Arts Council, now Scarborough Arts and Arts York, now UrbanArts Community Arts Council. Arts East was part of the LASO grant program from 2000-2001. It then dissolved as an official entity and merged with Scarborough Arts Council.

Arts Toronto was part of the LASO grant envelope from 1999-2003. It merged with the Toronto Arts Council Foundation, now Toronto Arts Foundation since both organizations offered arts awards program.

Local Arts Service Organizations are membership-based service organizations with a mandate to enhance their communities by providing arts access programming and serving the needs of local artists and arts organizations.

Initial intentions

The City of Toronto's initial intentions were to provide support to the LASOs for arts programming in their geographic areas to complement programs and services provided by the Culture Division (now Cultural Services).

Current intentions

The LASOs are positioned as anchor community arts organizations that provide services aligned with those of Cultural Services at both the policy and operational levels. In addition to serving their membership, general public and geographic areas, they strongly support the City of Toronto's work in priority neighbourhoods and underserved geographic areas providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth and participants from a broad demographic spectrum through their services and programming customized to local needs.

Each LASO is as unique as the community that it serves and is characterized by spontaneity to community changes; no two are exactly alike. However, the LASOs share the common goal of serving the diverse needs in their community and across Toronto, making the arts, in all its diverse forms, broadly accessible and affordable.

Funding Allocation from 1999-2012

Funding Level	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Arts Etobicoke	\$227,530	\$227,530	\$227,530	\$223,070	\$218,700	\$193,700	\$161,400
Lakeshore Arts	97,840	97,840	97,840	95,920	94,040	72,040	44,040
Scarborough Arts	113,405	113,405	113,405	111,180	109,000	87,000	82,800
UrbanArts	94,635	94,635	94,635	92,780	90,960	74,960	53,960
Arts East	Defunct organizations						
Arts Toronto							
Total	\$533,410	\$533,410	\$533,410	\$522,950	\$512,700	\$427,700	\$342,200

Funding Level	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Arts Etobicoke	\$159,000	\$155,000	\$151,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$144,570
Lakeshore Arts	41,200	33,200	24,200	21,500	21,500	21,500	15,000
Scarborough Arts	81,000	77,000	75,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	64,000
UrbanArts	49,000	40,000	35,000	33,700	28,000	28,000	25,000
Arts East	0	0	0	0	3,500	3,500	0
Arts Toronto	0	0	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	25,000
Total	\$330,200	\$305,200	\$305,200	\$305,200	\$303,000	\$303,000	\$273,570

Over the course of 14 years, the grants envelope for the LASOs grew from \$273,570 to \$533,410 an increase of 94.98%. Significant increases were made from 2006-2008 as part of Cultural Services' effort to implement Recommendation 43 of the *Culture Plan*: "The Culture Division will develop a strategy to help LASOs (Local Arts Service Organizations) provide services to a broader range of communities and arts groups in every part of the city."

Current funding situation

In 2013 the LASO grants envelope expanded to a total of \$833,410 including \$100,000 to each new LASOs, North York Arts and East End Arts to address Recommendation 2.3 of the *Creative Capital Gains* report, endorsed unanimously by Council in May 2011, to "Establish Local Arts Services Organizations in North York and East York."