

## **Creative Capital Gains: Making Space for Culture Phase One (Implementation Action #10)**

<b>Date:</b>	Oct 21, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Economic Development Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on Phase One of the Making Space for Culture project. The project was undertaken to address one of the key recommendations of the Creative Capital Gains report: "that the City ensure a supply of affordable, sustainable, cultural space."

Twenty of forty-four wards were consulted through public meetings and an online survey. Existing community cultural infrastructure was mapped and verified to provide baseline data to prioritize and guide decision-making around future investment in cultural infrastructure. Phase One of the project was completed in the spring of 2013.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:**

1. The report titled: "Securing Cultural Benefits: Approaches to the Use of Section 37 for Arts and Culture facilities" produced by R.E. Millward and Associates in association with Lord Cultural Resources be forwarded to the Chief Planner, for consideration as part of the City's overall Section 37 review; and
2. Cultural Services be directed to submit a final report in 2014 following the completion of Phase Two of the Making Space for Culture project.

## **Financial Impact**

Recommendations will have **no** financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2013 Cultural Services' budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

In May of 2011, City Council unanimously endorsed "Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto" which included as a key recommendation that the City "ensure a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.ED3.3>

Three actions recommended in the report are addressed through this project.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Ensuring a supply of affordable, sustainable cultural space for all citizens of Toronto is a key policy objective of the City. In the past decade, investment in the development of cultural infrastructure in the city has been concentrated in downtown Toronto where many of the established cultural institutions and most of the cultural industries are located. Previous mapping of cultural facilities inventory concentrated on the professional arts and culture sector.

However, cultural participation happens in every ward and in spaces that are not necessarily used for cultural activities exclusively. Making Space for Culture is a research and planning project that seeks to gain an understanding of cultural spaces at the Ward level. Phase One of the project, undertaken in 2012 and early 2013 addressed three actions recommended in Creative Capital Gains Report:

- a) Action 1.3: Direct Cultural Services to work with other agencies (Libraries, Parks, Forestry and Creation, the Toronto District School Board, etc.) and Toronto's City-owned museums to create an inventory of spaces across the city and promote the use of these existing spaces for community cultural use;

- b) Action 1.5: Provide City Councillors with a ward-by-ward community cultural infrastructure priority list to guide their Section 37 funding allocations. This will require updating the cultural spaces inventory and collaborating with City Planning.
- c) Action 6.6: Expand awareness and understanding about existing City financing tools (Section 37, TIEGS, etc.) to the cultural community.

In order to develop cultural participation across the city, a clear picture of what is going on where at the neighbourhood level is necessary. Making Space for Culture was undertaken to capture a fuller picture of cultural spaces in the city and the priorities for future investment in cultural infrastructure.

## **COMMENTS**

In 2011, Cultural Services applied to the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund, a program of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport to undertake 20 ward consultations, update the existing cultural facilities inventory, and create a primer on how Section 37 works for non-profit cultural organizations. The application was successful and the City received a grant of \$73,100 towards the project.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives of Economic Development & Culture; Toronto Public Libraries; Parks, Forestry & Recreation; Planning; and the Toronto Arts Council was convened to oversee the project. An RFP for a consultant was issued and Lord Cultural Resources was the successful proponent.

Phase One of the project began in January 2012 with the updates to the existing cultural facilities database, and a review of mapping undertaken in 2006 as part of the "From the Ground Up" report on a Cultural Location Index for the city. The first 20 wards were selected according to the following criteria: 1) geographical spread 2) whether the ward had a first-term councillor; 3) the number of development applications registered with City Planning; and 4) the ward's ranking as low, medium or high on the Cultural Location Index. The project sought information from every part of the city and with varying levels of cultural activity.

Ten public consultations were held in the Spring of 2012 and another ten were held in the Fall of 2012. A full list of the 20 wards consulted and the ward summaries are included in the attached report.

Phase Two of Making Space for Culture is under way. Ten additional public meetings were held in the Spring and Summer of 2013, and the final fourteen meetings are taking place this fall. Phase Two is scheduled to be complete by December 2013.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

Michael H. Williams  
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

## **ATTACHMENT**

- Attachment 1: Making Space for Culture – Community Consultation Summaries, Phase One
- Attachment 2: Securing Cultural Benefits: Approaches to the Use of Section 37 for Arts and Culture Facilities