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2013 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Funding Local Arts Services Organizations (LASOs) Equitably

Issue / Background:

At the meeting of the Budget Committee on December 3, 2012, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture was requested to provide a briefing note on funding for Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) across the City, the funding per capita in each of the four districts, and that the briefing note provide options for equitable funding for local arts without decreasing funding to existing LASOs.

Key Points:

- Currently, there are four City-funded LASOs: **Arts Etobicoke**, **Lakeshore Arts**, **Scarborough Arts**, and **Urban Arts**. Total City funding in 2012 was \$533,410. Details are provided in a Chart on the next page.
- Recommendation 2.3 of the *Creative Capital Gains* report, endorsed unanimously by Council in May 2011, is explicit, "Establish Local Arts Services Organizations in North York and East York."
- **North York Arts** is not currently funded by the City. North York Arts is North York's LASO, and it is a program of the Toronto Arts Foundation (TAF). The TAF is a sister organization of the Toronto Arts Council and a registered charity. The TAF received private funds to oversee the development of the organization until the new LASO had the capacity to function independently but there is no ongoing, sustained funding with the TAF. In 2011, a Managing Director of North York Arts was hired with private funds. More information is available at <http://www.northyorkarts.org/>.
- **East End Arts** is not currently funded by the City. East End Arts is in development as a LASO to serve the areas of former East York and Toronto and the Danforth and Beaches areas. A working group has been established and has been meeting regularly to develop the workplan and the business plan.
- Providing \$100,000 in operational funding in 2013 would allow the TAF/North York Arts to support programming and provide service levels that would come closer to approaching the service levels provided by the established LASOs.
- With \$100,000 in operating funding in 2014, East End Arts would be able hire its first staff person and begin to implement the business plan.
- City funding to the LASOs is matched 3 to 1 by other sources of revenue.

- New funding to support the LASOs would need to be secured through an increase in taxes inclusive of sign tax.

LASO	Date of Incorporation	Area Served and Estimated Population	2011 Allocation	2012 Allocation	2013 Allocation	2014 Allocation	Per Capita Investment (as of 2014)
Currently Funded							
Arts Etobicoke	1973	Central and North Etobicoke, approx 200,000	\$ 227,530	\$ 227,530	\$227,530*	\$227,530*	\$ 1.14
Lakeshore Arts	1997	South Etobicoke, approx pop 150,000	\$ 97,840	\$ 97,840	\$ 97,840*	\$ 97,840*	\$ 0.65
Urban Arts	1992	Former York, approx pop: 138,000	\$ 94,635	\$ 94,635	\$ 94,635*	\$ 94,635*	\$ 0.69
Scarborough Arts	1979	Scarborough, approx pop: 626,000	\$113,405	\$ 113,405	\$113,405*	\$113,405*	\$ 0.18
Proposed							
North York Arts	2013	North York, approx pop: 651,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ 0.15
East End Arts	2014	Former East York, Danforth and Beach approx 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$100,000	\$ 0.67
Total			\$533,410	\$533,410	\$658,410	\$733,410	

*subject to adjustment if there is additional funding available

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