

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM39.11	ACTION			Ward:All
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Creative Strategies for Sustaining Creative Capital - by Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** 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 Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to undertake a review of the current tax regime affecting properties owned and operated by Not-for-Profit Arts and Culture groups, and report back to Executive Committee on the feasibility of creating a new property tax class such that these properties are taxed at a rate similar to residential properties.

Summary

Toronto has a wealth of creative capital that contributes to our success as a livable city. Our cultural training centres, skilled workers, and great cultural institutions and festivals, create an unrivalled diverse cultural scene. These assets benefit the city in many ways.

The City's cultural sector helps us to attract and retain talent from around the world. Toronto's cultural economy contributes more than \$9 billion annually to Toronto's GDP and employs more than 130,000 people. Our culture sector employs six times as many workers than Ontario's aerospace industry and is roughly equivalent to the number of people employed in Ontario's automotive sector. Toronto's investment in the cultural economy creates jobs, wealth, innovation, social cohesion, civic identity and makes the city desirable to visitors and businesses.

In 2011, City Council unanimously endorsed the *Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto*, which provides strategic advice and recommendations for the support and growth of Toronto's cultural sector.

Some of the key challenges identified in *Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto* were access to affordable and sustainable space for cultural organizations and access to space and infrastructure for start-up cultural entrepreneurs.

Although the recommendations were focused on expanding space available throughout the City, we must also protect existing arts spaces. Spaces used by not-for profit arts and culture organizations and start-up cultural entrepreneurs are currently taxed at a standard commercial tax rate. These tax rates place significant pressure on small and emerging organizations and have been identified as a threat to sustaining existing arts and culture spaces.

(Submitted to City Council on October 8 and 9, 2013 as MM39.11)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.11