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## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:** Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

**Seconded by:** Councillor Gary Crawford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Walter A. Moos on June 15, 2013.

Walter's early years were spent in Germany, France, Switzerland and eventually New York City. In New York, Mr. Moos studied art history with Meyer Shapiro, an authority on contemporary works.

Walter A. Moos came from a long line of prominent art dealers dating back to 1899. His father had a gallery in Karlsruhe, Germany, the city where Walter Moos was born. His Uncle Max and his cousin Georges Moos operated galleries in Geneva, and another cousin, Wally, had a gallery in Montreal. Walter's son David carries on the tradition and is an independent art adviser and the former Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Walter moved to Toronto in 1959 and opened an art gallery on Avenue Road. It was one of the first galleries in Toronto to show not only contemporary Canadian art, but the work of international artists as well. It was during this time that Walter Moos discovered Ken Danby, and along with Karel Appel, these artists helped to promote Gallery Moos. In 1963, Walter purchased two adjoining houses on Yorkville Avenue and moved his gallery from Avenue Road.

Ken Danby describes Walter Moos as "positive and supportive". In 1964, Gallery Moos presented Danby's first one-man show, which promptly sold out. Danby is now recognized internationally as one of the world's foremost realist painters.

Walter Moos has been described as "a pioneer" in Toronto. He focused on "modern art" when it was extremely risky to do so. Early on he recognized and encouraged some of today's best-known artists. Walter Moos has introduced, or has shown to the City, a significant number of now well-known artists such as Karen Appel, Lester Johnson, Jean-Paul Riopelle, Antoní Tapiès, Michael Thompson, Ken Danby and many more.

Walter Moos was a member of Canadian Eskimo Arts Council from 1972-1982, and was Founder-Trustee of the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation. He pioneered the concept of the limited edition art book by publishing Ken Danby (1974) and Ken Danby: The New Decade (1984), both by Paul Duval, as well as Gershon Iskowitz: Painter of Light (1982), by Adele Freedman. Walter has been included in the Canadian edition of Who's Who in 1988, 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Walter Moos was a founding member of Art Dealers Association of Canada. He was president from 1971-1978, and chairman of the appraisal committee from 1972-1989.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Walter Moos.

July 16, 2013