



Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council

April 17, 2015

**Honourable Councillors of the
Community Development
and Recreation Committee:
Councillor James Pasternak, Chair
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Vice Chair
Councillor Ana Bailão
Councillor Jon Burnside
Councillor Josh Colle
Councillor Joe Mihevc**

Dear City Councilors and Committee Members,

The Hispanic Canadian Heritage Council (HCHC) is an umbrella organization constituted in 2008 by key organizations and individuals from the Hispanic/Latino community of Toronto with a long and proven history of working with the community since 1973. The HCHC is a non-profit organization established with the purpose to highlight and promote the contribution of Hispanic culture to the evolving fabric of Canadian Heritage.

The purpose of this letter is to express that we are highly disappointed with the resolution made for the Community Legacy Initiatives Fund, because we feel we were misinformed regarding the criteria and priorities of this funding.

Monday January 12, 2015 the City of Toronto sent out a letter describing the legacy funding which included the following paragraph:

“This fund will enhance the experience of the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games for residents and visitors. It will also advance the City's goals for economic development and tourism, sport development and healthy living, and resident engagement and cultural celebration.”

HCHC formulated a well-thought out proposal (“Encountering the Americas”), which addressed the economic development, tourism, resident engagement, and cultural celebration elements that had been stated in the original message sent out by the City. However, On April 14, we were informed, through the report from the Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, that our proposal had been rejected. The reason stated was that: “In a competitive context, (we) failed to demonstrate strong fit with program criteria”.

In a subsequent message sent by Jenn Miller, Manager, Community Funding, Social Development, Finance and Administration, as a response to an inquiry that Councilor Cesar Palacio had communicated on our behalf it was revealed that the funding recommendation was made with what clearly appears to be a different focus or purpose. The information sent to Councilor Palacio stated the following:

“The 11 collaborative projects that we are recommending to submit a full proposal for consideration, describe initiatives in relevant and priority issue areas including:

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- **increasing entrepreneurship opportunities for Black and Latin youth;**
- **strengthening educational attainment among Latin American and undocumented students;**
- **addressing systemic barriers related to mental health and child welfare within Black communities;**
- **increasing access to community space and recreation within Black and Latin communities; and,**
- **enhancing locally based food security solutions for Black and racialized communities”.**

Considering the clear discrepancy between the information above and what the City had originally communicated, the only conclusion that we can reach is that we were misled and misinformed. The evaluation and recommendation of proposals to fund is responding to a different focus or purpose from what was originally communicated. We feel that the proposal that we presented was not evaluated fairly and appropriately considering that it addressed most of the elements that the City had communicated.

Based on this conclusion, we would like to request a review of the decision.

We look forward to your response,

Sincerely,

Oscar Vigil

Executive Director of the HCHC

On behalf of:

Centre for Hispanic Speaking Peoples

Hispanic Development Council

Las Flores Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Hispanic Fiesta

Association of Spanish Speaking Seniors of Toronto

Latin American Education Network

Casa Cultural Colombiana

Hispanic-Canadian Journalists Network

Association of Ecuadorians in Ontario

CC:

Major John Tory

Councillor Cesar Palacio

Chris Brillinger

Jenn Miller