



CANADA'S MUSIC INCUBATOR

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Re: From Concept to Commercialization: A Startup Eco-System Strategy for the City of Toronto

Economic Development Committee,

Canada's Music Incubator at Coalition Music would like to formally endorse the vision and strategy being presented to develop, nurture and sustain small businesses in Toronto.

Based in Scarborough, over the past four years we have incubated 100+ artist startups in the research and development stages of their careers and businesses; provided over 2,000 hours of professional development and mentorship; and over 3,000 business connections leading to business and employment opportunities in the areas of live performance, studio production, video and online content and graphic design, among others.

We believe proposed initiatives like the Business Incubator Loan Fund, the Business Incubator & Accelerator Grant Fund and the Permanent Property Tax Break for Business Incubators are ideas that will help emerging creative entrepreneurs stay competitive while continuing to make Toronto a global leader in the development and sustainability of small businesses.

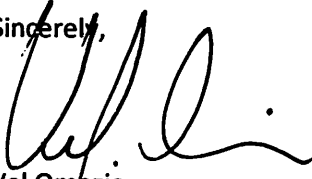
Considering the City's investment in music with the hiring of a Music Sector Development Officer last fall and the alliance with Austin, TX, we believe programs supporting artist startups in the R&D phase are an essential piece in the long-term success of Toronto's music strategy and, ultimately, an economic driver.

Canada's Music Incubator and Coalition Music have actively collaborated with the City of Toronto's Economic Development & Culture office by hosting the launch of the Starter Company program in July 2014. We are also proud to serve as mentorship partners and have two incubated artists/businesses actively immersed in the program.

In 2014, two artists/starter companies from "at risk" communities around the city were incubated via our Artist Entrepreneur program, and that number has been doubled for 2015 with the direct support of Economic Development & Culture.

Canada's Music Incubator and Coalition Music are encouraged to see the City's commitment to the growing and strengthening of the incubation/small business sectors, and we fully support the new startup ecosystem strategy on behalf of the creative entrepreneurs we work with in Toronto.

Sincerely,



Vel Omazic

Executive Director, Canada's Music Incubator at Coalition Music

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