



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

City of Toronto Application to UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Date:	June 15, 2015
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on June 10, 11 and 12, 2015, referred Motion MM7.13 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to coordinate with appropriate City divisions and cultural agencies across the City to seek to have the City of Toronto designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative City under their Creative Cities Network and City Council request the City Manager to report back to City Council in the 4th quarter of 2015 with a strategic plan to move forward on securing this significant cultural designation during the 2016 application process.

Summary

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) accepts applications each year under its Creative Cities Network. The Creative Cities Network recognizes successful applicant cities in seven categories including literature, cinema, music, craft and folk arts, design and media arts. Cities already successful as applicants include Edinburgh, Melbourne, Dublin, Iowa City, Glasgow, Santa Fe and Heidelberg among others. The rich diversity of Toronto's population and its vibrant and ever growing arts and culture community make it a prime candidate for the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The Creative Cities Network brings together 69 cities from 32 different countries that have "identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development." A successful application would assist in cementing Toronto's formidable place as one of the world's great artistic and cultural centres.