



# Councillor Frances Nunziata

Council Speaker

Ward 11 York South—Weston

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November 30, 2015

Dear Mayor and Members of the Executive Committee,

**Re: Item EY10.6: The Weston Community/Cultural Hub – Final Funding Report**

As I am unable to attend the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee in person, I am writing to ask that you adopt the recommendations before you to approve the funding model for the Weston Community/Cultural Hub ("the Weston Hub").

The Weston Hub is a project that I, together with the local community, have been working on for many years. The project before you is a direct result of the Weston 2021 Design Initiative ("Weston 2021") which was held in 2011 and was widely endorsed by the local community. It is a direct result of the vision for Weston developed by the 100-plus community members that participated in Weston 2021.

Weston 2021 informed the creation of the Weston 2021 Revitalization Strategy ("the Strategy"), adopted by City Council in March 2012. The Strategy identified "Quick Start Initiatives" and "Signature Initiatives" to help revitalize Weston Village; the development of a Creative/Cultural Hub, the project before you today, was one of the "Signature Initiatives."

Once completed, the Weston Hub will serve as an example of how, through redevelopment, the private and public sectors can come together to support a community's needs. The redevelopment of the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) lot at 22 John Street created the opportunity for a private developer, Rockport Group, to partner with Artscape for the construction of much-needed community space in Weston, and to provide 26 affordable live/work units for artists. The City, in redirecting development charges from the redevelopment of 22 John Street towards the construction of the Weston Hub, is crucial to making this project possible, as are the net proceeds of the sale of the TPA's lot at 22 John Street. In approving the funding report before you, we will not be foregoing revenue, but instead will be reinvesting it in the community from which it will originate, for the purpose of building much-needed community infrastructure.

The Weston Hub is a project that has seen City staff from across City Divisions work together with a common goal of executing this Weston 2021 "Signature Initiative." Over the past two years in particular, John Livey, Deputy City Manager, and Sean Gadon, Director, Affordable Housing Office have moved this project forward from the ambitious vision for a Weston Hub to the plan before you today. Without their leadership and foresight for the transformative effect this project will have on the Weston community we would not have come so far and for this, I commend them both.

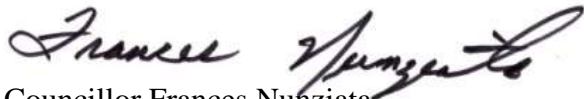
At the last meeting of Etobicoke York Community Council, when the final planning report for

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this project was considered, Community Council heard from many in Weston who communicated the hope they have for this project and how they believe it will help kick-start a positive change for Weston. They are excited to see Artscape become a part of the community and are optimistic about the role Artscape can play to assist in the revitalization of the Weston community.

I implore you to approve the recommendations for the funding of the Weston Hub and in doing so, to play a key role in the revitalization of Weston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frances Nunziata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'F' and 'N'.

Councillor Frances Nunziata  
Ward 11, York South-Weston