

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM8.6	ACTION			Ward:All
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Toronto Biennale of Art in 2017 to Mark Canada's Sesquicentennial - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Mayor John Tory

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to report to the Economic Development Committee meeting in the fall of 2015 on the feasibility of hosting a Toronto Biennale of Art as a key feature of Toronto's 2017 celebrations.

Summary

In 2017, Canada will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the British North America Act (now the Constitution Act, 1867) passed into law on July 1, 1867. This year-long celebration in 2017 will be an opportunity for Canadians across the country to reflect upon our rich history, natural beauty, and cultural diversity. As the country's most populous and diverse city, Toronto has a key role to play in celebrating this national milestone.

In 2014, City Council unanimously passed a motion directing the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to create a Toronto 2017 Planning Committee to begin forming partnerships, consulting with residents, residents associations, as well as private sector organizations in planning Toronto-based sesquicentennial initiatives, among other work to prepare for 2017.

Canada's sesquicentennial is the perfect opportunity to host a Toronto Biennale of Art. Toronto is home to world-class museums and public galleries, an expansive network of commercial art galleries, innovative art fairs, artist-run galleries, private art-friendly foundations, civic-minded art supporters, and some of the world's most lauded artists. Toronto is the ideal city with its dynamic and unique neighbourhoods to host a new multi-month, bi-annual arts festival showing the very best in Canadian and international contemporary visual arts.

As documented around the world from other cities who have developed their own biennales, Toronto will benefit culturally and economically by becoming an important destination in the

global arts market. Toronto's biennale could have a wide-ranging audience representing the general public and cultural industry professionals. This will help build global connections for our artists, contribute to the long-term economic development of Toronto's art market, and develop the reputation of our City as a prominent player in the international visual arts sector.

The Toronto Biennale will build a healthy cultural economy and support the broader objectives of Toronto's Creative Capital Gains report. This sesquicentennial initiative will channel our optimism and artistic ambitions to mark Toronto's arrival on the international stage as a global visual arts powerhouse.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.6