



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED  
with Confidential Attachment**

## **Appointment of First City of Toronto Photo Laureate**

<b>Date:</b>	February 1, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Economic Development Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reason for Confidential Information:</b>	This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable individual being considered for appointment as the City of Toronto Photo Laureate
<b>Reference Number:</b>	AFS - 22214

### **SUMMARY**

---

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of the first City of Toronto Photo Laureate. It recommends that City Council approve the candidate identified in Confidential Attachment No. 1 for a three-year term under the terms outlined in this report.

The position of The City of Toronto Photo Laureate honours a photographer recognized for excellent photography and whose work focuses on subjects that are relevant to the people who live in the city. Toronto's Photo Laureate advocates for photography and the visual arts, and uses his or her unique perspective to create a dialogue on contemporary issues.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:**

1. City Council appoint the selected individual named in Confidential Attachment 1 to the position of Photo Laureate for the City of Toronto, at the pleasure of Council, for a term ending on March 31, 2019, and until a successor is appointed.

2. The Economic Development Committee authorize the public release of the recommended candidate's name and biography contained in Confidential Attachment.

### **Financial Impact**

Funding for the Photo Laureate honorarium of \$10,000 per annum is included in the 2016 Arts and Culture Services base operating budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting, held on September 30, October 1 and 2, 2015, City Council directed the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture to develop a plan for the selection and appointment of a Photo Laureate for the City of Toronto in 2016.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.ED6.5>

At its meeting, held on May 6, 7 and 8, 2015, City Council adopted a motion to establish the position of "Photo Laureate of Toronto" on terms and conditions similar to that of the Poet Laureate.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.MM51.1>

At its meeting of March 12, 2001, City Council approved the duties and terms of the Poet Laureate, upon which the proposed terms of reference for the position of Photo Laureate are based.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2001/agendas/council/cc010424/edp3rpt/cl016.pdf>

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The following duties and terms for the Photo Laureate were approved by City Council at its meeting held on September 30, October 1 and 2, 2015.

#### **Duties:**

The Photo Laureate must be given the opportunity to work. The Photo Laureate will commit approximately 15 percent of his/her working time to duties as the Photo Laureate. The time is to be devoted to serving as Toronto's ambassador of visual and photographic culture at events that promote the photo and visual arts. The duties of the Photo Laureate do not include shooting photographs for civic occasions; the city employs staff for that purpose.

#### **Term:**

The term of the Photo Laureate is three years.

#### **Selection Criteria:**

The Photo Laureate must be a Toronto photographer who has produced a body of work that:

- (1) displays photographic excellence;
- (2) includes photographs of Toronto subjects; and

(3) has influenced other photographers.

The Photo Laureate must be willing to serve and have the ability to be an ambassador for photographers and the photographic arts.

**Remuneration:**

The Photo Laureate will receive an honorarium of \$10,000 per annum. Travel and incidental expenses associated with performing the Photo Laureate's duties shall come from that sum and will not be reimbursed. The City of Toronto gives the money to the Photo Laureate outright and will not audit expenses.

The Photo Laureate will develop a legacy project designed in co-operation with City staff and will be unique to the individual Photo Laureate. City staff will assist in finding resources to support the legacy project.

**Administrative Support:**

Administrative support includes a mailing address and support for routine office tasks and correspondence. It does not include secretarial assistance.

**Intellectual Property:**

Photographs produced during the tenure of the Photo Laureate remain the property of the individual, except for the Photo Laureate's legacy project, which becomes the property of the City art collection. The Photo Laureate retains moral and intellectual property rights over the legacy project works and may reproduce those works at his/her discretion.

**Publicity and Promotion:**

The City of Toronto undertakes to use its communication resources to promote the post of Photo Laureate. The City makes extensive use of its web page and will maintain a link within Toronto Arts and Culture's existing site.

**Selection Process:**

In keeping with the notion that the position of the Photo Laureate is an honour bestowed rather than a position of employment, photographers are not invited to apply for the position. A selection committee of experts will be convened prior to each Photo Laureate's term to nominate and recommend each appointment. The committee shall include the previous Photo Laureate plus four more individuals from the photo arts community.

## **COMMENTS**

In keeping with the notion that the position of the Photo Laureate is an honour bestowed rather than a position of employment, photographers are not invited to apply for the position. As such, in December 2015, an expert selection committee was assembled from the local photography/visual arts community to nominate a candidate. Members of the selection committee included Bonnie Rubenstein (Artistic Director, Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival), Kotama Bouabane (Photographer, Instructor,

OCADU), Louie Palu (award winning documentary photographer), Kenneth Montague (Curator/Director, Wedge Curatorial Projects) and Paul Roth (Director, Ryerson Image Centre). The selection committee relied on its expertise and consultation with the community to select a candidate; its recommendation is made with full agreement by staff in Arts and Culture Services.

Toronto has a strong and thriving photographic tradition. By creating the honorary position of City of Toronto Photo Laureate, Council reinforces support for this tradition and the city's photographic and visual arts community as a whole. It is the intention that through this confirmation, the City of Toronto can look forward to dynamic legacy project for the city.

## **CONTACT**

Terry Nicholson, Director, Arts and Culture Services  
Phone: 416-392-4166; Fax: 416-392-5600; E-mail: [tnichols@toronto.ca](mailto:tnichols@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

Michael H. Williams  
Economic Development and Culture

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Confidential Information