



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

2016 Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) Grant Allocation

Date:	April 20, 2016
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	General Manager, Economic Development and Culture
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS: 22215

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval on the recommended funding allocations for the six non-profit organizations that have applied for municipal support through the Local Arts Service Organizations (LASOs) grant program.

Allocation recommendations presented in this report are based on the review by Economic Development and Culture Division's Arts and Culture Services staff and an external peer advisory panel. Arts and Culture Services staff manage the program and reviewed the grant applications with due diligence and in compliance with the City of Toronto's Community Grants Policy adopted by Council at its July 16, 2013 meeting,

A total of \$1,705,400 is included in the Economic Development and Culture 2016 Approved Operating Budget to fund the six Local Service Arts Organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Economic Development and Culture Division's funding allocations totalling \$1,705,400 to six LASOs as follows:

Organization	Funding Allocation
Arts Etobicoke	\$438,795
Lakeshore Arts	\$295,430
Scarborough Arts	\$269,000
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$295,435
East End Arts	\$171,000
North York Arts	\$235,740
Total	\$1,705,400

Financial Impact

Funding of \$1,705,400 for the Local Arts Service Organizations program is included in the 2016 Approved Operating Budget of the Economic Development and Culture Division.

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

DECISION HISTORY

Through Clause No. 3, Report No. 24 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on November 25, 26 and 27, 1998, the City established the role of Toronto Culture in the delivery of funding in the Arts and Culture category for the LASOs, among other funding in the same category assigned to Toronto Culture.

The four original LASOs are Arts Etobicoke, Lakeshore Arts, Scarborough Arts (formerly Scarborough Arts Council) and UrbanArts Community Arts Council (formerly Arts York). The two newer LASOs, North York Arts (2011) and East End Arts (2013), were formed per Recommendation 2.3 "Establish Local Arts Service Organizations in North York and East York" in the *Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto*, adopted by Council in 2011.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.ED3.3>

At its meeting on June 10, 2014, City Council approved funding allocations of \$1,333,410 to the six LASOs.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.ED31.6>

There were no changes to the 2015 funding allocations to the six LASOs compared to 2014.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilAgendaReport&meetingId=9689>

At its meeting on February 17, 2016, City Council approved an increase of \$372,000 to the Local Arts Services Organizations grant budget, bringing it to a total of \$1,705,400.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilAgendaReport&meetingId=10870>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The arts are an integral part of a healthy culture, nourishing creativity and providing social and economic benefit. Community arts provide significant value to both communities and artists. The LASOs are community-based arts and cultural organizations that are essential to a vibrant community arts infrastructure for the City and are an important building block for healthy and cohesive communities. As incorporated charitable organizations dedicated to community engagement through the arts, the four established LASOs have sound financial management systems, governance structures, and solid, sustainable community outreach arts programming, activities and events. Public funding is necessary as the organizations are not fully self-supporting through private donations and self-generated income.

Two newer LASOs, North York Arts (formed in 2011) and East End Arts (formed in 2013) are emerging as local arts catalysts in their respective geographic areas per Recommendation 2.3 "Establish Local Arts Service Organizations in North York and East York" in the Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto, adopted by Council in 2011. Currently being incubated by the Toronto Arts Foundation, an incorporated (1995) non-profit charitable organization which aims to connect every Toronto neighbourhood with the transformative social economic benefits of the arts, the two new LASOs are part of the 2016 Local Arts Service Organization grant program.

The LASOs are Toronto's anchor community arts organizations that provide a wide spectrum of arts services and programming for their members and broader community, interacting with communities using all forms of art as the catalyst. LASO services and programming focus on arts education and outreach in Toronto's inner suburbs; support for a wide range of arts programming in the community; facilitation arts and business partnerships; and providing direct services to residents through networking opportunities, workshops, free resources, meeting space, and connections with partner and community organizations. Youth programs and services that help participants develop a creative voice, self-esteem and employment skills are a key focus of LASOs.

COMMENTS

Arts and Culture Funding Service Envelope for LASOs

Of the 2016 net budget for the Arts and Culture funding service envelope, \$1,705,400 is designated for allocation to the LASOs. (See Appendix 1 for descriptions of the Local Arts Service Organizations).

Functions of the City's Arts and Culture Funding for LASOs

The Arts and Culture funding for the LASOs provides a vehicle for the City to collaborate with these organizations and direct public funds to City priorities. The LASOs provide services that are aligned with those of Arts and Culture Services at both the policy and operational levels. The LASOs strongly support the City of Toronto's work in underserved communities and geographic areas providing inclusive opportunities for children and youth, newcomers, LGBTQ2S individuals, seniors, and participants from a broad demographic spectrum through services and programming customized to local needs.

The emerging LASOs aspire to perform similar roles as the established LASOs and are committed to enhancing access and opportunity for the general public, local residents, artists and arts organizations, by reaching out to diverse communities and building skills and capacity through the programs and services they will provide.

2016 Grant Application Review Process

Arts and Culture Services staff reviewed the applications received by the February 3, 2016 deadline with due diligence.

A peer review panel was set up to review and assess the applications through a peer assessment process. Arts and Culture Services staff selected panellists based on their ability to represent a broad base of experience and expertise as well as their general knowledge of the cultural sector and their involvement in various, geographic communities of the city. The panellists were Buseje Bailey, independent artist/arts educator; Lisa Brown, Founder and Executive/Artistic Director of the award-winning Workman Arts Project of Ontario; Patrick de Belen, ArtReach Grant Review Team, youth educator, speaker, and an award-winning spoken word artist; and Tiana Roebuck, multidisciplinary artist/arts educator, and currently, Manager of Artist & Community Activation at The Theatre Centre.

Panel members reviewed and discussed the applications based on the following assessment criteria: 1) Organizational capacity including operations and service delivery: governance, membership and participation; access and equity; and financial management; 2) Program effectiveness including vision/mandate; artistic quality; community impact and development; monitoring and evaluation; and accountability.

Summary of Allocations:

Organization	2015 Grant	2016 New Monies Allocation	2016 Grant	City Funding as a % of the organization's operating budget
Arts Etobicoke	\$374,795	\$64,000	\$438,795	46.1%
Lakeshore Arts	\$232,430	\$63,000	\$295,430	45.0%
Scarborough Arts	\$209,000	\$60,000	\$269,000	38.6%
UrbanArts Community Arts Council	\$232,935	\$62,500	\$295,435	32.7%
East End Arts	\$110,000	\$61,000	\$171,000	47.8%
North York Arts	\$174,240	\$61,500	\$235,740	38.0%
Total	\$1,333,400	\$372,000	\$1,705,400	Average: 40.7%

CONCLUSION

The LASOs provide a variety of opportunities for residents of Toronto through the arts and contribute to a vibrant community arts infrastructure in Toronto. With the common goal of serving the diverse needs in their community and across Toronto, the LASOs make the arts, in all forms, broadly accessible and affordable. Through their programs and services, community arts become very much part of the daily fabric of community living. The two new LASOs ensure a broader geographic coverage of arts programming and services across the city to further enhance access and opportunity in the arts for everyone in Toronto.

CONTACT

Terry Nicholson
Director, Arts and Culture
Tel: 416-392-4166
Fax: 416-392-5600
Email: tnichols@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Michael H. Williams, General Manager
Economic Development and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

1. Overview of Local Arts Service Organizations