



April 1st, 2016

Councillor Paul Ainslie, Chair
Government Management Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: GM11.11 - Below-Market Rent Renewal Lease Agreement with Franklin Carmichael Art Group at 34 Riverdale Drive (Ward 1)

Chair Ainslie and Committee Members,

The Franklin Carmichael Art Group (FCAG) has been a long standing institution in the Thistletown community (Ward 1) since 1952, formed by Dr. Ann Curtin. The groups mandate has been to provide quality art courses to the community of North Etobicoke.

It is a destination for local artists by providing affordable gallery space and art instruction on a heritage site to enhance and build upon the passionate arts and culture scene that exists in the immediate and neighboring communities.

Programs include a wide selection of quality educational programs and art exhibits in the visual arts. Courses include instruction in drawing, oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink mediums. Workshops are held through the year offering a variety of specialized topics such as abstract painting, wire sculpture, collage, pastel, palette knife painting and others. Summer programs consist of four week classes and the Children's Summer Camp in July and August.

The current FCAG lease with the City expires on November 30, 2016. I strongly encourage the Committee to support the recommendations from the Chief Corporate Officer and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture set out in GM11.11.

It is important that we authorize the extension of a Below Market Rent lease at 34 Riverdale Drive with the Franklin Carmichael Art Group, so that they can continue to provide their exemplary services to the youth, adults and seniors in Etobicoke North.

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Vincent Crisanti
Councillor, Ward 1 – Etobicoke North