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January 24, 2017

Re: Impacts of changes to EDC's Budget regarding Culture Funding

In 2013, City Council approved the following five year plan to phase-in a \$17.5 million increase in permanent, City, direct funding to culture in order to achieve a \$25 per capita target set by Council in 2003, and reaffirmed by Council in 2010 and 2011.

Culture and Arts Spending \$25 per Capita Phase In Plan (\$000s) As approved on June 11, 2013^{*1}

Year	(1) = (2) + (3) Cumulative Change in Arts and Culture Spending	(2) Sign Tax Funding	(3) Property Tax-Base	Annual Tax- Base Pressure
2013	6,000	6,000		
2014	10,500	7,500	3,000	3,000
2015	12,500	5,500	7,000	4,000
2016	15,500	3,500	12,000	5,000
2017	17,500	0	17,500	5,500

^{*1}: Phase-in plan used a combination of Sign Tax Reserve Funding and property tax-based funding to increase cultural funding while phasing-in the impact on the property tax base.

In 2015, the City used the \$2 million increase as part of the Panamanian Festival program (total funding in the order of \$20 million when combined with other City funds and provincial funding) at Nathan Philips Square to help celebrate the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. The \$2 million then became part of the permanent culture funding in 2016.

In early 2016, City Council allocated \$4.2 million to support the celebrations and commemorations associated with Canada's 150th and instructed staff to seek added funding from other governments and the private sector which is expected to be about an extra \$3 million (\$7.2 million total). All of this one-time money will be spent on cultural endeavours.

In the proposed budget for 2017, the Economic Development and Culture Division has:

- decreased its own spending on the arts by 2.6%,
- reduced the grant to Toronto Arts Council for Administration by 2.6%,
- replaced \$3.5 million of previous reserve-based funding with \$3.5 million of property tax based funding, and

- set the pool for all other arts grants (TAC Grants, Majors, LASOs) at the same level as for 2016 except for the Culture Build grant program

I would further recommend that:

1. City Council achieve its commitment to increasing culture funding by \$2 million in 2017, thus meeting the \$25 per capita funding target, by allocating \$2 million from the Major Special Events Reserve Fund to Canada 150 funding for arts programming in 2017; and
2. City Council increase permanent tax-based funding for arts and culture grants by (a minimum of) \$2 million in the 2018 budget.
3. The General Manager of Economic Development and culture review all the arts and culture funding changes since 2012, and report out on the impacts of the increased funding commitments and make recommendations for the future as part of the 2018 budget process.

I will also be recommending the reversal of service adjustments included in the 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget in Economic Development and Culture,

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| 1. Combine Cavalcade of Lights and New Year's Eve as a larger event. | Net \$120k |
| 2. 5% reduction to grants, sponsorships & transfers funded by EDC. | Net \$40k |
| 3. Minor Reduction to Arts & Culture funding. | Net \$131k |

Sincerely,



Councillor Gary Crawford
Ward 36 – Scarborough Southwest