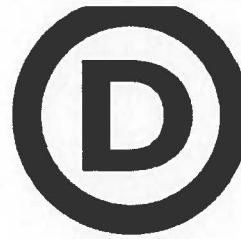


EX26.3.7



DESIGN EXCHANGE
CANADA'S DESIGN MUSEUM

June 13, 2017

Jennifer Forkes
Secretariat, Executive Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

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To the members of the Executive Committee of City of Toronto Council,

I am writing today in response to EX [26.3] Proposed Regulations for Short-term Rentals for Consultation to express our support for home sharing in Toronto.

Companies like Airbnb are an important resource for many Torontonians who are facing high expenses and looking for ways to help make life more affordable in the city.

As the President & CEO of Design Exchange, Canada's only design museum, I have made it my mission to shed an impactful light on innovative undertakings that are changing the world. Here at the museum, we are dedicated to the pursuit of design excellence and recognize the role design plays in ensuring inclusive prosperity. We value the role played by companies like Airbnb.

For this reason, I am writing to you today.

From our perspective, embracing home sharing is essential if Toronto is going to remain an innovative and talent-driven global leader in design and the arts. The creative industries depend on flexibility, adaptability, and the coming together of different perspectives in exciting new ways. Home sharing provides the creative industry with both the flexible accommodations it requires and empowers our home grown creative entrepreneurs with the income they need to support their passion.

The people who are sharing their homes through Airbnb are providing unique, one-of-a-kind experiences to many of these tourists. In fact, according to a recent study, last year Airbnb brought more than 450,000 guests to Toronto who spent over \$417 million in the city.

But there's more to home sharing than just tourism. It also helps everyday people in our city. It helps hosts earn a little bit more money every month to pay the bills, or save for a rainy day. And it helps local business owners who benefit from visitors who want to eat at the neighborhood restaurant or buy a souvenir from the shop down the street from where they're staying.

I understand the need for the city to create regulations around home sharing in Toronto. It is only right that we look at ways to ensure that our laws keep up with the ever-evolving world we live in. That being said, the vast majority of Airbnb hosts share their primary residence just a few days a month in order to make a small, supplemental income.

I encourage you to ensure that the regulations set forth by the city take into consideration the important role that home sharing has played in providing support to our citizens and improving our local economy.

Sincerely,

Shauna Cevy
President & CEO
Design Exchange

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