

EX29.17.1

From: [Marc Glassman](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Cc: [Margie Zeidler](#); [Joe Cressy](#); [Lia Brewer](#); [Brent Gilliard](#); [John Sewell](#); [Noa Bronstein](#); [Bruce Pitkin](#); [Kim Tomczak](#); jenniferw@flamingos.net [Flamingos](#); [David Plant](#)
Subject: letter of support from 401 Richmond St. West
Date: Friday, November 24, 2017 2:26:33 PM
Attachments: [To the Executive Committee.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Dear Ms. Archbold,

I am attaching a letter in support of the report of the Chief Financial Officer and the Economic Development and Culture Department on the creation of a new property tax class for creative and artistic industry locales.

The Steering Committee at 401 Richmond Street West is pleased with the progress being made so far by the City and will be monitoring the situation as it develops.

Best

Marc Glassman

November 24, 2017

The Executive Committee of the City of Toronto
His Worship, John Tory, Chair of the Executive Committee
Josephine Archbold, Secretary of the Executive Committee
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Dear Committee Members,

We, the Steering Committee for 401 Richmond Street West, have read with avid interest the report of the Chief Financial Officer and the Economic Development and Culture Department, and we agree with the direction they're taking. We support the creation of a new property tax class for creative and artistic industry locales based on below market rents and look forward to meeting with City Staff to refine the definition of terms and conditions. It is essential for the national and international status of the City that arts and culture be encouraged and promoted within its jurisdiction.

Accordingly, we fully support the initiatives being undertaken between the City of Toronto and the Province, to give authority to the City to implement changes in the tax codes to preserve spaces for arts and culture. By giving property owners who support the creative industries and their tenants relief, the City will be able to help artists and not-for-profit organizations to have affordable spaces where their works can be made available to the public.

Revising the tax code is essential in urban environments like Toronto, where property values are spiraling beyond the ability of not-for-profit organizations and content creators to absorb excessive increases. We feel that the civic initiative taken by the rare owners, such as the ones at 401 Richmond Street West, who are willing to forego maximizing profits on their land and instead offer lower rents to cultural and artistic organizations be acknowledged by the City and Province by offering a more reasonable property tax assessment.

We look forward to the next report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Economic Development and Culture Department on the details of the property tax class in which 401 Richmond Street West will fall. Our only specific critique is regarding the eligibility criteria on page 5 of the report. We suggest replacing item 5 with: "Must provide Accessible programming and artistic or cultural activities for the public."

All in all, though, we ask the Executive Committee to recommend this report to Council.

Yours sincerely,

The Steering Committee of 401 Richmond Street West
Noa Bronstein, Gallery 44
Marc Glassman, POV magazine
Michael O'Connor, Open Studio
Bruce Pitkin, Theatre Ontario
David Plant, Trinity Square Video
John Sewell, Meta Strategies
Kim Tomczak, VTape
Jennifer Watkins, Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company

TENANTS OF 401 RICHMOND SUPPORTING THIS LETTER

A Space Gallery
Abbozzo Gallery

Access Community Capital Fund

Alex D'Arcy

Art Dealers Association of Canada

Brigitte Nowak

Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre

Contemporary Textile Studio Co-operative Inc.

Cote Design

David Donald

Derivative Inc.

Dessert Fish Studios

Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company & Academy of Spanish Dance

Gallery 44

Guido Costantino Projects Inc.

Inside Out LGBT Film Festival
Koyama Press
Kris Knight
Kristen Fahrig
Lisa Kiss Design
Loopmedia Ltd.
Meta Strategies
Musicworks Magazine
Myseum of Toronto
Ontario Association of Art Galleries
Open Studio
Park People
Podeswa Studio
Red Head Gallery
Red Moth – Angel Tamari
SolarShare
Stratford Festival Studio 123
Summerworks Performance Festival
Tangled Arts Festival
The Architects Builder Collaborative
The Consulting Matrix Inc.
The Station
The Tell

Theatre Ontario

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

TREC/Windshare Co-op Inc.

Trinity Square Video

VIBE Arts

Vtape

Windmill Development Group Ltd.

World Literacy of Canada

YYZ Artists' Outlet