

Joe Cressy 周凯捷
City Councillor | Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

March 20, 2017

Government Management Committee
Committee Room 1, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Re: Feasibility of a partial Municipal Capital Facility exemption at 401 Richmond

Dear Chair and Members,

401 Richmond is a vital part of Toronto. It is at the heart of the local community and a hub for artists, creators, educators, and entrepreneurs from across the City. 401 Richmond also functions as an incubator ecosystem for our creative, cultural, and artistic industries, housing countless organizations and small businesses working in the arts in Toronto.

In addition to serving as an entrepreneurial hub for the creative industry, 401 Richmond has become the home to many non-profits working to advance collective goals like urban sustainability, access to the arts, and more. It is also a destination for countless visitors, housing many publicly accessible spaces, and is the site of many public events seeking to engage Torontonians in conversations about our city.

The Urbanspace gallery at 401 Richmond, a free and publicly accessible space, is dedicated to exploring our city, and learning from our past to help us create visions for the future. A venue for diverse exhibitions and events, the gallery examines how cities work, how we can improve them, and how Torontonians can be leaders on local and global issues like community, public space, housing, transportation, planning, sustainability and more. It is a jewel in our community, and accessed regularly by hundreds of Torontonians.

The benefits that are catalyzed by 401 Richmond are enjoyed far beyond the walls of the building, and the consequences of losing or diminishing its uniqueness would be felt equally widely. As such, a review of the spaces within 401 Richmond for potential property tax exemption as a community centre (spaces available for community use and public access), is warranted at this critical facility.

As such, I request that the Government Management Committee approve the following recommendation:

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1. Request the Director, Real Estate Services, in consultation with Economic Development and Culture, City Planning, Heritage Preservation Services, and Revenue Services, to review the feasibility of providing a partial municipal capital facility property tax exemption at 401 Richmond, located at 401 Richmond Street West, and report back to the Government Management Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,

Joe Cressy
City Councillor
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina