

From: [Jennifer McKelvie](#)
To: [Budget Committee](#); [Councillor Crawford](#)
Cc: [Mayor Tory](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor DeBaeremaeker](#); [Councillor Hart](#); [Councillor Kelly](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Councillor Holland](#); [Councillor Shan](#); [Councillor Karygiannis](#); [Councillor Lee](#); [Councillor Burnside](#); [Councillor Carroll](#)
Subject: Budget deputation from Scarborough Community Renewal Organization
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2018 9:19:38 AM

Dear Budget Committee,

The Scarborough Community Renewal Organization is committed to creating and realizing bold visions to *Renew Scarborough*. While Toronto's core economy is performing exceptionally well, Scarborough residents continue to suffer from lack of investment and lack of jobs. As such, SCRO would like to see four very important priorities championed in this year's budget to stimulate the Scarborough economy.

- 1. Adequate funding for the necessary engineering and geotechnical studies for both the Scarborough Subway to Scarborough Centre and the Scarborough Eglinton Crosstown light rail transit line to Malvern.** Scarborough needs a fully integrated transit system that includes the subway, light rail, buses and go transit. We are asking that Toronto Council ensure there is adequate funding for the technical design and site assessment studies for *both* the Scarborough Subway and the Scarborough Crosstown LRT in the budget.
- 2. \$2.5 million dollars over two years for a feasibility study for a Living Arts facility in Scarborough.** We envision that the facility will be a combined museum, art gallery, theatre and concert performance space located in Scarborough that will meet the needs of all Toronto residents. This proposed signature iconic structure will also function to create an incentive to stimulate private sector investment in Toronto's eastern district. The discussion about a Living Arts facility in Scarborough was first discussed in detail in 1984, but the conversation didn't carry on in the amalgamated City of Toronto. We are therefore asking that you include \$2.5 million in funding for a feasibility study on the location, funding and partnership opportunities, development and construction of a new Living Arts facility in Scarborough. We strongly feel that a Living Arts Facility will stimulate growth of eastern Toronto's arts and cultural communities, serve as a vehicle for rebranding Scarborough, create jobs and be a cultural and entertainment hub for all Toronto residents. We initiated this request in 2017, you can read about it [here](#).
- 3. \$1.5 million dollars for a planning study over one and a half years for Scarborough Centre.** This study would look at land availability and land use designations and look at how to develop Scarborough Centre in a way that will promote establishment of corporate headquarters, business incubators and start-ups, as well as other employment opportunities. This would also include looking at how the lands could be used for new City of Toronto municipal buildings. Our organization has, and will continue to, advocate for the City of Toronto to show leadership by bringing an additional 3000 municipal jobs to Scarborough, some of which could be in new municipal buildings in Scarborough Centre. We initiated this request in 2016, you can read about it [here](#).
- 4. \$500 thousand dollars over one year for a Scarborough specific-economic development plan.** This plan would provide a cohesive Scarborough-specific economic development plan and its development would involve comprehensive public consultation. We strongly feel that Scarborough needs a vision for economic growth and we feel that measurable targets for job creation should be established. It is time for Scarborough to shift from a retail economy to one that is more diversified and includes more professional, technical and manufacturing jobs. The economic development plan should align Scarborough's workforce with a local strategy for economic growth and job creation.

In support of an economic development strategy for Scarborough, we have held two roundtable discussions, you can read the report of our last roundtable [here](#). We feel that a plan is needed to create opportunities for the skilled, talented and passionate workforce of Scarborough *in* Scarborough.

Thank you for this opportunity for SCRO to provide input into the City of Toronto budget process. We strongly feel that all four priorities for Scarborough must be included in the budget. We look forward to working with you collaboratively to *Renew Scarborough*.

Best regards,
Jennifer McKelvie

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