



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

April 13, 2018

Councillor Michael Thompson
Economic Development Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Members,

Re: Options for Arts, Culture or Creative Industry Space at 721 Eastern Avenue

While Toronto has a strong and vibrant economy, such growth has led to rising costs for real property in the city. In the arts sector, rising property costs have challenged the ability of artists, arts organizations and cultural producers of all types to access affordable space for cultural creation and consumption. In recognition of these challenges, I was encouraged to see the recent Economic Development and Culture Divisional Strategy for 2018-2022 identify as one of its four key priorities the goal to "improve access to and affordability of space for business and culture."

As Economic Development and Culture works to develop actions in pursuit of this goal, I encourage the Division to work with other City divisions in the redevelopment of the former Canada Metals Site at 721 Eastern Avenue in Ward 30 which is slated to become the General Motors Mobility Campus. As part of the re-zoning sought by the developer, the City will seek conveyance of space for the use of non-profit arts and culture organizations acceptable to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture Division.

I ask the Committee to support the following motion:

1) City Council request that the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, explore possible uses of non-residential space at 721 Eastern Avenue for the benefit of arts and cultural organizations or creative enterprises.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the City's efforts to ensure accessible and affordable space for arts, culture and creativity in Toronto.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth