

85 Mowat Avenue
Toronto, ON M6K 3E3
T: (416) 967-7272



April 30, 2018

Chair and Members, Planning and Growth Management Committee
Planning and Growth Management Committee
City Hall, 10th Floor West
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON, M5H 2N2

Re: Downtown Plan Official Plan Amendment

On behalf of Music Canada, I am pleased to submit these comments on the Official Plan Amendment of TO Core: Downtown Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute at this stage of the process.

Introduction

Music Canada has conducted internationally renowned research which explores the cultural and economic benefits of a vibrant music economy, and identifies policies and best practices to develop and build Music Cities.

In 2015, we released our report ["The Mastering of a Music City"](#), which established key strategies that cities can use to grow and strengthen their music economy. The report found that successful Music Cities with vibrant music economies generate a wide array of benefits: economic growth, investment, job creation, greater tax revenues, social cohesion and cultural development.

Live music is at the heart of every Music City, and music venues are key economic drivers within the city that work to foster and support local talent. It is therefore critical to provide protection for live music spaces to exist and flourish.

Supporting Live Music

The Agent of Change Principle was also examined in our report, and served as one of our recommended actions for developing music-friendly municipal policies. Through Music Canada's participation on the Toronto Music Advisory Council, we have also advocated for and supported policy measures that work to protect and preserve Toronto music venues.

As mentioned in the Downtown Plan, live music venues comprise some of the city's most significant cultural heritage landmarks. There have been growing concerns that these live spaces are under threat due to rising land values, increased property taxation, and nearby residential development affecting neighborhood dynamics.

We are encouraged to see that the City is continuing to take steps to foster and protect live music venues in Toronto, and recognizes the important role they play in growing the city's music economy.

Downtown Plan: Official Plan Amendment

Music Canada supports many of the initiatives taken by the City in the current draft of the Downtown Plan. In particular, Music Canada supports the following proposed measures:

- **12.10.** *The retention of live music venues will be encouraged in Mixed Use Areas 1, Mixed Use Areas 2, Mixed Use Areas 3, Mixed Use Areas 4 and Regeneration Areas.*
- **12.11.** *To ensure that live music venues can continue to function without noise-related impact on new residential development:*
 - **12.11.1.** *new live music venues located within Mixed Use Areas 1, Mixed Use Areas 2, Mixed Use Areas 3, Mixed Use Areas 4 and Regeneration Areas will be designed and constructed to minimize noise from the premises and provide acoustic attenuation measures that would protect residential uses; and*
 - **12.11.2.** *new mixed-use developments located within Mixed Use Areas 1, Mixed Use Areas 2, Mixed Use Areas 3, Mixed Use Areas 4 and Regeneration Areas will be designed and constructed to include acoustic attenuation measures on-site, or within the building design, to mitigate noise levels from adjacent indoor live music venues and from outdoor live music venues.*
- **12.12.** *Development containing residential units that are located within 120 metres of a live music venue will be required to include an advisory within the Site Plan Agreement and/or Condominium Declaration that notifies purchasers, leases and tenants of possible noise that may arise from its proximity to a live music venue.*

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute at this stage of the process. Music Canada looks forward to further collaboration on the Official Plan Amendment of TO Core: Downtown Plan.

Sincerely,



Amy Terrill
Executive Vice President, Music Canada