



Decision Letter

Toronto Music Advisory Committee

Meeting No.	1	Contact	Nydia Robin, Committee Secretary
Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 8, 2019	Phone	416-397-4579
Start Time	1:30 PM	E-mail	tmac@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 2, City Hall	Chair	Councillor Joe Cressy

MA1.8	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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Exploring DIY (Do-It-Yourself) events and city-owned spaces

Committee Decision

The Toronto Music Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee requests the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, CreateTO, and other relevant city staff, to report to the Toronto Music Advisory Committee and Economic and Community Development Committee in February 2020, with principles, potential operating models, and an initial assessment of opportunities for a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) venues in city-owned spaces.

Origin

(October 8, 2019) Letter from Councillor Joe Cressy, Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

Summary

"DIY" event organizers neither own nor have regular access to physical space for events. Instead, they create cultural events (often blending music, visual art, and other art forms) in temporary locations.

DIY events, and those who organize and perform at them, are vital to the artistic lifeblood of Toronto's music community. These events very often provide performance opportunities to artists working in marginalized, non-mainstream genres (i.e., the types of music not often heard in mainstream bricks-&-mortar venues). It's these artists and events, and the communities that build up around them, that give rise to new, vibrant music and emerging stars. Ultimately, it's these artists that will shape the future of Toronto's music scene and maintain our reputation as a global music centre.

DIY events create welcoming spaces for diverse communities, including performers and fans that might not feel comfortable in mainstream spaces. Toronto's incredible cultural and artistic diversity makes it necessary to support the existence of spaces for every kind of artistic and cultural community to gather and create art.

Currently, DIY locations might include empty storefronts, condo presentation centres, community centres, churches, industrial buildings, City-owned buildings, or outdoor spaces. Together, these locations are also termed "alternative" spaces.

As we work to support the diversity of Toronto's music scene, we must explore our capacity to support DIY events through the potential of providing city-owned space for this critical form of cultural animation.

Background Information

(October 8, 2019) Letter from Councillor Joe Cressy on Exploring DIY (Do-It-Yourself) events and city-owned spaces

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ma/bgrd/backgroundfile-138687.pdf>)