



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM7.11	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Save the Artists Network - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

**** Notice of this Motion has been given.***

**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.***

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with appropriate City divisions and the local Councillor, to assist in determining the operational needs of The Artists Network and to identify any suitable and available spaces on or near Queen Street East.

Summary

The Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto, adopted by Council in 2011, called for the City to work to ensure a supply of affordable sustainable cultural space and to provide access and opportunities for cultural participation. That report noted the importance of community arts groups as they infuse life into every corner of the City and that community arts provide unique and significant value to both communities and artists.

The Artists Network, formerly the Riverdale Artists Network, is a critically important assembly of artists working for artists on Queen Street East and beyond. In their role of bringing the public and artists together, they hosted the well-loved Little Art Show for many years in east Toronto.

They initiated and still to this day convene and run the Riverdale Art Walk, now held at Jimmy Simpson Park, every year.

Ten years ago there were many galleries on Queen Street East in Riverside and Leslieville. This is no longer the case. Gentrification on Queen Street East has forced The Artist Network to move three times in the last six years but they managed to stay on Queen Street East. Now they once again have to move – by the end of June 2019.

They have reached out to ask the City for help in finding accommodation in the east end to continue their work.

They have received support letters from Toronto Arts Council and the Local Arts Service Organization, East End Arts, to continue their co-ordinating role for artists and promotion of art in the east end.

It would be a terrible loss for the arts community and for east Toronto if this long-standing organization becomes homeless.

Background Information (City Council)

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