

## **Assigning the Ceremonial Name "Karen Kain Way" to Part of Queen Street West**

**Date:** November 5, 2019

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

**Wards:** 10 - Spadina-Fort York

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to recommend that the ceremonial name of "Karen Kain Way" be assigned to Queen Street West between University Avenue and York Street.

A ceremonial street dedication does not change the official street name or address information. It does result in the installation of special signage along the selected street.

Transportation Services was consulted during the preparation of this report.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council assign the ceremonial name "Karen Kain Way" to Queen Street West between University Avenue and York Street.
2. Transportation Services erect signage marking "Karen Kain Way".

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The estimated cost of erecting signage is \$500.00. Funding is available within the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Transportation Services.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On July 7, 2015, City Council adopted a set of updated policies for naming City streets and properties. The City of Toronto Street Naming Policy provides guidance on the ceremonial naming of City streets.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX7.8>

## **COMMENTS**

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The National Ballet of Canada has submitted a Street Naming Application requesting that the ceremonial name "Karen Kain Way" be assigned to part of Queen Street West. Consent for the naming has been received from Karen Kain. Letters in support of the application were received from the Canadian Opera Company, TicketKing/Mirvish Productions, and the Toronto Entertainment District.

Karen Kain joined the National Ballet of Canada in 1969 and became Principal Dancer two years later. She appeared as a guest artist with many international companies prior to retirement as a professional dancer in 1977. Renowned world-wide as a performer, Kain continued to provide cultural leadership with the National Ballet: she became the company's Artistic Director in 2005 and then launched its flagship community program, YOU dance (Youth, Outreach and Understanding Dance), which has reached over 235,000 students. While celebrating her 50th anniversary with the National Ballet this year, Kain announced she will be retiring as Artistic Director in early 2021. She holds many honours, including Companion of the Order of Canada.

The section of Queen Street West between University Avenue and York Street abuts the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. This venue has been the performance home for the National Ballet of Canada since 2006.

As this Street Naming Application and related documentation complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, it is recommended that the ceremonial name "Karen Kain Way" be assigned to part of Queen Street West.

The General Manager, Transportation Services, has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Mike Williams  
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture