

# MA3.1.1

**From:** Mark J. Wilson  
**To:** [Toronto Music Advisory Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Mike Tanner](#); [Councillor Cressy](#); [Councillor Bailao](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Mike \(EDC\) Williams](#); [gm@arraymusic.com](mailto:gm@arraymusic.com); [Artistic Director](#); [wilkeycj@gmail.com](mailto:wilkeycj@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2020.MA3.1 on February 20, 2020 Toronto Music Advisory Committee  
**Date:** February 19, 2020 9:58:20 AM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the February 20, 2020 Toronto Music Advisory Committee meeting on item 2020.MA3.1, City-owned Spaces for DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Music Organizations

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

I write as the Chair of the Board of Arraymusic. While we applaud the City's focus on DIY groups and spaces and the pressing need for this to be addressed, the report does not seem to acknowledge the role of, and pressing need for support of *existing* non-commercial spaces.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.MA3.1>

The Array Space provides DIY space at below market rates supporting more than 345 groups and 2,650 diverse artists and their communities annually! We are centrally located at 155 Walnut Ave south of Trinity Bellwoods Park. Array developed its current space with \$250,000+ 4-year facility improvement funding from Heritage Canada, Trillium, the City of Toronto, ArtsBuild Ontario installing: A new ramp/elevator for accessibility; new HVAC; lights; state-of-the-art video technologies/equipment; and much more). We continue to develop our Array Space as a creative hub for all manner of events (not only musical) — a crucial resource we offer to bolster Toronto's DIY performing arts scene -- which as you correctly identify is critically lacking smaller, equipped, affordable spaces.

<https://www.arraymusic.ca/array-space/about-array-space/>

We also provide space at no cost to Resident Artist Groups as an incubator to support arts creation. Turntablist SlowPitchSound workshopped and presented a multi-media performance called Alternate Forest with the support of this program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnNDxOf00mc>

Although we receive generous support from all 3 Arts Councils, our space operates at a loss and our fundraising efforts are in part devoted to supporting a low-cost DIY space.

We request that in addition to exploring a City owned space, the City also explore and report back on opportunities to provide additional support to non-profit spaces such as The Array Space, as part of a broader strategy to address this need. Extending that support may be a very cost-effective strategy.

Let's not overlook this opportunity to adequately support organizations that have boots on the ground already providing well developed space, with a track record of success, history of public investment, well developed networks, and the trust of artists and Toronto audiences. Toronto should support what we have in addition to creating new programs to address this pressing need.

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