

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM24.24	ACTION			Ward: All
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### **Friends of University Avenue Proposal to Install Public Art Display in University Avenue Median Park - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton**

*\* Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.  
\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.  
\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

### **Recommendations**

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the General Manager, Transportation Services and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to collaborate with the Friends of University Avenue to enhance University Avenue's public realm through a public art installation supported by philanthropic donations in alignment with the Year of Public Art, which will serve to recognize the efforts of our health care industry workers and bring comfort to patients and clients of the surrounding hospitals.
2. City Council direct City staff to support the Friends of University Avenue by providing production management and partnership support, reviewing potential enhancement options with regard to their financial, technical and operational feasibility and developing, in partnership with the Friends of University Avenue, a strategy to implement a revised proposal.
3. City Council authorize the Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships, in coordination with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the General Manager, Transportation Services, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of University Avenue on terms satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

### **Summary**

In 2019, The City of Toronto received an unsolicited proposal from a citizen-led organization called the Friends of University Avenue. The proposal included three phases of enhancements to University Avenue. Phase One would include the implementation of a temporary public art installation, funded through philanthropic contributions at the intersection of University Avenue and Gerrard Street. The proposed public art installation is internally lit and its intent is

to illuminate the Avenue as a 'beacon of light and hope'. Phase Two would include enhanced landscaping and year round illumination of existing monuments. Phase Three would include a curated program of rotating public art, commissioned or loaned by Friends of University Avenue.

A Steering Committee, composed of the Friends of University Avenue and representatives from City Divisions including City Planning, Economic Development and Culture, Transportation Services, and Parks Forestry and Recreation, has been established to assess the feasibility of implementing this public art installation on University Avenue.

City staff support the project in principle and, with City Council support, will continue to collaborate with the Friends of University Avenue with the aim of realizing the temporary public art installation. City staff are working through issues related to the proposed project to ensure that all of the City's requirements are met.

Since the previous update, City staff have undertaken a State of Good Repair Assessment showing that significant funds are required to bring the proposed installation sites for phase two up to a point where the work could be installed and operationalized.

This Motion provides a clear signal of support from the City to the Friends of University Avenue while also indicating that more work on feasibility has to be undertaken. It is the hope of staff that we can embed and collaborate with the Friends of University Avenue team to achieve a viable project, affordable for all parties, that delivers on the original intent of the Friends of University Avenue group to make the hospital precinct more welcoming and honour front-line health care staff. This will also enable the City to build in the project as a signature initiative under the Year of Public Art.

This Motion is urgent as staff need to continue their discussions with Friends of University Avenue to expedite the construction of the improvements and this Motion expands the scope of the work of staff that was previously agreed to.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM24.24