



OFFICE OF
**BRAD
BRADFORD**

Toronto City Councillor
Beaches—East York | Ward 19

TORONTO CITY HALL
100 Queen St. W., 2nd Flr, B28
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
2118 Danforth Ave East
Toronto, Ontario M4C 1J9

May 11, 2021

Economic and Community Development Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Toronto Music Advisory Committee - May 2021 Chair's Letter

To the Chair and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee:

Thank you for your strong support of Toronto's music sector throughout the struggles of the pandemic. As you know, artists, promoters, and venues have been among the hardest hit by the difficult but important measures that shape our fight against COVID-19.

At our May 3, 2021 meeting of the Toronto Music Advisory Committee (TMAC), members shared a number of excellent insights and suggestions for supporting the sector through this time and onto the pathway of recovery.

Members requested City support in two key areas. First, for the City to begin exploring opportunities to bring live music to outdoor patios which could be done through pilot implementation. Second, for the City to review SOCAN licensing at City-owned venues and whether more City-owned venues need to be licensed under SOCAN. Recommendations to this effect are below for the Committee's consideration.

On Item [MA9.3](#), the Committee passed recommendations requesting a Provincial reopening plan, which is before you as a separate item. A number of other matters discussed by TMAC are included in Attachment 1 to this letter as addendum for your information.

As the City's Council Advisory Body representing the interests of the wider music community, TMAC is grateful for the support of the Economic and Community Development Committee and appreciates this Committee's attention to the recovery priorities stated in this Chair's letter.

On behalf of the members of TMAC, we thank you again for your ongoing commitment to the music sector. We look forward to continued discussions and collaborations to advance our shared goal of a thriving music scene across Toronto.

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Recommendations:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with relevant City Divisions, to explore the feasibility of designing a pilot program to permit live music and entertainment with limited amplification on prescribed outdoor patios meeting criteria established by City staff, in consultation with local Councillors, that aligns with the City's Night Economy initiatives and satisfies any current provincial and municipal public health restrictions and report to the Economic and Community Development Committee.
2. The Economic and Community Development Committee request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, working with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and relevant City Divisions and Agencies, to ascertain whether all City-owned venues are legally licensed by the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) to play live and recorded music and to model the impacts and next steps, if additional licensing of City-owned venues is required, and report to City Council, through the Economic and Community Development Committee, in September 2021.

Respectfully,

Brad Bradford

Chair, Toronto Music Advisory Committee
Toronto City Councillor
Beaches-East York | Ward 19



@BradMBradford



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Attachment 1 - Additional Music Sector General Concerns and Suggestions for City Actions

**Attachment 1 -
Additional Music Sector General Concerns and Suggestions for City Actions**

Live Music Venues

- Economic Development and Culture, Transportation Services, and local councillors to re-start work on a 2018 Council-approved TMAC recommendation to explore creating tour bus parking and musician load in/out zones outside selected live music venues.
- City Planning and Municipal Licensing and Standards to continue exploring the feasibility of live music venues being temporarily re-classified as recording studios so as to be able to bring in musicians to rehearse and record under current Provincial orders.
- The Music Office to collect and post on www.toronto.ca/music relevant licensing, approvals, and permitting information to assist individuals and/or organizations, including property developers, wishing to establish new and or grow existing live music venues. Create a mechanism for such individuals and organizations to connect with TMAC members for best-practices industry advice in this area.

Artists

- City Planning and Municipal Licensing and Standards to continue work on a 2020 ECDC-approved recommendation to explore whether zoning laws can be adapted to allow musicians' homes to be designated as workplaces while rehearsal facilities and live venues are closed due to the pandemic.
- City Planning to explore feasibility of a requirement for property developers to create a fixed percentage of affordable housing units in new builds near transit and that developers include new cultural spaces in buildings.
- Economic Development and Culture to explore tax exemption for commercial property owners that rent to artists and arts organizations.
- City of Toronto to advocate with other levels of government to renew and scale up the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit, and reserve a specific allocation of that benefit for artists living in Toronto.
- City of Toronto to advocate with the Government of Canada for a fully funded Universal Basic Income program.

General Industry

- City of Toronto, in addition to modelling impacts and path forward to ensure that all City-owned venues are SOCAN compliant, also explore the feasibility of requiring SOCAN compliancy as a condition for private enterprises renewing business licenses, to include the largest portion of SOCAN's funds.
- Economic Development and Culture to review of opportunities for sharing updates from the committee to the public, in particular with the music sector, who would benefit from increased communication on the work underway across the City of Toronto.