

Toronto Arts Council 2020 Annual Allocations

Date: October 6, 2021

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Interim General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides a quantitative and qualitative review of Toronto Arts Council's activities and allocations for the period January 1 to December 31, 2020, to illustrate the City's investment in its arts community for this period.

This report is submitted annually to the Economic and Community Development Committee, per the terms of the Grant Agreement between the City of Toronto and Toronto Arts Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Grant Agreement between the City of Toronto and Toronto Arts Council, first approved by Council in December 1998, was most recently renewed with effective dates of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023. It requires Toronto Arts Council to

submit an annual report to Economic and Community Development Committee on TAC's previous year's activities.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC3.8>

COMMENTS

Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is responsible for the disbursement of the majority of the City's cultural funding through grants to the non-profit arts sector on behalf of the City of Toronto. TAC was approved for \$25,054,600 in grant funding in 2020 from the City of Toronto, which was included in Economic Development and Culture's 2020 Approved Operating Budget to support grants, arts services and operations.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shut down Toronto's arts sector causing significant loss of revenue and hardship for Toronto's artists and organizations. TAC's annual report provides details of their response to the pandemic in addition to a report of applications and disbursements under its granting programs.

TAC received a total of 3,644 applications in 2020 with requests totalling \$41,932,888, and awarded 1,855 grants totalling \$23,412,603. The report provides a comprehensive list of the allocations, clearly illustrating the wealth of experience and opportunity brought to Toronto by our city's artists.

TAC's accountability for the funding is defined by its Grant Agreement with the City, updated in 2019. The Agreement stipulates a ceiling on TAC's operational costs at 11% of total expenses. TAC has historically over performed against this target, with operating costs representing 8% of the organization's expenditures in 2020, while 92% was committed to grants.

CONTACT

Patrick Tobin, Director, Arts and Culture Services, Economic Development and Culture, 416-392-4166, Patrick.Tobin@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Cheryl Blackman
Interim General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Toronto Arts Council Report to Economic and Community Development Committee - 2020