

From: [Lucas Marchand](#)
To: [General Government and Licensing](#)
Subject: Toronto Agenda Item 2021.GL22.10
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City of Toronto Agenda Item

2021.GL22.10 - 2050 Finch Avenue West - City Acquisition of Property from Metrolinx for Development of Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.GL22.10>

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Dear Committee members,

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of the Regent Park School of Music

We are a non-profit community music school that gives 100 kids a year a rewarding music education by removing the financial obstacle. Our students study everything from piano, strings, voice, brass, wind and percussion to electronic music, songwriting and recording. In addition to bringing music to kids in Regent Park and Jane-Finch we also work with Indigenous students at Wandering Spirit School and young newcomers to Canada.

After years of community work and advocacy, we are proud to see Jane-Finch residents and supporters have successfully secured the land along Finch between Norfinch and York Gate to build a Community Hub and Centre for the Arts.

Stewarded by the resident-led Community Action Planning Group (CAPG), Phase 1 of this project focused on working with the broader Jane-Finch community to complete a feasibility study, the development of an initial business plan and various potential governance models. Through this process, residents and community partners identified their vision, values, programming priorities, and concept design for the Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts (JFCHCA).

Building on the history of work done by the community of Jane-Finch (residents, community leaders and organizers, grassroots groups, community agencies, and other supporters) and recognizing that community facilities work best when they are developed by, not for the community, I support the recommendations of the Jane and Finch Hub Organizing Committee to ensure:

- a. the Jane-Finch community's continued leadership and stewardship of this process
- b. a restoration of community trust in the process of securing the JFCHCA by making the process open and transparent,
- c. a clear and agreed-upon process by the relevant stakeholders to prevent future miscommunication.
- d. rectify a previous mistake of not having a formal written agreement.

Building on the history of work done by the community of Jane-Finch (residents, community leaders and organizers, grassroots groups, community agencies, and other supporters) and recognizing that community facilities work best when they are developed by, not for the community, I support the recommendations of the Jane and Finch Hub Organizing Committee to ensure:

Arts programs and spaces for these programs are key to youth and community development. We've seen so many examples over the years of students finding their voice and passion through music. The skills learned through the arts like creativity, confidence, and perseverance are valuable and lasting and arguably more important than many core subjects currently taught in schools. With so many cuts to public education, the responsibility of providing important arts education increasingly falls on community arts organizations. Without a proper space our ability to provide these important services.

In conclusion, we support City staff recommendations (GL 22.10) and City Councillor Anthony Peruzza's motion before you today. We look forward to working with the City to identify a path forward in realizing the vision for a community owned and controlled space for a Community Hub and Centre for the Arts.

Thank you.

Lucas Marchand – RPSM Program Manager for Jane-Finch