

City Clerk - Governance and Licensing Committee - GL #22.10

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Dear Committee members,

We are submitting this letter of support on behalf of Skills for Change

Skills for Change is a non-profit organization servicing over 16,000 clients for 38 years that provides resources to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees in the GTA. We provide over 25 programs and services, including those related to employment, youth leadership, career exploration, mental health/wellness, entrepreneurship, and many more.



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).

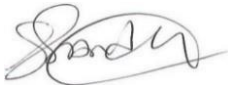
Building on the history of work done by the community of Jane-Finch (residents, community leaders and organizers, grassroots groups, community agencies, and other supporters) and recognizing that community facilities work best when they are developed by, not for the community, I support the recommendations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

As an organization that aims to meet the needs of the community through our own programming and for our partners, we advocate for youth safe spaces, programming, and resources for all. We believe in this community's right to develop and lead their own hub in order to ensure a relevant and sustainable community space.

In conclusion, we support the 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.



Surranna Sandy
Chief Executive Officer

