



City Clerk Governance and Licensing Committee - GL #22.10
Matthew Green
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee members,

We are submitting this letter of support on behalf of Success Beyond Limits. We are a non-profit based in the Jane and Finch community of Toronto, that re-imagines education and schools as sites of possibility. We work with young people age 13-24 supporting them along their education journey by providing academic and social supports.

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, we ask for your support on the following community recommendations:

1. City of Toronto and the Hub Organizing Committee to develop a framework for collaboration for working together within the next three months
2. City of Toronto to support the Hub Organizing Committee with defining the Phase 2 community consultation process for the project, including scope, timeline, stakeholders, as well as their roles and responsibilities:
 - a) Phase 2 process will build on previous work undertaken in Phase 1 by the community on the feasibility study as well as the initial business and governance plans

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3. City of Toronto to support the Hub Organizing Committee to explore potential funding from the City and other sources

In our community there are few spaces young people can meet, congregate and make meaningful connections. Much of the work we do is connecting youth to the resources and opportunities that are available in the City of Toronto. Unfortunately those resources and opportunities (e.g. employment, arts/entrepreneurial incubators, recreation activities) are concentrated in the downtown core. This Community Hub and Centre for the Arts has the potential to be a critical and important space that can support intergenerational residents and cultivate the talents of the next generation of artists and entrepreneurs.

These issue matters to our organizations because:

- We need new physical spaces - technology & arts
- Artists development, facilities and program - social justice & arts
- Entrepreneurship and social enterprise development
- Community owned, developed, programmed, and led
- Recreational facilities like gyms, indoor pool, courts and training
- Workshop and lecture room spaces
- Food growing and addressing food insecurity
- Youth safe spaces, programming and resources for all -
- Senior programs, facilities and services
- Address harm of lost community led spaces - West-Side Arts Hub, Palisades Media Arts Academy and Asend
- Land hasn't been in use for decades
- Space that isn't surveillance and or policed
- Shared, central community space with educational and recreational services

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In conclusion, we look forward to your support on the community's recommendations highlighted in this letter and that you will be supporting the leadership of the Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts Organizing Committee 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tesfai Mengesha', is written over a horizontal line.

Tesfai Mengesha
Executive Director, Operations