

MA8.3

Toronto Music Advisory Committee Motions in Progress

Mike Tanner, Music Sector Development Officer

City-owned Spaces for DIY Music Events

MA2.2 (Nov 2019) / **EC10.18** (Dec 2019)

- *“consult with stakeholders in the music and arts and culture sector, as part of the work on potential Do-It-Yourself (DIY) venues on city-owned space”*
 - consultations begun Dec 2019; completed mid-2020
 - ideal characteristics of spaces
 - suggestions for specific buildings
 - desirable areas of the city

City-owned Spaces for DIY Music Events

MA3.1 (Feb 2020) / **EC12.12** (ECDC Mar 2020) / City Council (Jun 2020)

- *“develop the terms of a pilot program for DIY music organizations to use City-owned spaces at lower than market value”* (EDC / CREM)
- *“develop an inventory of City-owned properties suitable for tenancy by DIY music organizations at lower than market value”* (EDC / CREM)
- process began early 2020 – properties suggested
- to resume March 2021

Strategies for Assisting Live Music Venues (Property Tax)

MA2.3 (Nov 2019)

- *“review and (propose) steps to develop a rebate program for live music venues, and other financial options to support live music in the City of Toronto”*

MA5.2 (May 2020) / CC21.2 City Council (May 2020)

- *“endorse the expansion of the Creative Co-Location Facilities Property Tax Subclasses as a means of providing support to live music venues”*
 - 2020 program included 48 eligible venues

MA6.2 (Sep 2020) / EC16.7 (Sep 2020) / City Council (Oct 2020)

- *“City Council make permanent the inclusion of live music venues as a category of the Creative Co-Location Facilities Tax Subclass”*
 - 2021 program launched Feb 19 – March 15 application deadline

Enhanced Support for Toronto Live Music Venues (Insurance)

MA 7.1 (Dec 2020) / EC19.4 (Jan 2021)

- *"request the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to continue to explore City of Toronto options for supporting an insurance program for live music venues, and to bring forward a report with potential options directly to the Economic and Community Development Committee in March 2021"*
 - draft proposal developed in conjunction with Marsh Canada
 - consultation with TMAC members; Marsh Canada survey sent to Toronto venues (responses imminent)
 - wider range of coverage options; affordable premium; reasonable deductible
 - dialogue / understanding with insurers
 - loan / financing provided by CoT
 - report at ECDC March 25

Support Toronto's Night Economy

EC16.8 (ECDC Jun 2019) / City Council (Jul 2019)

- Key music-related elements:
 - *“work with the Toronto Music Advisory Committee to ensure the proper ongoing engagement is developed with the various music industry stakeholders which they represent”*
 - *“develop an ‘Arts Event Permit’ to assist event organizers wishing to hold pop-up events in non-traditional spaces”*
 - *“align the review of zoning and business licensing regulations, including consideration for noise, to clarify the requirements and provide support for venues regularly presenting live music”*
 - *“identify emerging entertainment areas outside the downtown core that can support entertainment uses at night and the future growth of nightlife in Toronto”*
 - *“consider the feasibility of 24-hour licensed venues in suitable locations and whether the buildings could offer other services such as galleries and co-working spaces”*

Support for Artists

MA6.1 (Sep 2020) / **EC16.6** (ECDC Oct 2020) / City Council (Oct 2020)

“explore developing further online resources for artists through the Music Office”

- proposal to add to www.toronto.ca/music:
 - professional development content: series of short videos featuring industry experts top-lining key topics for independent artists and grassroots industry
 - accompanying PDF with further links/info
 - potential partnership with external orgs tbd to either co-host the videos and co-promote the series
 - resources page that highlights, clarifies and streamlines the relevant city-related info needed to put on a music event
- aim is to remove barriers to access for artists and entrepreneurs, including those from equity-seeking groups

Support for Artists

MA6.1 (Sep 2020) / **EC16.6** (ECDC Oct 2020) / City Council (Oct 2020)

- *“Music Office to consult with the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, and the Toronto Public Health to explore how the City of Toronto's COVID-19 shelter, housing, and Toronto Public Health response could align with TMAC's efforts to support live music venues and musicians”*
- connections made with
 - Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
 - Possible CoT use of private space for COVID assessment centres, food banks, equipment storage
 - Social Development Finance Admin (SDFA); Toronto Office of Partnerships (TOP)
 - Possible CoT and 3rd-party needs for private space for social / encampment support (blankets, water, sleeping bags, housing supplies)
- needs may be longer-term (weeks / months) and outside downtown
- list of music venues (address, sq ft) provided – SSHA, EOC, TOP to connect via Music Office as need arises for CoT or external agencies

Advocacy with other levels of government

- *“request the City Manager to include recommendations to support affordable housing and a universal basic income for musicians in the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild final report”*
 - more general recommendations included in TORR report: Social Services and Housing working group led by DM Bailão; expediting HousingTO Action Plan 2020-2030; addressing structural inequality
- *“City Council request the Government of Canada to ensure that adequate financial support continues to be accessible for self-employed and gig workers.”*
 - CRB extended through fall; now ttl 38 weeks’ eligibility; EI now 50 weeks’ ttl eligibility
- *“City Council request the Government of Canada to develop a permanent Canadian Live Music Fund to stimulate event activity and to ensure the future viability and success of Canada's live music sector and drive economic impact.”*
 - Longer-term proposal: CoT will continue to support CLMA & other industry in concept development and advocacy
- *“City Council request the Government of Ontario to:*
 - a. provide long-term financial support for live music venues and music companies working in live music*
 - b. apply fair and more flexible reopening guidelines established for other businesses and venues to live music venues, while ensuring all necessary and rigorous health protocols are accounted for and in place* (advocacy targeted at when Toronto moves out of current lockdown phase)
 - c. convene a meeting to discuss insurance concerns from live music venues* (CoT has consulted with local venues and is bringing forward its own proposal)
 - d. institute an immediate ban on evictions for music businesses”* (moratorium extended to April 2022 for any CERS-eligible business)

Questions / comments?