



## REPORT FOR ACTION

### St. Lawrence Centre Redevelopment - Update

**Date:** May 18, 2021

**To:** St. Lawrence Centre Redevelopment Committee

**From:** President and Chief Executive Officer

#### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the public consultation for the reimagining of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The President and Chief Executive Officer recommends that the Board of Directors of TO Live:

1. Receive this report for information.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There is no financial impact other than what is outlined in this report.

#### DECISION HISTORY

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At its May 3, 2021 meeting, the Board of Directors of TO Live received a report on the consultant activity for the reimagining of the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.CT24.3>

## COMMENTS

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In April of 2021, the consultants KerrSmith synthesized research on the impact of COVID-19 on the performing arts sector, underrepresented communities, and the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. This information was used to design the virtual workshop "Phase 0" as a precursor to the launch of the public consultation for the reimagining of the St. Lawrence Centre (STLC). The research was divided into five categories; Equity in the City, Arts Creation is Changing, Presentation and Dissemination of the Arts Takes New Form, Audiences are Consuming and Receiving Arts Differently, and The Arts Ecosystem is Strained.

### Phase 0 Workshop

The Phase 0 workshop was held on April 29, 2021 and explored the imagining of "creative spaces" in our future world. Participants explored the current situation and identified key actions necessary to achieve a desired outcome. In addition, they were able to identify specific challenges related to the functioning and physical infrastructure of the current STLC, as well as speak to the changing nature of the neighbourhood and insufficient support and acknowledgment of underrepresented communities in Toronto overall. Many participants spoke to the need for a highly flexible, sustainable, inclusive space suitable for a myriad of options 24/7.

Informed by the research and the engagement with stakeholders, KerrSmith will deliver a report that includes the identification of priorities and guiding principles necessary to inform the consultation planned for June/July/August of 2021, with an underpinning of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. KerrSmith will be making a presentation to the StLC Redevelopment Committee on June 7, 2021, with discussion to follow.

### STLC Next Website and Survey

On May 10, 2021 TO Live launched the website [www.stlcnext.org](http://www.stlcnext.org). The launch announcement and invitation to complete the survey was distributed via TO Live's database, newsletter, social media and dedicated campaigns, as well as by many other outlets including the St. Lawrence BIA, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts, Ward 13 constituents-newsletter (Councillor Wong-Tam).

The virtual consultation with the Stakeholder Working Group will commence on June 17, 2021, with other workshops scheduled for July 6, July 27, and August 12, 2021. The schedule of events and reports can be found on the website [www.stlcnext.org](http://www.stlcnext.org)

## **Public Art**

TO Live has commissioned a public art piece to go up on the west wall of the St. Lawrence Centre, by artist Que Rock, an Anishinaabe rapper, b-boy and graffiti artist from Nipissing First Nation (currently based in Toronto). The artist will be painting a visual land acknowledgement on the Centre to acknowledge the past, present and future. Completion of the project is scheduled to be completed in the first week of June 2021.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Clyde Wagner  
President and CEO

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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