

# West Don Lands Committee

February 1, 2022

By email to: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

Citizens for the Old Town  
Corktown Residents & Business Association  
Distillery Historic District  
Dixon Hall  
Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation  
Friends of Corktown Common  
Goederham & Worts Neighbourhood Association  
Little Trinity Anglican Church  
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BI  
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association  
Bring Back the Don

City Council  
City of Toronto

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillors:

## **Re: DM39.2 Making Space to Save The Arts in Toronto**

We are writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee to express support for the above noted motion.

The organizations that form the West Don Land Committee have worked for over 25 years to build a vibrant mixed-use community in the West Don Lands and to support city-building and community development in the adjacent communities and along the Central Waterfront. Our members are very concerned about the future of the arts and culture communities who are affected not only by the recent COVID constraints, but also by the rapid loss of affordable space due to development pressures and wildly escalating land prices.

Access to affordable cultural and arts related entrepreneurial space is critical to the health of the arts sector of our economy which, according to the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts generates more than \$6B to Toronto's GDP. Affordable cultural space also makes an immeasurable contribution to the health and vibrancy of our communities.

Our member communities have recently suffered the loss of studio, performance, administrative, incubator and artist-run retail spaces in the Distillery District. This is tragic for the community and for the artists who have brought their creative energy to that space for nearly 20 years.

We strongly endorse the steps outlined in Councillor Wong-Tam and Cressy's motion. Without strong City support and leadership, we risk losing the cultural resources that make Toronto a great city in which to live. We urge the Council to adopt the recommendations in the Motion. We also urge the City to pursue negotiations with the Province and Infrastructure Ontario to include cultural spaces and arts related entrepreneurial opportunities in the Transit Oriented Communities that are now being planned.

Yours truly,



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cc Councillors Kristyn Wong-Tam & Joe Cressy

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