

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM43.15	ACTION			Ward: 11
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### **Waiving Development Charges and Other Fees to Support the Construction of the Blackhurst Cultural Centre - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

### **Recommendations**

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council waive site plan fees in connection with the development and construction of the new cultural centre at 756 Bathurst Street, and authorize the waiver of any other City fees and charges set out in the tariff of fees in the Municipal Code Chapter 441 that may be waived by authority of City Council, and that would otherwise be payable by Blackhurst Cultural Centre to the City.

### **Summary**

Blackhurst Cultural Centre will be a purpose-built cultural centre led by A Different Booklist Cultural Centre, in partnership with the City of Toronto. Blackhurst Cultural Centre will provide permanent, affordable, accessible space for Black artistic and cultural production in Toronto. Blackhurst Cultural Centre will provide opportunities to experience the rich culture and history of Canadians of African and Caribbean ancestry, as a bookstore, non-profit hub and destination.

The City is committed to supporting the future of this important Black cultural centre. Economic Development and Culture is leading an inter-divisional team to assist A Different Booklist Cultural Centre with navigating City planning, heritage, building, funding and legal processes. In December 2021, City Council authorized the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management to negotiate and enter into a 49-year below-market rent lease agreement between the City and Blackhurst Cultural Centre, in respect of 756 Bathurst Street.

The scope of capital improvements has been substantially adjusted since the inception of the project. The project scope will now include the complete demolition of the existing building, and removal of the heritage facade through panelization, preservation and reincorporation into the final building design as part of an entirely new building.

Providing additional fee relief for the Blackhurst Cultural Centre supports goals of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, including supporting Black arts and culture, and

leveraging City spaces to create a Black community hub in partnership with Black service providers.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM43.15