

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM45.33	ACTION			Ward: All
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Authority to Enter Into, Execute Agreements and Distribute Funding from Other Orders of Government for COVID-19 Business and Culture Recovery Initiatives - by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.*

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

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to distribute funding received from the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and/or agencies of the Federal and Provincial Governments and to negotiate, enter into and execute any funding, collaboration, training and/or services agreements (with a value of up to \$500,000.00 each), including any amendments thereto with other non-profit organizations to support COVID 19 recovery initiatives for business and culture, for successful City applications, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. City Council request the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to inform City Council, through Budget Committee, and as part of the 2023 Budget process, of any changes required to the 2022 and 2023 Budgets as a result of successful funding.

Summary

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Toronto has provided a vital lifeline to local businesses and cultural organizations. The City, through the Economic Development and Culture Division, rapidly pivoted in spring 2020 to deliver new strategic programs that helped mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic on the local economy, and position business and culture to thrive as Toronto moves closer to reopening. These initiatives have been informed by Council-approved strategies, including the report of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (Item 2020.EX17.1), and the Building Back Stronger (Item 2020.EC18.15) report.

In June 2021, City Council adopted Item 2021.MM34.44 authorizing the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to apply for Federal and Provincial funding that supports COVID 19 recovery initiatives for business and culture, and report to City Council on successful applications. Throughout the pandemic, Economic Development and Culture applied for and was the successful recipient of such funding. As a condition to the funding, the

City was required to enter into funding agreements with other orders of government. Economic Development and Culture has worked with not-for-profit organizations to distribute such funding in support of economic recovery. Economic Development and Culture is seeking the delegated authority from City Council to continue this practice and formalize Economic Development and Culture's ability to broadly support economic recovery in the arts and business sectors. Economic Development and Culture also requires City Council authority to enter into various funding, collaboration and/or services agreements with other non-profit organizations to support COVID-19 business and culture recovery initiatives.

This Motion is urgent because Economic Development and Culture is seeking the delegated authority from City Council to distribute funding from other orders of government in rapid support of economic recovery, and to enter into various funding, collaboration and/or services agreements with non-profit organizations to support needed COVID-19 business and culture recovery initiatives in a timely manner.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.33