

## **Authority to Enter into License Agreement with Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation to Operate the Arts in the Parks Program**

**Date:** October 5, 2023

**To:** Infrastructure and Environment Committee

**From:** Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry & Recreation

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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Parks, Forestry and Recreation has been collaborating with the Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation operating as the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) to deliver the Arts in the Parks program since the summer of 2016. The program has been renewed on an annual basis since then. The program has provided accessible opportunities for artists and free access to view installations and participate in programming to residents and visitors.

This report seeks authority to enter into a renewed five-year agreement, in order to formalize the licence agreement with TAC and grant licensee authority to continue operating the Arts in the Parks program for a term of five years across 26 select City park locations and one property managed by Toronto Regional Conservation Authority.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Acting General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into a nominal license agreement with Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation operating as the Toronto Arts Council for the use of parks by various artists to be selected by Toronto Arts Council for the "Arts in the Parks" program for a term of five years, renewable for an additional five-year term at the sole discretion of the Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Consistent with previous terms and conditions, Toronto Arts Council (TAC) will pay the City nominal licence fees for the use of City parks to run the Arts in the Parks program. Staffing resources and expenditures associated with the set up and dismantling of the exhibits will be charged on a full cost recovery basis to individual artists and will be recovered by TAC. There are no foregone revenues because there is no charge for the Council-approved "Arts in Parks" permit category. No additional funding associated with this initiative in current and future years is required.

The Interim Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on March 31, 2016, City Council authorized Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into a license agreement with Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation operating as the Toronto Arts Council.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.MM17.16>

At its meeting on November 3, 2015 City Council approved the introduction of an "Arts in Parks" permit category and authorized Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into a license agreement with the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) to pilot the Arts in the Parks pilot program and provide grants to artists for various multimedia activations in approximately 22 parks in 22 wards.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2015.PE7.1>

## **COMMENTS**

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The Arts in the Parks program brings art to select parks in neighborhoods across Toronto. Events are free to residents and visitors, increase public use of parks and the vibrancy of communities in underserved neighbourhoods and create opportunities for residents and visitors to experience art and support artists.

The Toronto Cultural Advisory Corporation operating as the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) accepts applications from local artists annually which are evaluated by a panel that includes Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) staff. TAC will ensure that artists' installations meet City conditions to receive the "Arts in Parks" permit category, approved by Council in 2015 to support Toronto's local arts and cultural landscape.

Event proposals are reviewed and where events include one or more of the criteria that would classify them as a Not-for-Profit or a Commercial Special Event, permits are required to be obtained by the artists or groups at the current, Council-approved rates. This can include sale or service of food or alcohol, installation of large tents, or stages, entrance fees, etc.

Successful artists and groups receive grants to undertake approved art programs by TAC and the City issues permits at no-cost. Artists and groups are responsible for all costs associated with their events and animations and any associated staffing costs incurred by the City for parks maintenance are appropriately charged back to TAC, and TAC recovers those costs from artists or arts groups.

Approved art programming can vary from a one-day event to a longer term activation, and is free and open to residents and visitors. Fixed artworks including all exhibits and murals are not to be permanently left in any park without prior approval.

Since Arts in the Parks was introduced in 2016, 204 events have been hosted in City parks, an average of 26 events per season from 2016-2023. The program has been well received by the general public and Toronto's arts community.

In consultation with TAC, PFR staff will identify suitable parks for existing and future artists' proposals to initiate Arts in the Parks programming. TAC will activate 26 select City park locations, as outlined in Attachment 1, that PFR will incorporate into a license agreement, at a nominal licence fee consistent with previous terms and conditions for the Arts in the Parks program.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Howie Dayton  
Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Table 1 - Arts in the Parks Program - City Park Locations

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City Park Location	City of Toronto Ward	Previous Arts in the Parks Programs
Flagstaff Park	Etobicoke North – 1	Hercinia Arts Collective
Raymore Park	Etobicoke Centre – 2	Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto
Wincott Park	Etobicoke Centre – 2	Kristen Slowly
Amos Waites Park	Etobicoke – Lakeshore – 3	Dance Together Festival
South Humber Park	Etobicoke – Lakeshore – 3	Insomniac Film Festival
Bell Manor Park	Etobicoke – Lakeshore – 3	Toronto Outdoor Picture Show
Earl Bales Park	York Centre – 6	Ghanafest, Warda Youssouf, Open Jam Collective
Memorial Park	Eglinton – Lawrence – 8	Shakespeare In Action
Walter Saunders Memorial Park	Eglinton – Lawrence – 8	Pulga 2023, Dance Migration Project
Leaside Park	Don Valley West – 15	Korean Dance Studies Society of Canada
RV Burgess	Don Valley West – 15	Flemingdon Community Support Services
Parkway Forest Park	Don Valley North – 17	Friends of Parkway Forest Park
Lee Lifeson Art Park	Willowdale – 18	Jeng Yi, Toes for Dance, Raging Asian Women Taiko Drummers
Dentonia Park	Beaches – East York – 19	Mayworks Festival, Regent Park Film Festival Inc.
Prairie Drive Park	Scarborough Southwest – 20	Eight Fest Small-Gauge Film Festival

<b>City Park Location</b>	<b>City of Toronto Ward</b>	<b>Previous Arts in the Parks Programs</b>
Thomson Memorial Park	Scarborough Centre – 21	Heritage Skills Development Center (HSDC)
Maidavale Park	Scarborough Centre – 21	Tapestry Music Theatre
Beverly Glen Park	Scarborough – Agincourt – 22	Tapestry Music Theatre
Alexmuir Park	Scarborough North – 23	Tapestry Music Theatre
Milliken Park	Scarborough North – 23	Tapestry Music Theatre, Friends of Parkway Forest Park
Cedar Brook Park	Scarborough – Guildwood – 24	Tapestry Music Theatre
Fred Johnson Park	Scarborough – Guildwood – 24	Tapestry Music Theatre
Guild Park and Gardens	Scarborough – Guildwood – 24	Tapestry Music Theatre
Morningside Park	Scarborough – Guildwood – 24	Tapestry Music Theatre
Neilson Park	Scarborough – Rouge Park – 25	Scarborough Made, Tapestry Music Theatre
Shawn Blu Rose Park	Scarborough – Rouge Park – 25	Tapestry Music Theatre

Table 1 - Arts in the Parks Program - Ci 1

\* Arts in the Parks also operates at the Black Creek Community Farm (Humber River-Black Creek – 7), TRCA manages this property and approves Arts in the Parks programming.