



**Tuesday, June 13, 2022**

**ATTN: Toronto City Council**

**RE: MM7.12 - Bright Night in the Boroughs: Bring Nuit Blanche Back to Etobicoke, North York, and Scarborough in 2024**

The power of art is tremendous in building community, sparking creativity, and promoting peace and dialogue. Over the years, the City of Toronto's *Nuit Blanche* initiatives have achieved this through creating unique opportunities for artistic expression and presentation across the downtown core.

The Aga Khan Museum has been proud to collaborate with the City of Toronto to act as one of the main hubs in North York for *Nuit Blanche*. Located in the heart of the Don Mills neighbourhood, the Museum is privileged to partner with the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, the Aga Khan Park, and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre to provide cross-cultural programming on Wynford Drive, making the location a spectacular destination for people of all ages and with diverse cultural and artistic interests.

The success of the more recent expansion of *Nuit Blanche* into select locations outside of the downtown core highlights the great appetite for access to the arts among Torontonians at large. At the Aga Khan Museum alone, we have welcomed close to 28,000 visitors through our participation in *Nuit Blanche* since 2016. With our mandate of fostering pluralism, and as an arts and cultural organization adjacent to two Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (Thornccliffe Park and Flemingdon Park), we understand the importance of growing cultural capacity and supporting Toronto's economic, social, and cultural efforts, as well as the business community, in dense and diverse neighbourhoods.

Consequently, with this letter, we wish to put forth our support of **MM7.12** for your consideration. Building a comprehensive, long-term plan for the expansion of *Nuit Blanche* will enable and empower artists, cultural institutions, businesses and arts and culture organizations to continue to activate the creative potential of the communities they serve. Meaningful, high-impact city initiatives such as *Nuit Blanche* are critical to fostering greater inclusivity, representation, and accessibility.

We thank you for your consideration. The Aga Khan Museum and our team look forward to the continued growth and success of *Nuit Blanche*.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis  
Director and CEO