From: <u>D" Bandit</u>

To: Councillor Carroll; Budget Committee; Tom Gleason; Councillor Ainslie; Councillor Cheng; Councillor Moise;

Councillor Perks; Councillor McKelvie; Councillor Morley

Subject: [External Sender] Support letter for Black Creek Pioneer Village TRCA funding request

Date: January 20, 2024 8:10:59 AM

Attachments: D"Bandit Enterrtainment Inc Re Pioneer Village Support-signed.pdf

Dear Councillor Carroll:

I am writing in support of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) request for funding support for Black Creek Pioneer Village (to be renamed The Village at Black Creek in spring 2024.) As a museum sharing the stories of equity-deserving communities through groundbreaking exhibits, creative programming, art installations, and community-minded events like ours, Black Creek Pioneer Village deserves public support and funding.

D' Bandit Entertainment Inc. has curated culturally informed music events for Toronto's Caribbean community for over 25 years. We held our first concert at Black Creek Pioneer Village in 2023 and were immediately struck by their support for Toronto's Black arts community, their vision to incorporate performing arts and festivals into the "village" spaces, and their desire to share stories of the Caribbean diaspora through art, music, and dance. Their vision for the site's future is very different from the site's past – and this excites me.

I hope to work with Black Creek Pioneer Village for many years to bring performing arts to a Toronto neighbourhood that traditionally has been underserved from an arts and culture perspective. For this to happen, Black Creek Pioneer Village requires regular and dedicated funding that will allow the site to work with partners such as us to incorporate new voices into the site's narratives, bring performing arts and music to this area of the city, create nightlife events outside of the downtown core, and revitalize a museum that looks to the past to bring the *Greater Toronto Area* into the future.

Please support TRCA's request for funding Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Yours Sincerely,

Dwayne Pitt
Director of D'Bandit Entertainment Inc

----[PLEASE SEE ATTACHED]----

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297 Vellore Ave Woodbridge, Ontario L4H3J1 416-930-9650 info@dbandit.com

January 19 2024

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