

ATTACHMENT 2 – CULTURE CONNECTS WORKPLAN FOR 2025-2027

The table below provides an overview of urgent actions to be undertaken in 2025-2027, along with anticipated resource requirements. It also details which urgent actions are being implemented beginning in 2024 using \$0.800 million allocated to Economic Development and Culture by City Council as part of the 2024 budget process. Resource requirements for actions being implemented beyond 2027 will be submitted to City Council for consideration as part of future budget processes, and indicated as part of any progress reports to Council.

Priority	Urgent Action	Resources Allocated in 2024	Resource Requirements
Culture Everywhere	Identify cultural space needs to secure investments and prioritize space development in underserved neighbourhoods.	\$0.075 million to Cultural Infrastructure Study	\$0.100 million in 2025 to complete Cultural Infrastructure Study using existing resources.
	Protect and expand existing spaces for culture to combat the displacement of creatives and industry in Toronto.		\$0.365 million to be requested to establish and deliver an ongoing city-wide Cultural Districts Program starting in 2025. 1 FTE added in 2025 to establish and lead the Cultural Districts Program.
	Open City- and privately-owned spaces for short- and long-term cultural uses.		Within existing resources.
Culture For All	Improve the distribution of the City's cultural funding and other resources, with a focus on deepening support to Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving communities, and communities outside the downtown core.		\$0.379 million to be requested annually for 5 years to double funding to Local Arts Service Organizations.
	Enable creative, inclusive, and meaningful community-driven programming and experiences city-wide.		Increase in funding for festivals and special events to be requested including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0.565 million gross and net beginning in 2025 Additional \$0.200 million gross and net in 2026

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			1 FTE added in 2025 for providing additional supports for festivals and events. 2.5 FTE added in 2025, with positions stationed in communities and City museums across city for community outreach.
	Grow audiences through investments in marketing, promotion, and discoverability.	\$0.075 million for community engagement and promotion	\$0.075 million gross and net to be requested in 2025 to enable and support community driven programming and experiences city-wide and investments in discoverability.
	Collaborate with Indigenous communities to amplify Indigenous-led initiatives and programming.		Within existing resources.
Culture for the Future	Deliver improved and expanded grant and funding programs to support changing community and sector needs, and seed and scale new and growing organizations.	\$0.400 million to Toronto Arts Council	\$2.000 million gross and net to be requested annually for 5 years to increase Toronto Arts Council budget, representing a total increase of \$10.000 million over the 2024 budget. Funding to index grants to inflation to be requested annually, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.966 million gross and net in 2025 (2.5%) • \$0.840 million gross and net in 2026 (2%) • \$0.904 million gross and net in 2027 (2%)
	Identify and invest in transformative sector-wide initiatives that incubate and enable experimentation, innovation, talent development, and sustainable business models.	\$0.180 million to capacity-building programs including Catalyst and Transformation Fund (\$0.100 million) and artsvest Toronto (\$0.080 million)	\$0.500 million gross and net to be requested beginning in 2025 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0.300 million for training initiatives to enable historically underrepresented groups to access opportunities in Toronto's film and interactive digital media sectors. • \$0.200 million for incubator programs for creative entrepreneurs and small creative

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			businesses in Toronto's film and interactive digital media sectors An additional \$0.100 million would be requested in 2027, bringing the total ongoing program budget to \$0.600 million. 1 FTE (Sector Development Officer) to expand capacity of Music Office to support sector initiatives
	Strengthen relationships with all orders of government and work with City divisions to advocate for essential supports for artists and creatives, such as affordable housing and support for gig economy.		Within existing resources
	Develop and collect robust cultural research and data on the value and impact of the sector.	\$0.050 million to establish monitoring and evaluation framework	Within existing resources
Culture Beyond our Borders	Bring the world to Toronto and Toronto to the world through international residencies, creative exchange, and exhibition opportunities.		\$0.100 million to be allocated beginning in 2026 using existing resources
	Foster partnerships with large-scale events to offer cultural experiences and programming to drive local, regional, and international cultural tourism.		\$0.050 million gross and net to be requested beginning in 2025 for investments in cultural tourism and promotion. An additional \$0.050 million would be requested in 2026, bringing the total ongoing program amount to \$0.100 million.
	Increase foreign direct investment through trade missions and outreach.		Within existing resources

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	Establish Toronto as a host and incubator for major international events on creativity, technology, and innovation.		Within existing resources
Implementation of the Plan	Resources to lead the implementation of the Culture Plan	\$0.020 million towards FTE implementation lead for Action Plan	Within existing resources
		Total: \$0.800 million	