
City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM18.4	ACTION			Ward: 10, 11
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from Various Developments to Support the Construction of Blackhurst Cultural Centre - by Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Jamaal Myers

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Jamaal Myers recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2024 Operating Budget for Economic Development and Culture by \$1,000,000 gross and \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the developments at 571-596 Bloor Street West, 738-782 Bathurst Street, 26-38 Lennox Street, 581-603 and 588 -612 Markham Street and secured by By-laws 1105-2017 and 1106-2017 (Source Account XR3026-3700987), for the purpose of providing one-time funding to the Blackhurst Cultural Centre for construction-related expenses for Blackhurst Cultural Centre at 765 Bathurst Street.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to enter into and execute a funding agreement with Blackhurst Cultural Centre that governs the use of the funds, on such terms deemed necessary and appropriate by the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Summary

This motion recommends that City Council authorize the release of \$1,000,000 in Section 37 funds to support the construction of Blackhurst Cultural Centre.

Since 1995, A Different Booklist has operated a successful bookstore and cultural space in Mirvish Village. As part of the redevelopment of Honest Ed's and Mirvish Village, A Different Booklist, working closely with the City, proposes to create a new community cultural centre on site – to be known as Blackhurst Cultural Centre.

The new Blackhurst Cultural Centre will be a non-profit hub and destination that provides opportunities to experience the rich culture and history of Canadians of African and Caribbean ancestry. Blackhurst Cultural Centre will be a purpose-built cultural centre that engages the public to learn about these proud stories using literature, music, drama, dance, and visual arts. Blackhurst Cultural Centre will also provide much-needed space for Toronto arts and cultural organizations, as well as office space, event space, and community space. Blackhurst Cultural Centre has also developed an innovative net-zero design for the building, and plans to restore the heritage frontage. In April 2024, the City and Blackhurst Cultural Centre executed a 49-year ground lease agreement for the new cultural centre, based on terms previously approved by City Council.

This Section 37 funding was secured in 2017 in order to support a non-profit community or cultural centre in Mirvish Village. It will enable Blackhurst Cultural Centre to begin construction in summer 2024. This funding will be complemented by a major investment from the Government of Canada through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Fund (administered by Infrastructure Canada), as well as multiple City commitments including tax breaks and proceeds from the sale of the adjacent laneway, plus additional donations raised by Blackhurst Cultural Centre.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM18.4