

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM18.34	ACTION			Ward: 10
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Support for the Relocation of the It's Ok* Community Arts Studio - by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford recommends that:

1. The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, CreateTO, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and other City divisions as appropriate, continue to prioritize work, in coordination with It's OK Community Arts, to identify suitable City-owned space as future leased premises for It's OK* Community Arts on completion of the Term at 468 Queen St West, and report back to the Toronto Music Advisory Committee in November 2024.

Summary

It's Ok* Community Arts in Toronto is a Black-led, not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting and promoting Black artists, primarily from the Black Canadian diaspora. For the past two years, their work has been centered at the It's Ok* Studios, an interdisciplinary arts space in the Queen West neighborhood. This current facility at 468 Queen St W is City owned, and will be transferred to Parks, Forestry, and Recreation in April 2025. As work on the future on-site park is expected to begin next summer, a lease extension is not possible at this time.

The It's Ok* Studios is a beacon of opportunity and empowerment for Toronto's Black artistic community and welcomes community locally and from across the City. It provides a space for artistic expression, fosters collaboration, and equips artists with the tools they need to thrive. It is important for the City to continue this relationship, as the search for a new location is set to begin.

This motion is urgent as a new location is needed to be found immediately for It's Ok* Community Arts Studio as their current lease is expiring April 2025 and cannot be renewed.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM18.34

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-246022.pdf>