

Economic Development and Culture (EDC) Division Upcoming 2024 Strategies

Presented to the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
January 31, 2024

➤ Agenda

- EDC's Mandate, Work and recent 2SLGBTQ+ initiatives
- Three EDC Strategies being developed in 2024
- 2SLGBTQ+ Community Engagements: What we have heard
- Key Questions & Discussion

Economic Development and Culture Division

➤ Economic Development & Culture (EDC)



Making Toronto a place where
**business and
culture thrive**

EDC leads a broad range of activities, which include programs and services related to:



BUSINESS GROWTH SERVICES



FILM & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES



ARTS & CULTURE SERVICES



MUSEUM & HERITAGE SERVICES



PROGRAM SUPPORT

➤ EDC's Mandate & Objectives

EDC strives to make Toronto a place where business and culture thrive.

The Division's objective is to advance Toronto's prosperity, opportunity and liveability by:

- fostering employment and investment opportunities
- encouraging Toronto's cultural vibrancy
- engaging partners the City's economic and cultural resources



➤ Examples of EDC's Work



**Business
Improvement
Area Offices**

**Main Street
Initiatives**

**Entrepreneurship
Services**

**Business
Retention and
Expansion**

➤ Examples of EDC's Work

**Sector
Development**

**Film and
Entertainment
Services**

**Visitor
Economy
(Tourism)**

**Arts, Cultural
and Museum
Programming
& Events**



➤ EDC Initiatives, 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

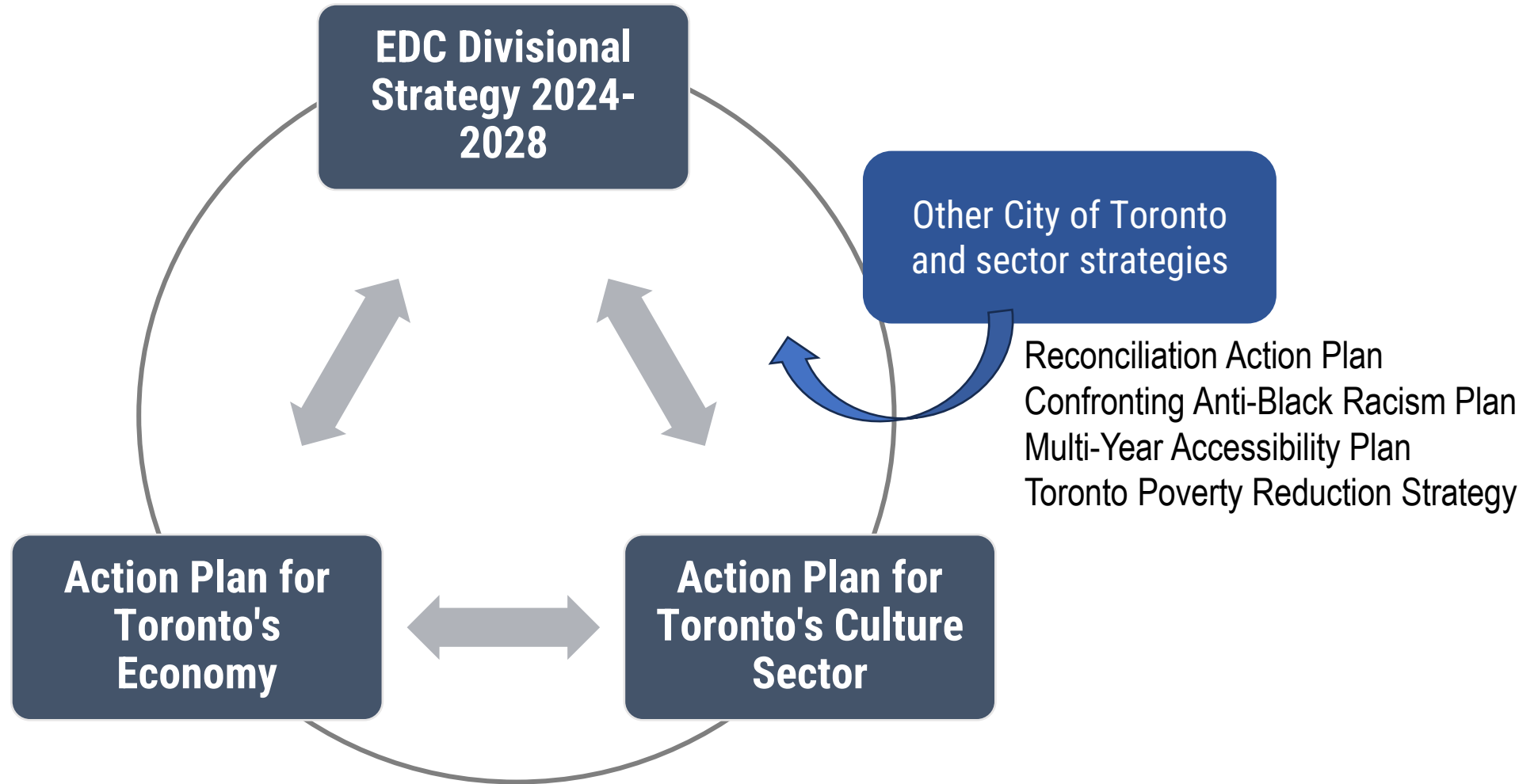
- Community partnership grant program provided in partnership with the 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) to support local businesses, for example, Starter Company grants.
- In 2023, EDC supported Pride Toronto with \$260,000 in funding through the Cultural Festivals Funding Program and just under \$1.4 million in in-kind support.
- Recent collaborations with artists:
 - Toronto History Museums' Pride Mentorship Program (2023) engaged 10 emerging and mid-career artists to create activations and installations related to 2SLGBTQ+ communities across the City's museums
 - Queer Tamil Collective exhibition "Oor" at Scarborough Museum
 - Doors Open Toronto 2023's keynote panel focused on Queer and IBPOC women who built Toronto's music scene, featuring Denise Bolduc, Rosina Kazi, and Haviah Mighty.

➤ Previous Engagement informing this work

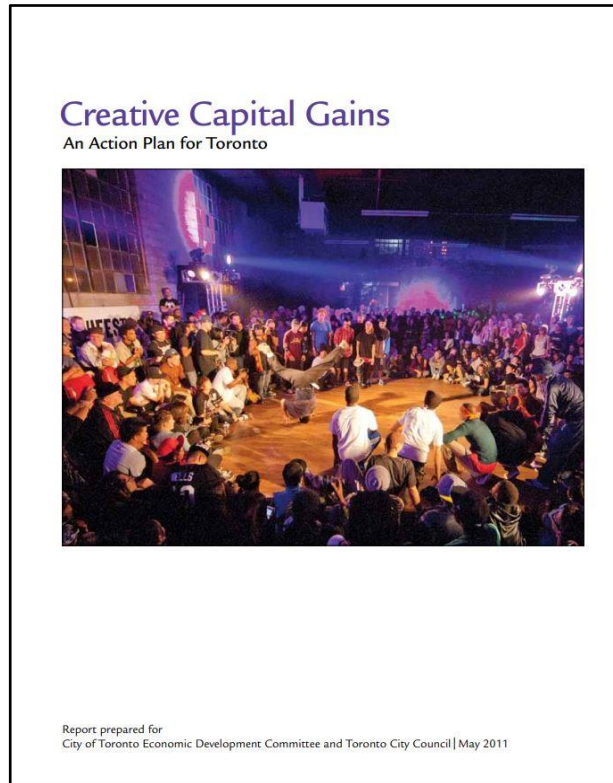
- **2020/21** small group meetings with:
 - Pride Toronto
 - The 519
 - Church-Wellesley BIA
 - New Ho Queen and Xtra
 - Pegasus on Church
 - ERA Architects
 - Yohomo: Toronto Queer Culture Now
- **May/21** - It Takes A Village panel to protect and promote cultural and heritage spaces
- **Sept/21** - 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
- **Fall/21** - UofT Masters of Urban Innovation Collaborative Research Project
- **May/22** - 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Three EDC Strategies in 2024

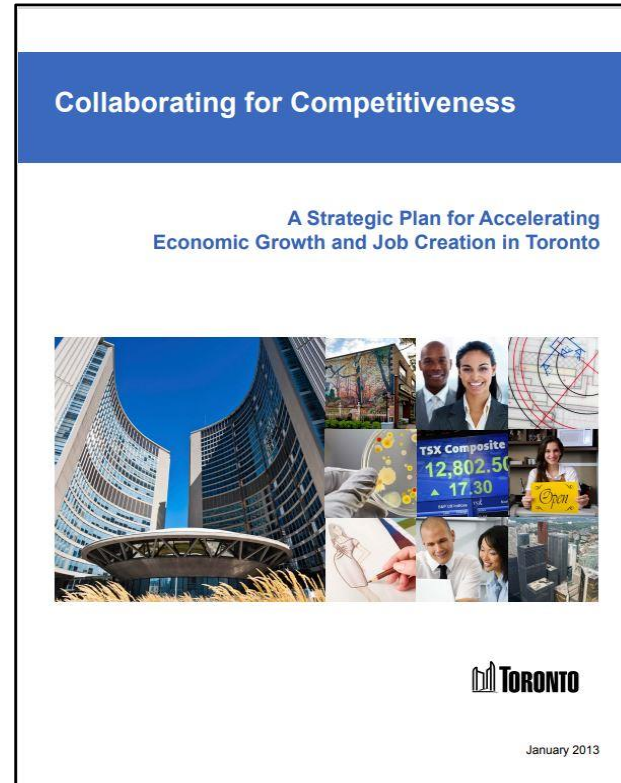
➤ Three EDC Strategies in 2024



➤ Previous EDC Strategies



**Creative Capital Gains
An Action Plan for Toronto (2011)**



**Collaborating for Competitiveness
A Strategic Plan for Accelerating Economic
Growth and Job Creation in Toronto (2013)**



EDC Divisional Strategy 2018-2022

**EDC Division Strategic Directions
2022-23**

Action Plan for Toronto's Culture Sector (2024-2034)

Sets priorities for City policies and programs in support of arts and culture, with an emphasis on access, inclusion and equity.

Action Plan for Toronto's Economy (2024-2034)

Establishes how the City coordinates existing and new levers to enhance Toronto's competitiveness while supporting more inclusive, sustainable and impactful economic growth in communities across Toronto

EDC Divisional Strategy (2024-2028)

Establishes strategic directions as well as goals and actions to guide all divisional programs, policies and services

➤ Engagement Plan: Divisional Strategy

- **Affiliated External Advisory Groups:**
 - **Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC):** aged 13 to 24, promoting youth participation in municipal affairs [complete]
 - **Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG):** guiding the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy [complete]
 - **Partnership and Accountability Circle (PAC):** supports the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism [complete]
- **Extensive internal consultation/ EDC staff and other internal stakeholders**

➤ Engagement Plan: Action Plan for Toronto's Economy

- **Economic Advisory Panel — Industry Leaders and Subject Matter Experts**
- **Public Survey** — launched January 24, open until Feb 14
- **Public Engagement Sessions (Jan-Feb 2024)**
 - **CityTalk: one public kick-off session** (January 3)
 - **12 sector interviews/stakeholder sessions** (January)
encompassing business districts, sector leaders, and academics from across Toronto.
 - **1 session dedicated to Indigenous economic participation and Reconciliation**
 - Interviews with up to 20 cultural business associations and groups across Toronto.

Consultants supporting the public engagement plan: Canadian Urban Institute



Engagement Plan: Action Plan for Toronto's Culture Sector

- The Culture Action Plan will be informed by:
 - An **Online Survey** – launched January 24, open until March 4
 - Two **Virtual Town Halls**
 - February 15th, 6:30pm – 9:30pm
 - Feb 22nd, 9:30am – 12:30pm
 - **Artist-led** engagement sessions – completed
 - 8 **community conversations** - completed
 - 3 were held specifically with Indigenous, Black, and Deaf, mad and disabled artists and creatives, respectively
 - A **community conversation 'toolkit'** for anyone who wants to host their own sessions – launching end of January
 - An **external advisory panel** and Council Advisory Bodies / Committees
 - Additional engagement opportunities on the draft Action Plan in Spring 2024

Consultants supporting the public engagement process: Monumental Projects

➤ Council Advisory Committees

- **All three strategies will be engaging City Council Advisory Committees, including:**
 - Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (2SLGBTQ+) Advisory Committee [January 31]
 - Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee [February 5]
 - Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee [February 9]
 - Aboriginal Affairs Committee [TBC]



Project Timelines for the Strategies

2023			2024			
Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct
Action Plan for Toronto's Culture Sector						
Research and Analysis (May 2023-March 2024)						
		Public and Sector Engagement (Sept 2023-March 2024)				
				Strategy Development and Approvals (April-Sept)		City Council Consideration
Action Plan for Toronto's Economy						
		Preparation (Dec)				
			Public and Sector Engagement (Jan-Feb)			
				Strategy Development and Approvals (May-Sept)		City Council Consideration
EDC Divisional Strategy						
Planning and Preliminary Analysis (Mar-Jul)						
	Stakeholder and Public Engagement (Jul 2023-Mar 2024)					
		Analysis and Strategy Development (Dec-Apr)				
				Approvals, Design and Delivery (Apr-Sep)		City Council Consideration

What We Heard

Feedback from past and current engagements

➤ What We Heard

- Feedback gathered from previous and current engagement activities will inform the development of the EDC strategies
- Feedback gathered from meetings with 2SLGBTQ+ community in 2020 / 2021 and community conversations for the culture plan in Nov 2023
- We will continue to gather feedback through upcoming engagement activities for the EDC strategies

➤ What We Heard

- Lack of affordable space for business and culture, including live/work
- Loss and closure of cultural venues and of 2SLGBTQ+ owned and operated businesses
- Lack of spaces that are welcoming and safe (including outdoor spaces)
- Inequitable distribution of arts funding
- Grant funding does not support experimentation and is limited to certain types of disciplines
- More opportunities for connection and community building; need to foster a culture of care
- Difficulty finding information about opportunities and resources
- More opportunities needed for capacity building and mentorship

Questions

1. Do the challenges and issues we have heard resonate?

2. Based on your experience, what's missing?