Expression of Condolence for Julia Cleveland by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

Councillor Gord Perks

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and tragic passing of Julia Cleveland on September 23, 2024, at the age of 46.

Julia Cleveland made an important mark on the Toronto music scene as a musician, advocate, and educator. She was an accomplished jazz musician and composer in Toronto. Best known for her work as a drummer and percussionist, Julia headed her own groups including the Julia Cleveland Quartet and Julia Cleveland Trio as a bandleader. She played at venues and festivals alike, including the Montreal Jazz Festival. She shared her love of music, running her own music school and had been working on new compositions with plans to perform later in the fall.

Ms. Cleveland was also an advocate for Toronto's music community and worked as the finance manager for the Toronto Musicians Association – the union representing musicians in the Greater Toronto Area.

Julia Cleveland will be remembered by her community for her innovative talent, bright personality, and inspiring passion for music that she loved to share with others.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Julia's parents, her husband, her sister, and the many people and communities she touched through her work and life.

October 9, 2024