

To: Chair, Committee and Members of the Etobicoke York Community Council

Date: June 2, 2025

Re: Application Number 22 218732 WET 05 OZ - applications to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to permit the development of a 42-storey mixed-use building with non-residential uses on the ground floor along John Street, for the property at 13-21 John Street and 40 South Station Street.

My name is annemieke wade. I am the Executive Director of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA). TAPA is a non-profit service organization that represents over 150 professional theatre, dance, and opera companies across Toronto. Our mission is to support the performing arts sector, advocate for artists, and strengthen the cultural life of our city.

I would like to express our strong support for the development application submitted by Devron Developments in York South–Weston which references a contribution of adjacent land for a new community arts centre.

For too long, Toronto's cultural infrastructure has been concentrated in the downtown core, leaving inner suburban communities like York South–Weston under-served. This development proposes a welcome change—introducing a new community arts centre as a central feature. We believe this is not only a bold investment in culture, but a transformative one for the local community.

This initiative is more than just a development—it is an opportunity to embed artistic and cultural opportunity into the very fabric of a neighbourhood that has been historically left out of Toronto's cultural planning. The proposed performing arts centre will act as a catalyst for economic revitalization and provide accessible space for local artists, creators, and audiences.

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Importantly, this development aligns with the City of Toronto's recently launched **Culture Connects** 10-Year Plan, which calls for equity in cultural investment and the decentralization of arts opportunities. The proposed project delivers directly on those priorities—bringing live performance, rehearsal, and presentation space directly into the community. It gives local artists a chance to live, work, and thrive in their own neighbourhoods.

We've heard repeatedly from our members and the wider arts community that affordable and accessible spaces for performance, creation, and collaboration are among the most urgent needs in our sector. This development takes a step toward addressing that need—not downtown, but where it's needed most.

We urge Council to consider the broader social and economic benefits of this project. Arts and culture do not just entertain—they employ, educate, and build community. A vibrant cultural hub in York South–Weston will spark new partnerships, boost small business, and foster civic pride.

On behalf of TAPA and the many artists and companies who would benefit from this initiative, we thank you for considering our support. We respectfully urge the committee and Council to approve this visionary development.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to building a more equitable and vibrant Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Wade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

annemieke wade
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