Expression of Condolence for Sandy Stagg by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Dianne Saxe

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sandy Stagg in May 2025.

Sandy came to Canada from the UK in 1968 and established herself as a cultural icon, art muse, and fashion star in Toronto.

In 1975, Sandy and a few partners bought the almost-defunct Peter Pan restaurant at Queen and Peter. In restoring the restaurant and modernizing the menu, it became a hit. Sandy and her co-owners are credited with sparking the art and music scene on Queen Street West, now one of the best places to see local music in our city. She also founded The Fiesta on Yonge St, north of Bloor, another hit.

Sandy was also a legendary second-hand clothes seller. At the former flea market outside the Church of the Holy Trinity, she sold clothing brought from London or thrift stores. When she opened a shop in Yorkville, she was told there was a by-law prohibiting the sale of second-hand goods there. She fought the by-law and won, changing Toronto's fashion scene forever. In London, she became a vintage seller to many fashion designers and celebrities.

Loved deeply by her incredible community of friends and admirers, Sandy is remembered for her incredible contributions to Toronto's arts, culture, and fashion scenes and making our city a more fun, vibrant, and cool place.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Sandy Stagg's family.