

From: [Laura McCallum](#)
To: [Budget Committee](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Re: 2026 City Budget – Arts & Culture
Date: January 20, 2026 8:57:51 AM

Dear Members of the Budget Committee,

I'm writing as a member of Toronto's arts and culture community to express my strong support for sustained and inflation-adjusted investment in arts and culture as part of the City's 2026 Budget. We are a performing arts organization located in the Davenport riding; we currently receive operating funding from the TAC.

Arts and culture are not a luxury in Toronto: they are a public good that contributes directly to the city's affordability, livability, economic vitality, and global reputation. From supporting local jobs and tourism, to building community connection and belonging, cultural investment benefits every Torontonian.

I urge the Committee to ensure inflationary increases for arts funding, including the Toronto Arts Council. Without these adjustments, organizations like ours and artists face real losses year over year, even when funding appears "stable" on paper. At the same time, unmet demand for arts funding remains extraordinarily high, leaving many strong, impactful projects unfunded. Addressing this gap is essential if Toronto is to remain a leading cultural city.

Sustained investment in arts and culture is aligned with the City's Arts & Culture Plan, Culture Connects, and with Council's broader priorities around economic resilience, equity, and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of the City.

Laura McCallum (she/her)
Managing Director
Outside the March
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