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April 8, 2026

Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
10th Floor, West Tower,
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Via email: ecdc@toronto.ca

RE: Review of Toronto's Street Vending & Artists By-laws

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

Downtown Yonge BIA (DYBIA) welcomes the review of Toronto's Street Vending & Artists By-law to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (DYBIA), with a membership of some 2,000 businesses and commercial property owners, and a combined commercial property value of \$7.2 billion, is one of the City's largest BIAs. We note that the business community in Downtown Yonge generates an estimated \$850 million a year in fiscal revenues for different levels of government, including *inter alia* commercial property taxes. Currently, the neighbourhood has over 40 development projects underway and in the pipeline, further densifying the area.

It is also home to Sankofa Square, a key meeting place and destination, which hosts multiple events year-round.

In recent years, the impact of vending and busking activities in the area has caused significant safety concerns, including:

- Pedestrians walking into live traffic;
- Street operations teams being unable to easily access the public realm for cleaning; and
- Pinch points impacting right-of-way, access to street furniture, TTC stops and crosswalks.



Furthermore, the proliferation of street performers using amplified sound and percussion instruments has negatively impacted the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

DYBIA would like to request that the area defined below be designated a Restricted Zone with no vending and busking at all times:

- Dundas Street from Yonge Street to Bay Street;
- South of Dundas Street on both the east and west sides of Yonge Street to Richmond Street.

Nonetheless – DYBIA does want to acknowledge and celebrate the vibrancy of street life in Downtown Yonge, albeit it in a way that is both transparent and well-managed.

To that end, we would like to propose that DYBIA work with City Staff on a Pilot Busk Stop Program, which would designate a select number of locations, properly marked as a vending or busking space on the requested Restricted Zone.

Thank you for taking our feedback into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Diego".

Cheryll Diego
Director, Public Realm Experience