

From: [Anyika Mark](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Item- 2026.EC29.4- Little Jamaica Community Land Trust
Date: June 8, 2026 2:07:36 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 9, 2026 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2026.EC29.4, Establishing Toronto's Cultural Districts Program

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Dear Members of the Economic Development Committee,

The Little Jamaica Community Land Trust (LJCLT) is writing today to express our strong support for the City of Toronto's Cultural Districts Program, a framework that community members in Little Jamaica have waited **over 6 years** to see come to fruition. We want to thank our local City Councillors and the City Staff who stayed dedicated to seeing the promise of the Cultural District Program through.

Most importantly, we want to thank the community leaders in Little Jamaica and Chinatown who have continued advocating for the existence of this program and the existence of the many policy interventions listed in the Attachments. Our advocacy for the Cultural District Program was designed to push our City to do more and respond better to historic neighbourhoods being under threat of displacement and cultural erasure. Today, our City is finally taking a step forward towards that response.

LJCLT supports the passing of this motion, but we will remain diligent in our advocacy that there **must be multi-year funding commitments** from the City of Toronto. This includes, but is not limited to,

- Grants to nonprofit and for-profit culturally significant businesses in Little Jamaica
- Commercial rent stabilization, property tax exemptions, and tenant supports
- Acquisition pathways for commercial spaces (including learning from models like MURA)

LJCLT remains committed to work with City staff, alongside the Little Jamaica community and fellow Community Land Trust peers, to see the development of this program through.

We look forward to this committee's approval and unanimous passing of the Cultural District Program.

Sincerely,

Anyika Mark
Managing Director
Little Jamaica Community Land Trust