

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Authorization to release Section 37 Funds for the Heliconian Club

Moved by: Councillor

Saxe

Seconded by: Councillor

#### SUMMARY:

The not-for-profit Heliconian Club is a key network for women living and working in the arts. It also plays an active role in wider community initiatives and maintains an outreach program. It was founded in 1909 as a place for women working in the arts to meet, exchange ideas, and develop as artists, and these needs continue today.

The home of the club is the Heliconian Hall, a National Heritage Site at 35 Hazelton Avenue in Yorkville. The Hall is a valued, welcoming space for creative women in the literary world and in other artistic disciplines. It was built in 1876 when Yorkville was a rural village on Toronto's outskirts. First a church, then headquarters of a painters' union, the building became the Heliconian Hall in 1923.

The building is an excellent example of the rare Carpenter's Gothic architectural style, with a simple board and batten exterior, Victorian rose window, and carved rafters in a high vaulted ceiling. The Heliconian Hall is one of the few buildings of this style remaining in southern Ontario. It was designated a Toronto historic site in 1990 and a National Historic Site in 2008; a plaque was erected outside the building in 2011. Its beautiful acoustics continue to make it one of Toronto's most cherished small concert halls, regularly used as a performance venue and art gallery.

After 150 years, the carved wood details of the Hall require repairs.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program on a one-time basis by \$30,000 gross, \$0 net, (Cost Centre: NP2161) fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained in the development at 48-58 Scollard Street and 1315-1325 Bay Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701290), secured for capital improvements, for the restoration of Heliconian Hall's heritage woodwork at 35 Hazelton Avenue (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$30,000 be forwarded to the Heliconian Club upon signing of an undertaking by the Heliconian Club that governs the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Tuesday 24 February 2026