

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Appointment of Chair of the TO Live Board of Directors

Moved by: Councillor Cheng

Seconded by: Mayor Chow

SUMMARY:

As the municipal Agency charged with managing the City of Toronto's civic theatres, TO Live is one of Canada's largest multi-arts organizations, operating three iconic venues: Meridian Hall, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and Meridian Arts Centre. In addition, TO Live presents a full range of performing arts, theatrical and concert events at these venues in both downtown and uptown Toronto. With these two hubs of creativity and content creation, TO Live has a unique place in the local cultural ecosystem to present local and international artists, connect audiences to a diverse array of cultural content reflective of the multicultural nature of the city, and provide accessible cultural space to a variety of partners in Toronto's cultural sector. Across its three sites, TO Live presents over 1,000 performances a year, attracting well over 500,000 people.

Reporting to City Council, TO Live is overseen by a Board of Directors composed of 13 members including: the Mayor or a Council member appointed by the Mayor as the Mayor's designate; 2 Council members; and, 10 public members. The Chair is drawn from the pool of public members. The TO Live Board of Directors provides oversight over the +\$45 million annual operating budget for TO Live and its complement of more than 250 staff.

The TO Live board has been without a Chair since the resignation of Lori DeGraw in November of 2025. This motion recommends the appointment of Brian Astl as Chair of the Board. Brian has served as a member of the TO Live board since March of 2024.

Reason for Urgency:

This matter is urgent because the TO Live board has been without a Chair since November 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council appoint Brian Astl as Chair of the TO Live board of Directors, at pleasure of Council, for the remainder of his term ending February 10, 2028, and until a successor is appointed.