



MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Supporting Local Arts and Culture Organizations in Ward 10

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Bravo

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Deputy Mayor Malik, seconded by Councillor Bravo, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to identify strategies to support cultural organizations facing displacement and cultural organizations with capital funding and space needs and report on findings to the Economic and Community Development Committee as part of the 2027 annual report on the implementation of Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto (2025-2035).
2. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, provide a plan for the long-term activation of the City-owned arts space Sandbox building (formerly Artscape) upon the departure of their upcoming short-term tenant, with focus wherever possible on the prioritization of arts-serving organizations currently based in or recently displaced from Ward 10 and other options to address creative space needs in the city.
3. City Council request the Board of Directors of the Toronto Arts Council to assess the feasibility of developing programs to support independent fashion designers, in collaboration with fashion design schools, local artists, and neighbourhood groups, as well as analyzing the sector's need from a commercial standpoint through the Division's economic development efforts.

SUMMARY:

Since 2022, ongoing engagement has been occurring with local arts organizations in Ward 10 around their needs and barriers to delivering their programming.

The first phase of this engagement was input that fed into improvements and additions to the City's Culture Connects Plan in Fall 2024.

Organizations like Bygone Theatre and On Task Studios have been displaced from their previous homes in Ward 10 and are seeking new permanent spaces. Organizations like Cinecycle have been working to identify ways to ensure their laneway and venue are accessible for patrons with accessibility and mobility needs. IATSE Local 58 has been continually searching for training space in our downtown to train the next generation of arts workers in the live performance sector. We know there are more organizations in Ward 10 and across the City in dire need of affordable and accessible arts space.

These motions are aimed at ensuring local arts organizations in Ward 10 continue to be well-supported with the space they need to do their work, that their spaces are accessible, and that we leverage all possible opportunities. They also aim at addressing and investigating new sectors that are not currently receiving support to better understand the viability of City supports.

The reason for urgency is that there are a number of arts and culture organizations experiencing displacement and in need of affordable and accessible arts space.