

MOTION without Notice

Can the Standard Theatre be restored to use as a music venue?

Moved by: Councillor

Saxe

Chow

Seconded by: Mayor

SUMMARY:

Toronto is desperately short of live music venues and is facing threats to some of those that remain. One potential solution may be to revitalize the vacant theatre at 285 Spadina Ave., the corner of [Spadina Avenue](#) and [Dundas Street](#). This theatre has been vacant since 1975, but it was erected in 1921 as the Standard Theatre for live Yiddish theatre. It was designed by Benjamin Brown, one of Toronto's first Jewish architects, and financed by selling shares to members of the Jewish community of [Kensington Market](#). As a theatre designed for live performances, it could still have good acoustics.

Reason for urgency:

There may be a short-term opportunity to relocate an existing cultural venue into this space if it can be done at a reasonable price.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That City Council request the General Manager, Economic and Community Development, to report back to City Council, no later than July 29 to 31, 2026, with recommendations on the suitability of the Standard Theatre for adaptation as a live music venue.

Date: June 25, 2026