



REPORT FOR ACTION

2017 Major Cultural Organizations Allocations

Date: April 24, 2017

To: Economic Development Committee

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report recommends allocations to ten not-for-profit organizations that have applied for funding through the 2017 Major Cultural Organizations (MCO) program administered by the Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC). Recipient organizations deliver unique artistic programming that strengthens the richness and diversity of Toronto's cultural sector including significant contributions to its future through arts education programs. These organizations have significant social and economic impact: they attract visitors, drive tourism, lead community initiatives and are critical elements of Toronto's position as an international cultural tourism destination.

The total program funding available for these allocations is \$7,914,695 as approved by City Council on February 15-16, 2017, as part of the 2017 Operating Budget. Allocation recommendations presented in this report are based on the review by Economic Development and Culture Division's Arts and Culture Services staff and an external peer advisory panel. All recipients are subject to the City of Toronto's Community Grants Policy. The recommended grant amounts for each organization are the same in 2017 as were granted in 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. City Council approve the allocations of Major Cultural Organizations program funding of \$7,914,695 in 2017 to the following organizations:

Organization	Amount
Art Gallery of Ontario	\$684,000
Canada's National Ballet School	\$200,000
Canadian Opera Company	\$1,600,000
Festival Management Committee (Toronto Caribbean Carnival)	\$625,000
National Ballet of Canada	\$1,320,000
Pride Toronto	\$260,000
Toronto Artscape Inc.	\$415,000
Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity (Luminato)	\$400,000
Toronto International Film Festival Group	\$1,140,695
Toronto Symphony Orchestra	\$1,270,000
TOTAL	\$7,914,695

2. City Council approve the balance of the 2017 instalment payments to the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canadian Opera Company, Festival Management Committee, National Ballet of Canada, Toronto Artscape Inc., Toronto International Film Festival Group, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra be made as one payment following the adoption of the recommended allocations by City Council, and that monthly instalments to these organizations resume in January 2018.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report recommends the allocation of program funding for the Major Cultural Organizations Program to the 10 above-mentioned cultural organizations.

There is no additional financial impact in 2017. Funding of \$7,914,695 for the Major Cultural Organizations program was included in the 2017 Approved Operating Budget for the Economic Development and Culture Division.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

Through Clause No. 3, Report No. 24 of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, adopted by City Council at its meeting held on November 25, 26 and 27, 1998, the City established the role of Toronto's Cultural Services in the delivery of funding in the Arts and Culture category for Major Cultural Organizations.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/minutes/council/appa/cc981125/sp24rpt.htm>

On November 3, 2015, City Council adopted revisions to the Major Cultural Organizations program to update eligibility and assessment criteria, increase the clarity and transparency of the program and ensure continued relevance of the program.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.ED7.2>

At its meeting of February 15-16, 2017, City Council approved the operating budget for Economic Development and Culture for 2017.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX22.2>

COMMENTS

Economic Development and Culture staff reviewed the applications received by the March 1, 2017 deadline and requested additional information where clarifications were required. The applications were reviewed by staff and underwent a peer review process. The external peer advisory panel was asked to assess each of the applications based on the quality of the programming, community service, cultural and economic impact, financial management and governance. They were also asked to rank the organizations in terms of funding priorities and to identify long-term issues and trends. These rankings and the advice of the advisory panel were taken into consideration in determining the recommended allocations.

Advisors were selected to represent a broad base of experience and expertise and a general knowledge of the cultural sector. The 2017 external advisory panel for the MCO program was comprised of Emanuele Lepri, Director, Bata Shoe Museum; Howard Kerbel, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Jazz Festival; Natalie Lue, Chief Executive Officer, Living Arts Centre, Mississauga; and, Su Hutchinson, Managing Director, Canadian Stage.

The recommended allocations for 2017 are the same as those recommended under the program in 2016, largely due to the fact that the program budget has not changed. As part of their role in delivery of the program, the peer external advisory panel requested that Arts and Culture Services staff examine whether the overall pattern of investment in the Toronto arts sector made by the Major Cultural Organizations program is as strategic and effective as it could be. Staff have taken this advice into consideration and will be reporting out on the impact of culture grants later in 2017 as well as bringing forward any recommended changes to the program for 2018.

Pride Toronto

Pride Toronto's festival will take place June 1 - 25, 2017. Their Annual General Meeting was held January 17, 2017. At that time, Pride Toronto was without any senior management staff. At the AGM, the membership in attendance voted to ban the participation of Toronto Police Service officers in uniform in the Pride Parade and related festival activities. Public controversy ensued including strong divisions within the LGBTQ2S communities between those who disagreed profoundly with the ban, and those who supported it. There were and continues to be calls in the media for the City to withhold Pride Toronto's grant for this year's festival unless members of the Toronto Police Service are included. On February 10, Chief Saunders issued a press release stating that the Toronto Police Service would not participate in the 2017 Pride Parade. On February 17, Pride Toronto hired its Executive Director, Olivia Nuamah, who has moved quickly to hire staff and plan the 2017 festival. (Although the City provides a grant to festival organizers, the grant funding is not allocated to policing services, nor is it for the parade itself. The costs attributable to policing are borne directly by the Toronto Police Service budget. City of Toronto funding to Pride Toronto supports the administration of the organization and the Pride Week cultural festival.)

Staff from Economic Development and Culture Division, Social Development and Financial Administration Division, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Division and Legal Services recommend that the City continue to fund Pride Toronto for several reasons. First, the application received from the organization was assessed positively, by the external advisory committee according to the program assessment criteria. Pride Toronto's application and planned activities were deemed as meeting program objectives. Notably, Pride Toronto's application was subject to significant scrutiny, due to recent changes in the organization's governance and management, and emerged from a relative assessment with other applicants to the program very favourably. Despite the turnover of the board and staff, the organization has displayed professionalism in organizing the 2017 festival and planning is well under way.

Second, Pride Toronto has complied with the City's Community Grants Policy and with Access, Equity and Human Rights policies and legislation. The specific issue of the exclusion of uniformed police from marching in the parade has been analyzed and does not contravene the City Human Rights Policy or the Ontario Human Rights Code. Legal Services has been consulted in this regard and has advised that no grounds or areas protected by the Human Rights Code or the City's Human Rights Policy are invoked by this matter. "Being a uniformed police officer" is not a ground of discrimination protected by the Human Rights Code or the City's Human Rights Policy. Even if it were, the City's Human Rights Policy protects City of Toronto employees from discrimination by the City, as their employer. Toronto Police Officers are not employees of the City of Toronto and not protected by the City's Human Rights Policy. Further, the City's Human Rights Policy protects the public who receive services from the City, from being discriminated against by City of Toronto employees, and this is not at play in this matter.

Third, City policies governing granting and administrative practice to date, have not dictated to funded organizations what should be programmed or who should attend funded events as long as they comply with City policies and Human Rights legislation. In terms of cultural funding, withholding Pride Toronto's funding for its decisions on who may march in the parade raises freedom of expression issues and sets a precedent for the City's involvement in the internal operations of a cultural organization.

Fourth and finally, it is the opinion of staff that the LGBTQ2S community is not a homogenous one and there will naturally be dissent within it. In past years, when there has been dissention and disagreement about who gets to march in Pride, Pride Toronto has used a Dispute Resolution Process to resolve those disputes. The Grants Policy requires that the recipient organization have such a process for the purposes of resolving complaints. To date, staff are not aware that Pride Toronto's process has been engaged in this case. With a new management and board in place, Pride Toronto and the Toronto Police Service should be given an opportunity for dialogue and future cooperation that is focussed on rebuilding and restoring relations.

In summary, while Council retains the ultimate discretion to refuse a grant where it does not believe that such a grant is in the interests of the City, there are no specific violations of existing City's policies governing granting which would result in a staff recommendation to withhold funding to Pride Toronto in 2017.

Summary of Grant Recommendations

Organization	2016 Allocation	2017 Request	2017 Recommended Allocation
Art Gallery of Ontario	\$ 684,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 684,000
Canada's National Ballet School	\$ 200,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 200,000
Canadian Opera Company	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,600,000
Festival Management Committee (Toronto Caribbean Carnival)	\$ 625,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 625,000
National Ballet of Canada	\$ 1,320,000	\$ 1,320,000	\$ 1,320,000
Pride Toronto	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 260,000
Toronto Artscape Inc.	\$ 415,000	\$ 445,000	\$ 415,000
Toronto Festival of Arts, Culture and Creativity (Luminato)	\$ 400,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 400,000

Organization	2016 Allocation	2017 Request	2017 Recommended Allocation
Toronto International Film Festival Group	\$ 1,140,695	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,140,695
Toronto Symphony Orchestra	\$ 1,270,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,270,000
TOTAL	\$ 7,914,695	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 7,914,695

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1: Summary of 2017 MCO Recipient Organizations