

**Cultural Spaces Canada - Federal Funding Application**

<b>Date:</b>	September 21, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Public Library Board
<b>From:</b>	City Librarian

**SUMMARY**

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This report is to seek Toronto Public Library Board support for funding applications to Cultural Spaces Canada for the York Woods and Palmerston theatres.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:**

1. endorses the funding application to the Cultural Spaces Canada program at Canadian Heritage in support of the York Woods Theatre project; and
2. endorses the funding application to the Cultural Spaces Canada program at Canadian Heritage in support of the Palmerston Theatre project.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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Successful grant applications would enhance the Library's capital budget allowing additional spending to address capital renovation needs which will improve theatre facilities and program delivery.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

**ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Earlier this year, the Federal government pledged \$60 million over two years (fiscal 2009 - 2010 and 2010 - 2011) to support infrastructure for local and community cultural and heritage institutions. This is in addition to other Federal infrastructure stimulus programs.

## **COMMENTS**

The new Federal funds will be attributed to the Cultural Spaces Canada (CSC) program which is administered by Heritage Canada.

The CSC program supports the improvement, renovation and construction of arts and heritage facilities, and the acquisition of specialized equipment as well as conducting feasibility studies. It is also designed to increase access for Canadians to performing arts, visual arts, media arts, and to museum collections and heritage displays. Municipalities, including the Toronto Public Library Board, are eligible for funding.

With the input of new federal funds, the program has temporarily increased its maximum level of support to 50 percent of eligible costs. For funding available in 2009 - 2010 and 2010 - 2011, priority will be given to projects that clearly demonstrate a contribution to economic stimulation through immediate job creation and longer-term economic impacts. Submitted projects must be fully completed by March 31, 2011 to be considered for funding.

The grant application requires a Board resolution endorsing the project.

At the meeting on November 24, 2008, the Board endorsed a similar funding application to CSC for the Toronto Reference Library gallery, which resulted in a successful grant of up to \$200,000.

The funding applications are being developed in consultation with City staff.

### **York Woods Theatre and Arts Hub**

TPL is partnering with community groups (Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services, Dusk Dances, Nomanzland, Rated Inc., LIFE Movement, Jane –Finch Neighbourhood Action Partnership) to create a local Arts Hub at the York Woods Library which also has a Theatre. The Jane-Finch community is proud of its contributions to the arts and there is a proliferation of arts groups in this part of the city. The City has indicated that Partnership and Opportunities Legacy (POL) funding of \$500,000, which the City has committed to support priority neighbourhoods, is available to fund the Arts Hub; this is similar to the POL funding received for the media labs at Malvern and Kennedy/Eglinton.

TPL intends to apply to CSC for funding of \$500,000 to match the POL funding already secured. If successful, the total project would be funded at \$1 million which would be used to build the Arts Hub and renovate the Theatre. The project will require relocation of existing meeting facilities to accommodate the construction of rehearsal, storage, office space, and public washrooms. Direct access will be provided from the new rehearsal space to the rear of the theatre so that the space can also be used as a staging area during productions. Access to the Arts Hub area and outdoor spaces will be enhanced, and the fire/security system will be upgraded. In addition, other enhancements to the existing

theatre will be made including new finishes in the staging and practice area, upgrades to stage lighting and sound systems, control room, and installation of hearing devices.

### **Palmerston Theatre**

The Palmerston theatre size and location has served as an ideal venue for a variety of cultural groups and theatrical organizations. Renovations are planned for the theatre in 2010, in the amount of \$125,000 to be funded from the Multi-branch Renovation project budget. TPL intends to apply to CSC for matching funding of \$125,000 to enhance the project budget. If the application is successful, the \$250,000 project would include repainting and recarpeting the theatre, renovating the lobby area which would include a new ticket booth, constructing a new washroom for the backstage area, completely renovating the existing change rooms, and making lighting improvements.

### **CONCLUSION**

These projects will support increasing public demand for theatre use and provide important opportunities to build on the assets of the community as they address the lack of affordable, local and accessible public space.

The current Strategic Plan “Our Shared Stories: Writing the Future of Toronto’s Library” includes a focus on supporting creativity and culture through TPL’s resources, programs, partnerships and spaces. These projects are aligned with these ambitions and, with support and collaboration, a strong linkage between the arts & cultural communities and TPL will be the result. Many of the local arts groups are led by youth, and so this project directly supports youth engagement and other associate strategic planning objectives.

### **CONTACT**

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### **SIGNATURE**

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City Librarian