



Dear Colleagues:

The city is currently completing its review of core services. KPMG's report *City of Toronto Core Service Review Project* identifies city services as *mandatory*, *essential*, *traditional* (ie. other cities offer this service) or *other*, in order of priority.

Arts - including grants, theatres and arts services - have been identified as traditional and the report states that the city has the option of reducing or eliminating funds for the arts. The section of the report referencing arts funding can be found [here](#) (search arts in the document).

While the Mayor has expressed his support for the arts community and held the line on arts funding for 2011, he was quoted in a radio interview last Friday: "I can't sit here and justify handing out \$50 million in grants when we're looking for \$750 million". (The City's total grants budget is \$47 million; arts grants, including TAC, make up just under \$20 million of this total). The Mayor has indicated that he will listen to taxpayers to determine which services and programs are important to them.

To help make sure that the Mayor and Councillors understand that the arts are essential to Toronto - please do this TODAY:

Ask your volunteer Board members to contact the Mayor directly and let him know in their own words that, as a Toronto taxpayer and a volunteer for an arts organization, they believe:

- the arts are essential to Toronto; and
- the City should support the arts because city funding is the catalyst for private sector donations; a strong arts community brings prosperity, tourism and economic vibrancy and makes Toronto the place they want to live.

It is important that this communication be made by individual Toronto residents, rather than by the arts organizations that are recipients of city funding.

Contact information for the Mayor and all City Councillors is below. To be most effective, please have your Board members cc as many Councillors as possible.

Toronto's Executive Committee will deliberate the report at city hall on Thursday July 28. Toronto Arts Council will have several people making deputations. If you would like to add your name to the list, write exc@toronto.ca and ask to register to speak at Thursday's meeting.

For questions or more information, call Susan Wright 416-392-6802 x211; susan@torontoartscouncil.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claire Hopkinson".

Claire Hopkinson, Executive Director

Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation

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