
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.10	ACTION			Ward: All
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Endorsement for “Cutting the Album”, by Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Mayor Miller

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Mayor Miller, recommends that:

1. Toronto City Council endorse and support the “Cutting the Album” campaign in urging Stephen Harper and his Conservative government to commit to meaningful dialogue with the Canadian artistic community, to engage in a fair, transparent, and inclusive consultation process when dealing with arts and culture in Canada, and to reinstate funding to the Music Diversity Program in order to ensure that Canadian artists, including those in the City of Toronto, are able to continue to create innovative works that reflect our diverse and uniquely Canadian experiences.

Summary

The Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) has long provided funding to Canadian artists to assist in the creation and distribution of vital new works. Heritage Minister James Moore recently announced that \$1.3 million from the Canada Music Fund’s annual budget would be redirected away from the Canada Council and this has resulted in the cancellation of the CCA’s Music Diversity Program. For the past 20 years, the CCA’s Music Diversity Program has provided integral support for recording and marketing to artists who are on the forefront of forging new, innovative and distinctly Canadian culture. A substantial number of past Music Diversity Grant recipients are Toronto-based.

The changes to this funding program were made without consultation with the many artists previously supported by the Music Diversity Program who will, in the future, be excluded from any new funding. An online petition demanding that these funds be reinstated has already received over 5,700 signatures.

The organizations to which these funds have been redirected, and who were consulted with, are primarily concerned with commercial viability and not artistic merit.

These changes will consequently have a direct impact on the artistic and financial well-being of the City of Toronto, a city that has long prided itself on having a thriving, diverse community of artists whose contribution to distinctly Canadian Culture is recognized both across the country and around the world.

(Submitted to City Council on October 26 and 27, 2009 as MM41.10)