

Provincial Funds Reallocated to Culture and Heritage Deposition Brief

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Integrated Arts/Healthcare/Research/Education/Affordable Housing Initiative

A shift in how society values Art & Culture and intersections with Healthcare is needed!

This is a time where people are particularly receptive to understanding the real value of healthcare, the immense value of the arts, the need for affordable housing and the interdependence and intersections therein regarding healing, recovery, and fostering a better world for all.

At this time, we are advised to turn to our most uplifting music, read an inspiring book, listen to an informed podcast, dance out our anxiety and express our feelings for loved ones in novel ways, especially using media in expansive and creative ways. That's because we all intuitively know that art is medicine. By employing culturally important rituals and distracting our exhausted crisis brains, we are encouraged to self-manage our anxiety. Straight out of the handbook on how to Live a Healthy Life With Chronic Pain.

There was already a crisis in the cultural and creative sector in Toronto before the COVID pandemic, and proactive measures are needed to address what is a cultural crisis. There is an immediate need for appropriate and affordable housing for all, including artists. Artists in downtown Toronto have historically faced illegitimacy, accepting unsafe conditions in order to access affordable, architecturally appropriate work spaces. Then the communities that artists build are being dismantled without considering the value of the people and the successful cultural activities at work there. Creatives and other low-income folks are left behind when neighbourhoods are redeveloped without considering the invested inhabitants' needs or return, and we all lose out on the cultural heritage appreciated over years of successful relationships.

Bureau Of Power And Light art collective, partner Isabel Fryszberg OT, and partner Scientists and Researchers, have been independently developing projects that address the immediate need to acknowledge the interdependence of the Arts, Healthcare, Education and Research, and Affordable Housing.

June 18, 2020

A Creative Convergence Hub that cultivates Community Health will ensure a more equitable, kind and culturally robust society. This hub will provide accessible opportunities for marginalized, emerging and established creatives, and people in need of affordable housing to live and work in a mixed-use environment conducive to creative convergence with an emphasis on community health and wellbeing. Strategic Partnerships with Public and Private stakeholders are integral to a truly impactful initiative.