

Mr. Simon Brault  
Director and CEO  
Canada Council for the Arts  
150 Elgin Street  
PO Box 1047 Ottawa, ON K1P 5V8

September 11, 2018

Dear Mr. Brault,

The Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) serves 188 professional theatre, dance and opera companies in Toronto (members list attached). These companies reflect a full spectrum of diverse artistic and cultural practices explored and presented on Toronto stages. TAPA effectively responds to membership needs as outlined in our strategic plan **STANDING STRONG**, emphasizing: Audience Development & Growth, Increasing Value of Membership – IMPACT, Financial Vitality, and Advocacy.

Earlier this year, TAPA was approached by its membership, many of whom expressed concerns about the Canada Council's new funding model and the results of recent grant competitions. Some also provided anecdotal observations about continuing regional inequities. In direct response, TAPA conducted a survey this past spring to explore the impact of the Canada Council's new funding model and gain perspective regarding the allocation of new resources. Half of those surveyed with operating budgets of \$500,000 or more were flat-lined, while 10% of the same cohort received increases ranging from 10% to 30%. 5% of the sample was awarded operating funding for the first time.

Canada Council open source grants data when compared to the 2016 Census reveals that, across all disciplines, Toronto is funded at \$6.89 per capita (CMA) and Montreal at \$11.00, yet Toronto continues to outpace the national growth rate. Arts grants to Toronto (CMA population: 5,928,040) totaled \$40,884,552, whereas Montreal (CMA population: 4,098,927) received \$45,094,881. Toronto long ago became the cultural capital of Canada (job numbers, cultural GDP, etc. prove it); the opportunity exists now to correct the situation. There are 23,700 artists in Toronto and 12,300 artists in Montreal.

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**Board of Directors**  
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Kelly Straughan

The Government of Canada's increased investments in the Canada Council and the Council's Strategic Plan for 2016-21 both "open the door to a renaissance in the arts". Toronto is a necessary part of the solution. We would like to partner with you to help you achieve many of the objectives outlined in your strategic plan. Although the runway is shortening; the window of opportunity remains to make that historic change. All Canadians deserve the opportunity to fully participate in the cultural and artistic life of the nation, particularly at a time when Canada is a model of cultural inclusion to the world.

While we acknowledge the delicate nature of these matters, the facts cannot be ignored. Toronto is one of the most culturally diverse and cosmopolitan cities in the world. At a time when this region is evolving artistically and culturally faster than other parts of the country, Toronto requires additional resources to meet the demands of serving a larger population with a greater range of cultural identities. Given the demographic growth and cultural changes in Ontario, the historical disparities have become untenable and we would like this situation dealt with in a timely manner.

A recent analysis of 2015-16 to 2017-18 Canada Council data revealed grants and awards to Indigenous (4.9% of the population) artists and organizations were up from approximately 3.8% to 6.4%, while over the same period, grants and awards to visible minorities (22.3% of the population) were up from approximately 6.5% to 10.1%. Toronto is the linchpin to help us turn the corner as the Canada Council redoubles its efforts to achieve greater equity for people of colour, ensuring a better representation of modern day Canada on our stages, screens and tableaux. As we did in the 1950s when supporting then-fledgling organizations like the National Ballet of Canada, the Canadian Opera Company and Le Théâtre du Nouveau-Monde, we need to have faith and invest deeply.

CultureTrack, a study released by Business for the Arts in 2018 identified "Indigenous peoples and people of colour are 65% more likely to stay away because activities don't reflect people of a range of backgrounds." This is an important consideration for policy makers and programmers alike. Cultural evolution is a work in progress: it isn't enough to serve diverse audiences; we also need to ensure diverse peoples are represented. If we are inviting the world to live here, we need to serve the world. Furthermore, advancing diverse artistic and cultural practices will strengthen Toronto's place as a hot spot for cultural tourism, not only because it's a great international destination, but because tourists can sample cultures from around the globe right here.

TAPA is committed to transparency and we would be happy to share the results of our survey with you. In the meantime, The TAPA Board of Directors would like the Canada Council to acknowledge and redress the inequities outlined here. We call on Council to take this opportunity to more fairly distribute its finite resources so the potential of places like Toronto, and its many diverse artists, may be unleashed to contribute to our much needed collective artistic and cultural renaissance. Let's do more than open the door, let's walk through that doorway together.

We hope you are willing to meet and discuss ways of addressing the situation soon. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Régine Cadet  
President, Board of Directors



Jacoba Knaapen  
Executive Director

Cc: Pierre Lassonde, Chair, Canada Council for the Arts  
Claire Hopkinson, Director and CEO, Toronto Arts Council  
Patrick Tobin, Director, Arts and Culture Services, City of Toronto  
Peter Caldwell, Director and CEO, Ontario Arts Council  
TAPA Membership

**TAPA Membership 2017-18**

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- A Pirate's Life Inc.  
 Ad Hoc Collective for the "Tragedie of Lear"  
 Against the Grain Theatre  
 Ahuri Theatre  
 Alumnae Theatre  
 Aluna Theatre  
 AMICUS Productions  
 Anisa Tejpar  
 ARC  
 b current performing arts  
 Bad Dog Theatre Company  
 Bravo Academy for the Performing Arts  
 Buddies In Bad Times Theatre  
 Bygone Theatre  
 Cage on the Run Productions  
 Cahoots Theatre Company  
 Canadian Children's Opera Company  
 Canadian Opera Company  
 Canadian Stage  
 Citadel + Compagnie  
 Civic Theatres Toronto  
 Coal Mine Theatre  
 Common Boots Theatre  
 Convergence Theatre  
 CORPUS Dance Projects  
 Crave Productions  
 Crow's Theatre  
 Cue6  
 Dance Umbrella of Ontario  
 Dancemakers  
 DanceWorks  
 Discord and Din Theatre  
 Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company  
 Factory Theatre  
 Filament Incubator  
 fu-GEN Theatre Company  
 George Brown Theatre  
 Groundling Theatre Company  
 Guild Festival Theatre  
 Harbourfront Centre  
 Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company  
 Hart House Theatre  
 Holla Jazz  
 IN ASSOCIATION  
 Janis A. Barlow & Associates  
 John Bassett Theatre, Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
 Joseph Patrick Presents  
 Jumblies Theatre  
 Kaeja d'Dance  
 Le Théâtre français de Toronto  
 Le Théâtre La Tangente  
 Leroy Street Theatre  
 Luminato Festival  
 Marquis Entertainment Inc.  
 Mauzy May Productions  
 Metcalf Foundation  
 Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre  
 Minmar Gaslight Productions  
 Mirvish Productions  
 Mixed Company Theatre  
 MLC Dance  
 Modern Times Stage Company  
 Music Picnic  
 Music TORONTO  
 Native Earth Performing Arts Inc.  
 Necessary Angel Theatre Company  
 Nightfall Theatrics  
 Nightswimming  
 Nightwood Theatre  
 Obsidian Theatre Company Inc.  
 One Little Goat Theatre Company  
 Opera 5  
 Opera Atelier  
 Outlook Theatre  
 Outside the March  
 PACT : Professional Association of Canadian Theatres  
 Peggy Baker Dance Projects  
 Playwrights Guild of Canada  
 Pleiades Theatre

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 Amy Mushinski

Brett Randall  
 Annemieke Wade  
 Kelly Straughan

pounds per square inch performance  
PRINCESS PRODUCTIONS  
Puppetmongers Theatre  
RARE Theatre  
REASON d'être dance productions  
Red Sky Performance  
Roseneath Theatre  
Ryerson School of Performance  
SaMel Tanz  
Sara Porter  
Sara Schwartz Geller Productions  
Scapegoat Collective  
Scarborough Arts  
Seven Siblings Theatre  
Shadowland Theatre  
Shakespeare in Action  
Shakespeare in the Ruff  
Shaw Festival  
Sirius Theatrical Company  
Solar Stage  
Soulpepper Theatre Company  
Soundstreams  
Soup Can Theatre  
Starvox Entertainment Inc.  
Stratford Festival  
Studio 180 Theatre  
Sulong Theatre Company  
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and  
Chamber Choir  
Tapestry Opera  
Tarragon Theatre  
The ARTillery Collective  
The Chekhov Collective  
The Christmas Story, The Church of the  
Holy Trinity  
The Company Theatre  
The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy  
Thomson Hall  
The Dietrich Group  
The Fringe of Toronto Theatre Festival  
The Howland Company  
The Musical Stage Company  
The National Ballet of Canada  
The Second City

The Theatre Centre  
Theatre Animal  
Theatre Direct  
Theatre Gargantua  
Theatre Inamorata  
Theatre Lab  
Theatre Ontario  
Theatre Passe Muraille  
Theatre Smith-Gilmour  
Thought For Food Productions  
Timeshare  
Toronto Dance Theatre  
Toronto Summer Music Festival  
U.N.I.T. Productions  
Unit 102  
Volcano Theatre  
Whetstone Productions  
Why Not Theatre  
Workman Arts  
Yonge Street Theatricals  
Young People's Theatre  
Zata Omm Dance Projects