

BRIEF TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

**Submitted August 5, 2016, to:
Clerk, Standing Committee on Finance
6-14, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
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ARTSBUILD ONTARIO

ArtsBuild Ontario is the only organization in Ontario dedicated to realizing long-term solutions for building, managing and financing the sustainable arts facilities needed in Ontario communities. ArtsBuild provides tools, training and resources that support the development and sustainable creative spaces such as theatres, galleries, concert halls, and museums.

On behalf of our arts facilities across the province of Ontario, ArtsBuild Ontario wishes to express support of the **Pre-Budget Submission 2016 made by Canadian Arts Coalition and Canadian Arts Presenting Association regarding Recommendation Two specifically; Extend and sustain two-year arts investment, from Budget 2016, in the Canada Cultural Spaces program.** The extension of this investment is critical to Ontario arts facilities to ensure the longevity and health of their spaces and infrastructure, so that they can continue to contribute to the vibrancy of their communities.

AS EXPRESSED BY THE CANADIAN ARTS COALITION IN THEIR PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2016 ARTSBUILD ONTARIO SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION;

Recommendation: Extend and sustain two-year arts investment, from Budget 2016, in the Canada Cultural Spaces program.

Rationale: The reinvestment in the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, as part of Phase 1 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan, is a timely recognition of the aging infrastructure at many arts organizations. Currently, one of the pressing needs is to make these older facilities fully accessible for the Canadian public. Considering the preparations necessary for a large-scale renovation such as feasibility studies, the timeline of just two years will significantly limit the eligibility to only shovel-ready projects in 2016. By extending the Cultural Spaces program into Phase Two of the Infrastructure plan, the potential growth for the arts sector is exponential. Notably, with the increases to the Canada Council for the Arts beginning in 2016, the federal government has taken the first step by investing in the artists and organizations. Those artists need more and better functioning arts facilities in order to reach Canadians. More and more cultural spaces have evolved to become community hubs, as a result these spaces are essential to the well-being of Canadian communities. A sustained investment in the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund is necessary at this time.

Expected cost: Cultural Spaces \$84 million annually

Period of time: Phase Two of the Infrastructure Plan, 2018-2024

Expect cost: Showcasing Canada, \$25 million annually

Period of time: 2018-20

Intended Beneficiaries: The beneficiaries of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund are individual Canadians and their communities across the country. These cultural spaces are the gateways to Canadian artists and artwork. These pivotal facilities are often community hubs that provide access to audiences, viewers, and clients.

The impact of a sustained Cultural Spaces program will be better and an increased number of community hubs across the country made with artists in mind. Cultural Spaces are the ideal way for young Canadians, seniors, and families to interact and engage with the arts.

While funding for this program is already secured for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, it is important that it be extended to be included in Budget 2017. **Capital projects are a long term endeavour. Consequently, predictability and stability of funding are paramount.**

ArtsBuild Ontario would be pleased to appear before the Standing Committee on Finance during the pre-budget hearings in Ottawa, to discuss further data and information we have on the state of our arts facilities and their needs. An invitation to appear can be emailed to lindsay@artsbuildontario.ca