

January 18, 2018

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO; PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION SUBMISSION 2018

**The Honourable Charles Sousa
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
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ArtsBuild Ontario is the only organization in Ontario and Canada dedicated to realizing long-term solutions for building, managing and financing the sustainable arts facilities needed in our communities. As a non-profit charitable organization, ArtsBuild provides tools, training and resources that support the development and sustainable creative spaces such as theatres, galleries, concert halls, and museums.

THE NEED

ArtsBuild Ontario has spent the past several years collecting valuable data from the arts sector on the state of their arts facility, and their needs and plans to ensure their facility is meeting their needs and remains in a state of good repair.

Our proprietary system, Bricks&Mortar, is Ontario's first and only centralized database containing vital and relevant information about the state of Ontario's arts and cultural facilities focusing on their needs and plans. It is a flexible tool that is able to expand and accommodate new information, as required – allowing organizations to update their needs and plans as they arise.

Through this database that contains information of over 400 arts and culture organizations and the needs and plans of their cultural infrastructure, 191 provided us data on how much they would need to complete their current or future capital project. Out of only 191 responses this number equates to more than \$300 million. 51% of respondents felt unsatisfied with their facilities, with 24% indicating they are in fair or poor physical condition.

We believe that the Province of Ontario can actively contribute to vitality of our arts infrastructure in Ontario by doing the following;

1. INVEST IN AN ANNUAL CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

We believe that access to a provincial capital fund for small to mid-sized arts is necessary to sustain our cultural assets provincially as well as nationally.

Ontario Trillium Foundation is currently Ontario's only capital fund accessible to our creative spaces. This is a \$150,000 per project fund, with a once a year deadline. Our data demonstrates that the needs of our arts facilities alone far exceed the maximum amount of \$150,000.

We are all aware of the investment made by the Federal Government into Canada Cultural Spaces Fund. Unfortunately, in Ontario, small to mid sized organizations will struggle to apply to Canada Cultural Spaces as there is no significant provincial level matching fund adequate to meet their needs.

To support these ongoing needs of our small to mid-sized organizations, we are requesting an annual capital infrastructure fund, at the provincial level that can be accessed on an ongoing basis; to best coordinate with the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund that is currently available at the Federal level. We believe the size of this fund is 15-20 million annually.

ArtsBuild is available to discuss this fund and recommendations around criteria, with the Province of Ontario, at your earliest convenience. We are confident that the Province of Ontario understands the urgency and necessity in these increased investments.

Thank you,



Chris Loreto
Board President



Lindsay Golds
Executive Director