

October 12, 2016

**Advisory Committee**

Artist Run Centres and  
Collectives of Ontario

Ontario Presents

Canada Dance Festival

CITT, Ontario Region

Dance Ontario

Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario, in  
collaboration with Association  
des groupes en arts visuels  
francophones

Ontario Association  
of Art Galleries (OAAG)

Professional Association of  
Canadian Theatres (PACT)

Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario

Theatre Ontario

Toronto Alliance for the  
Performing Arts (TAPA)

The Honourable Bob Chiarelli  
Minister of Infrastructure

**Delivered via email**

Dear Minister Chiarelli:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of ArtsBuild Ontario we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the mandate letter that was released on September 23, 2016.

ArtsBuild Ontario is a non-profit charitable organization that exists to support cultural facilities across the province build, manage and finance sustainable facilities. We are the only organization of its kind in Canada that is mandated to support arts and cultural infrastructure. There are a number of points that stood out in the mandate letter that we believe can help to strengthen our cultural infrastructure province-wide if we work together.

- ***Refining infrastructure programs to respond to the needs of municipalities and local communities.***
- ***Consulting with municipal partners on asset management plans and develop regulations to promote standardization and consistency by January 2017.***

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**Board of Directors**

Chris Loreto, President

Leif Malling

Will Chow

Randy Dalton

Bruce Pitkin

Bill Ralph

Tim Murphy

Kristian Clarke

*Executive Director*

Lindsay Golds

We believe that cultural infrastructure needs to be a part of the conversation when discussing infrastructure in our communities. They are the spaces that increase the vibrancy and at times are the central gathering places in our communities. Cultural facilities need to be included, rather than exempt, from any eligible capital program for municipalities and communities.

It is critical that municipalities are including their owned, cultural facilities in their asset management plans and software and that they are providing access to that data to the managers of those facilities. Organizations who have up-to-date data on their facilities are better equipped to make long term decisions.

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ArtsBuild Ontario currently provides more affordable asset management software to our organizations so that they can effectively and responsibly manage their facilities. We see this as an essential service to our constituents and welcome a conversation how this can impact our organizations.

- ***Working to align funding under the federal government's historic investments in infrastructure with existing provincial programs and develop new infrastructure programs that drive Ontario's economic and social growth, including through the New Building Canada Fund.***
- ***Co-ordinating provincial infrastructure spending, using evidence-based criteria and analytics that assesses current and future needs.***

Ontario currently does not have a significant provincial level capital funding stream that cultural/arts facilities can access. In the absence of this funding, arts organizations are unable leverage/access federal funding that has been released. The current level of capital funding through Ontario Trillium Foundation is not sufficient to meet the need of culture facilities and organizations in Ontario.

ArtsBuild Ontario currently holds the only data on facilities needs in the province. We have collected data from over 400 organizations province wide to understand their capital needs. We would like to work with the Ministry of Infrastructure to utilize this data to effectively support our organizations with the capital they need.

- ***Ensuring that the infrastructure priorities for the province align with provincial priorities relating to community hubs.***
- ***Establishing a body that will align decision-making for capital and service planning decisions to support community hubs.***

ArtsBuild would welcome the opportunity to be a part of these conversations to inform decision making regarding community hubs, and the needs of our arts organizations.

We welcome the opportunity to be able to work with your Ministry to discuss the capital that is needed to support our cultural infrastructure, using the sector wide data we have collected on the state of arts facilities in Ontario.

Increased investments in cultural facilities, program support for facilities managers, as well as data collection, have all been key priorities for ArtsBuild Ontario, as they are what is needed to ensure that our cultural facilities are properly maintained and supported.

On behalf of our Board of Directors of ArtsBuild Ontario we hope that we can continue to have this conversation to meet the needs of our aging and growing cultural infrastructure.

Thank you,



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Chris Loreto  
Board Chair



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Lindsay Golds  
Executive Director