



Q2 2021 Update on MABELLEarts Long Term Lease and Operating Agreement for Parts of Mabelle Park

Item 2K

September 2, 2021

Building Investment, Finance and Audit Committee

Report: BIFAC:2021-79

To: Building Investment, Finance and Audit Committee (“BIFAC”)

From: Chief Operating Officer

Date: August 9, 2021

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the MABELLEarts long term lease and operating agreement for parts of Mabelle Park, as requested by the Board of Directors at its April 27, 2021 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the BIFAC receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

On April 27, 2021, the Toronto Community Housing (“TCHC”) Board of Directors (“Board”) approved the terms of the memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with MABELLEarts for a long term lease and operating agreement for parts of Mabelle Park.

MABELLEarts is an award winning community arts organization in Central Etobicoke; it has worked with over 70 professional artists and over 3,000 Etobicoke residents of all ages and backgrounds to provide free performances, workshops and community events in parks and public spaces. In addition, MABELLEarts has worked in the Dundas Mabelle TCHC community for over 12 years, and has built lasting relationships with local

residents and the broader community.

Over the past four years, MABELLEarts has been able to secure \$800,000 in Section 37 investments from the City of Toronto to transform Mabelle Park, which is owned by TCHC and situated across from three TCHC buildings. Once approved for development, the group will launch a fundraising campaign to secure the additional funding required to complete the park transformation. Specifically, this will include the development of a small, multi-purpose arts and culture clubhouse that will include two universal washrooms and an indoor/outdoor multi-purpose art and performance space. As well, the clubhouse will serve as a space for tenants to come together, build leadership skills and continue to positively impact their community. It will create opportunities for tenants to benefit from new infrastructure while providing economic opportunities, including micro-business development and employment opportunities.

The transformation project has been openly discussed with the community through an extensive community engagement process and received the support of regional staff and the local City Councillor, in addition to the support of tenants in both TCHC and private buildings.

UPDATE:

MABELLEarts and TCHC entered into a twenty (20) year MOU outlining the next phase of the transformation; at the core of this agreement is the formation of a shared governance platform.

As outlined in the MOU, the Mabelle Park Governance Committee (the “Committee”) has been established and will be comprised of seven members: two TCHC tenants, two Mabelle staff, two TCHC staff, and one member representing local City Councillor Mark Grimes. The Committee will meet three times per year.

The Committee will have the overall responsibility of selecting the location, services and programming, as well addressing any complaints arising from the delivery of services and programming. The Committee’s activities will be carried out in a manner that serves the tenants well, reflects community priorities, and adheres to TCHC guidelines.

Members of the community have committed time and effort towards this goal and are encouraged to see the project moving forward as it is a culmination of multiple stakeholders coming together and working towards a common goal: instilling a sense of community, wellbeing and inclusiveness. A values document has been developed, and it is meant to be a living document to govern the work and will be shared with all stakeholders involved in the project.

NEXT STEPS:

1. MABELLEarts will finalize the fundraising commitment to complete the space transformation;
2. The Mabelle Park Governance Committee will hold its inaugural meeting in September 2021; and
3. TCHC's Community Safety and Support, and Strategic Service Partnerships and Compliance teams will continue to support MABELLEarts.

SIGNATURE:

"Sheila Penny"

Sheila Penny
Chief Operating Officer

STAFF CONTACTS:

Allen Murray, Vice President Facilities Management
416-981-6955
Allen.Murray@torontohousing.ca

Marilyn Lee, Senior Legal Counsel, Real Estate
416-981-4228
Marilyn.Lee@torontohousing.ca

Nadia Gouveia, Director, Programs and Partnerships
416-981-4090
Nadia.Gouveia@torontohousing.ca