Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto’s funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has played a major role in the city’s cultural industries by supporting a very broad range of artistic activity. TAC grants lead to exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops seen annually by over 9.5 million people throughout the City of Toronto and beyond. Through its ongoing funding, TAC cultivates a rich engagement between artists and audiences.

ARTS SPOTLIGHT

**Ward:** Scarborough—Agincourt  
**Organization:** Little Pear Garden Dancy Company  
**TAC Grant:** Animating Toronto Parks  
[littlepeargarden.com](http://littlepeargarden.com)

Established in 1994, Little Pear Garden Dance Company is a non-profit dance company that develops and promotes Chinese dance in Canada via the production and presentation of performances, lectures, workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions. In 2018, Little Pear Garden partnered with Park People and local community members to present *Colours of China* at Beverly Glen Park (Scarborough- Agincourt). The program was a celebration of Chinese dance from different parts and different historical periods of China, and gave audience members an opportunity to take part in dance workshops, hear stories and experience new work from guest artists. Through performances like *Colours of China*, Little Pear Garden Dance Company is connecting new audiences to the beauty and culture of traditional Chinese dance.
OUR MISSION
Supporting artists and arts organizations with responsive and innovative granting programs.

OUR VISION: CREATIVE CITY, BLOCK BY BLOCK.
Working towards a vibrant and creative city where every neighbourhood is enriched by the transformative benefits of the arts.

In 2017, TAC:

- Distributed over $18 million in grants
- Supported 537 arts organizations and collectives and 492 professional artists
- Funded approximately 11 activities in ward 22, Scarborough—Agincourt

With an application success rate of 43%, TAC funds only a fraction of the artistic activity happening in the city. With more funds, we can invest more in the organizations and artists who are helping to build our vibrant, creative city.

The arts are not only important to Toronto artists, but they are important to Toronto residents. Toronto Arts Foundation’s Arts Stats 2018 revealed that nearly 90% of Torontonians believe that the arts make Toronto a better place to live, and more than 75% of them would like to see more opportunities to attend the arts in every Toronto ward.

We are happy to talk to you further about the impact of the arts on the city, its value for Toronto residents and what Toronto Arts Council is doing to strengthen the city through the arts.

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Alexander Bordokas, Artistic Director, Maracatu Mar Aberto; photo by Sean Howard